

Chicago Classic Spring Break '08

3/25/08 | Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25



Andrew (left) and I sharing our faith with a student.

| Prayer Requests |

- Joe, Ursula, and Yu Cheng as they just received Christ as Lord and Savior.
- The people we talked with and ministered to in Chicago, so they would love Jesus.
- My walk with the Lord, that he would give me joy, faith, and endurance.

| Visit The Website |

If you'd like to be more up to date on what's going on and what God is teaching me, visit jamespruch.wordpress.com.

It's a great place to read stuff I've written and check to out other resources that are helping me grow in the Lord. I hope that they'll help you grow as well. Also, if you'd like to get e-mail updates of *The Blog*, you can subscribe on the site. *The Blog* consists of short posts about ministry, theology, culture, and more. I usually post a few times a week. I hope you'll check it out!

| Easter Reflection |

Martin Luther once said, "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not only in words alone, but in every leaf in springtime." Truly, God brings life, like clockwork, each spring. Every year the leaves and grass turn green. How sweet of an illustration is that to show Jesus did for us some 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem.

As my heart was preparing for Easter, I reveled in knowing that the God of the universe loves and cares for me—because he died, yet didn't stay dead. Jesus is alive and he is the only way to God! He reminds us of that when a tree buds a new leaf every year. He can give life; he can take it away. And certainly, for those who love him and follow his ways, he will give life to them and never let it go.

I pray that your heart rejoices this Easter season and is focused on the glorious cross of Jesus and is blessed knowing that we have Savior who is risen. *He is risen indeed!*

Spring Break: Sharing the gospel on Chicago campuses; serving in the inner-city

From March 16-21, five UNL staff and four students set out for Chicago for our spring break trip to Chicago. We were joined by students from Omaha and some others from Ohio. We learned a few things about Chicago: it's really big with tall buildings, there's a lot of traffic, it has a great diversity of people, the cab drivers are crazy, and it can get a bit windy.

For the majority of our week, we were telling students about the great news of Jesus Christ at junior colleges. We were on the largest community college campus in the country, College of DuPage, with over 27,000 students!

We had small numbers, and I think because of this, the four UNL students who came were able to get valuable one-on-one time. Jeremy Stone, a senior at UNL, shared his faith for the first time and even told his life story during a pizza-party outreach at DuPage. This was quite a step of faith for someone who has only been a Christian for seven months.

Most of the week, I spent time with a student named Luke Oswald. Our best day together was Tuesday afternoon. We were helping an urban church spread the word about their Easter Sun-

day service. We were in "the hood," believe me. It was great, though! Luke and I walked Monroe Street in Chicago as the only two white people (other than the rest of our team) for probably five miles. It was a blessing to be able to tell these people about Jesus' resurrection and that we can celebrate his victory together. We even got stopped by police and asked what we were doing in the neighborhood!

They were wearing bullet-proof vests. We were wearing love. That's all we needed to connect with the people in the neighborhood. They wanted someone to talk to. They wanted someone to give them hope. And that's exactly why we were there.

I love the inner-city. There is such a tangible need in every life and home. Jesus has such a heart for the poor and I pray that my heart for urban neighborhoods would continue to grow more each day. There's such a need for the inner-city to be reached and I hope I can be a part of building the Kingdom there.



Todd Johnson (left, UNO's Cru director) and Jason use the *Souldarium* tool to share the Gospel. *Souldarium* is a spiritual survey based on images that students use to answer questions. Visit MySouldarium.com to see what the survey is about.



Not the Sears Tower, but still big!

Three international students receive Christ as Lord and Savior in February!

Over the Christmas break, I took a foreign student home with me for a few days. His name is Joe (I can't write his real name) and I met him through a conversation partner sign-up list. My family was blessed by his visit and I know that Joe experienced the love of Christ from being around my family. I had follow up meetings with Joe in the weeks after break and in late January, Joe trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior! Praise the Lord!

Right now, he is working his way through the book of John and absolutely loving it! It was such a joy to be a small part of leading Joe to Christ. Three weeks ago, I met with Joe and we were discussing the book of John. Joe said his favorite verse so far is John 8:12, when Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life." Then a week later, Joe and I talked about prayer. "I want you to teach me to pray," Joe said. So, we discussed some as-

pects of prayer. When Joe prayed, he thanked Jesus for "being a good God." Then, when Joe confessed his sins, he said, "I'm sorry for not knowing you sooner." My heart rejoiced that Joe seriously knows the love of God that comes through knowing Jesus! How awesome is it to see the birth of a spiritual baby! Be praying that the seed would go down deep in Joe's heart so he can know Jesus more.

Also, two other girls, Ursula and Yu Cheng trusted Christ as well! They came all the way to Lincoln, Nebraska, to be found by God's marvelous grace. Pray that they would be a change-agent for internationals all over UNL and when they return home!

Trusting God for the gospel to move everywhere,

James