

Go make disciples of all nations...

2/8/08 | And we all...beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. This comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:18



From left: Echo You, Elaine Yeung, and Carly Forsman

| Prayer Requests |

- For our International Students, that they would encounter the gospel in a way that is relevant and refreshing.
- For our Strengths Finder outreach with the Gallup Organization.
- For our South Africa Summer Project this July and our team (36 people).
- For my decision to do a STINT there next year—that God would bless it.

| Personal Reflection |

The hardest part about being in ministry has been the fact that I still deal with my own sin. People get the idea that if someone goes into ministry they suddenly become a “holy man.” I want to be more like Christ, but life is a war and I do lose battles.

The more I know God, the more I understand how proud my heart is. In Mark 7:21, Jesus said, “For out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts.” My problem has not been my actions. I understand that what I do is an overflow of heart-motivation.

Still, I know that I’m being “transformed into...one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor. 3:18). Each day, I am being changed to be more like Jesus. Sanctification is sweet and precious! Paul’s words in Romans 8:13 have long been comforting. “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” This verse means that if you are a *true* Christian, you will hate sin and want to put it to death. For me, the best part is that it happens “by the Spirit.” I don’t do it alone! Just as I came to know Jesus by faith and still today, after being a Christian for a while, I grow in him by faith.

Galatians 3:5 says, “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you...do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?” Praise God that I grow in him to be more like Jesus by his grace through faith and not my own works.

International Student Outreach Dinner, Gallup Partnership Highlight February

At the end of last semester, John Matthews (another staff member) and I decided to hold a dinner at my house for international students. When it was planned, I hoped for fifteen, maybe twenty students, plus a few Americans to help out. During the process, I sensed that the Lord was doing something greater than what I had planned. Philippians 2:13 says, “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” No doubt this was happening right before my eyes.

The night of the dinner, we had 31 international students and eight Americans. We had students from China, Malaysia, Russia, and Brazil. The picture to the right is of some Chinese and Malaysian students hanging out in my basement. That night, we made lasagna for them and played some



get-to-know-you games. International students are always so joyful. Rarely will I see an international not smiling! It makes it easier to talk about spiritual things with them.

Most of the students who came are not Christians. Most, in fact, have little or no knowledge of the gospel. Echo You, a sophomore from China, gave her testimony of how she came to know God through a relationship with Jesus. Afterward, she told Carly Forsman—a junior in our movement who also works with international students—“My story was touching people.” Carly asked how she knew that and she said, “I could see it in their eyes. They were touched by what I said.”

Echo came to know Christ last year, as a freshman, at the Denver Christmas Conference. Since then, she has led one of her best friends, Elaine (also from China) to the Lord and no doubt will continue to reach international students for Jesus. This dinner was monumental in beginning relationships with students who are not familiar with our culture and need to build a lot of trust before talking about deep, life issues. Pray that God would be working on the hearts of internationals!

I think of what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” It has been such an unexpected blessing to work with these students. I never thought I would develop such a heart for Asians, Europeans, and South Americans the way I have. This year of my life I was meant to be in Lincoln, Nebraska, but God has truly

brought the nations to my doorstep.

A large outreach we are beginning this semester is a partnership with the Gallup Organization. Gallup has produced a revolutionary strength assessment called “Strengths Finder” and the most recent book is *Strengths Finder 2.0*. This is the most thorough and accurate strength test you could find. I’ve taken it and the Lord has used it to change the way I approach life, relationships, and ministry.

What we are planning to do with this partnership is have a representative from Gallup

give a presentation on strength theory and talk about what this assessment can do for your educational, professional, and relational life.

Scott Daniell, the rep who will be presenting, is a Christian and also works with Gallup’s faith-based

division. We will have programs all over campus to present Strengths Finder and then a Crusade staff member will talk about how we believe the greatest way to live up to your full-potential and use your natural strengths is know the Giver of strengths and enter into a relationship with him. The students will have an opportunity to fill out an interest card and



respond to the invitation to converse more about spiritual things. We are trusting the Lord for students to want to engage with us and learn about the God who has given them strength. Also, we just hope to tangibly serve students by equipping them for life with what we have found to be a very insightful resource. We want to present the news of the gospel, but we also want to love with good deeds that will be of great benefit to those who receive.

Reaching the World with You,

James

I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL AND THE LORD HAS BEEN ENJOYABLE! LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS!