

crossculture

Asian Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship

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HE WHO DIED FOR YOU

InterVarsity Purpose Statement

*In response to God's love,
grace, and truth:*

The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.

Cover art by Steven Chen,
Sophomore

INTERVIEW

10 QUESTIONS ON ACADEMICS AND FAITH

with Pastor Dave Collins

How can we see God more in school subjects that we dislike?

To see God in any area of life takes an active openness to seeing him. This kind of openness is developed through Bible study, prayer, and time in community. One question that might help you go further: How do you see God in other areas of life? (Like when you watch a football game, go to a movie, listen to music, or play a video game).

How can we remind ourselves of God's grace when we fail a test, perform poorly on a presentation, etc.?

First of all, remind yourself that God doesn't base his love for you on your performance. He bases his love for us on the fact that we are his created children, redeemed through his own work on the cross. A lot of times we struggle because we think if we perform well we will earn God's love. We may have started out life hearing this message directly from our parents. Second, every failure is an opportunity to be reminded of God's greatness, his holiness and perfection; and that on this side of heaven, we are going to fall short of his standards. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is a great read on this (Luke 18:9-14).

An interesting question to ponder would be "Why do I need to remind myself of God's grace when I do well academically?" (answers: first, when I do well I still fall short of God's standards for holiness and perfection. Second, God doesn't love me any more because I did well. Third, I'm not better than other people just because I got an A).

Keeping the concept of God's rest and peace in mind, is it okay to feel stressed about academics? If so, when do we know stress is hurting us or helping us?

Most folks feel stress about life. Students feel stress about academics, others feel stress about making their home loan payments, whether their kids are doing ok, whether their "special someone" really loves them, etc. I don't think feeling stress is ever spiritually healthy for us. Philippians 4:6 says "Don't worry about anything." Then we see some clues about dealing with stress: "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Many feel that although grace is given freely, God still sets a high standard for us. Applying this to academics, wouldn't God want us to do our best in school? What is wrong with wanting to be perfect?

This question brings together the great angst and confusion of many earnest Christian college students. It requires a longer response than what I can give here, but here's some thoughts to start.

1) The first statement positions the free giving of grace as an opposite to God's high standards. However, the scriptures would say, God has high standards (perfection, holiness) so he gives grace so that we might become more like him (read Mt 5-7, or Philippians).

2) Saying "God wants me to do my best in school" might assume that

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

God wouldn't care as much about doing your best in other areas of your life. Ultimately, God doesn't care about your GPA or your degree. He cares about your holiness, your Christ-likeness. You are not going to get into heaven because of your GPA.

However, God does want you to develop and use all the talents he has given you. So you can't simply say “ok, I'm smart enough to be in college but I'm going to be a slacker for Jesus.”

3) Nothing is necessarily wrong with wanting to be perfect, as long as that is tempered with some reality: you are not perfect, and you cannot make yourself perfect. God is perfect, and he can make you perfect through the work of Christ on the cross. My impression with most folks who want to be perfect is that they are caught up in issues of pride, control, and earning God's love. The book of Hebrews uses the word “perfect” 9x in the NIV translation. It would be a good study for those struggling with perfectionism (the sinful drive to make yourself perfect).

What is the danger in being the three types of “student” that you mentioned at the beginning of your talk (Separatist, “real student,” perfect balance)?

In short, the Separatist has a tendency to put God in a box, to live a compartmentalized life that does not honor the totality of God's creative work in the world. The “real student” is a functional atheist, who compartmentalizes God, and then acts like he doesn't exist. The Perfectionist assumes that through their effort they will be able to earn a 4.0 with God, their friends, and their school work.

What advice would you give someone who is having a hard time deciding what academic major they'd like to pursue?

Aside from praying, meditation, and listening to God? Talk a lot with fam-

ily, friends, and faculty. Most undergraduate students fail to take advantage of the access they could have to faculty. Use those email addresses or office hours and ask them what they think.

We often feel that what God calls us to is something we enjoy or are good at. Is it possible that God calls us to do things and/or pursue career fields that are a challenge for us?

Sure. I enjoy making music. I play several instruments, have a degree from the music school, and played professionally for years. Yet, here I am, a pastor. I do think that there needs to be something about your career that somehow “scratches where you itch,” but that can work out in surprising ways that might not make sense at first.

How can we encourage our friends to see the worth of education?

If it is true that God made the whole world, then the component parts of our world can each help us to understand more of who God is. Failing to appreciate this leads to a kind of arrogance as to what really counts as “valuable.” Most U of M students don't struggle with being “unstudious.” They may struggle with procrastination, which is a symptom of perfectionism or anxiety, or with disorganization, which can also be symptom of anxiety. Becoming “studious” in a Christ centered way means acknowledging that Jesus' Lordship extends to every area of your life.

What are small ways in which we can evangelize to our classmates and co-workers?

Why would you want a “small way” to share a life changing message? (If you want “small ways” stick with t-shirts and decals). I think you might want to ask “what is most effective way I can communicate the gospel so that people around me will hear and respond?”

Here's a couple answers: one, make sure that you are crystal clear about the what it is that you are trying to communicate. If you can't share the gospel-completely, with an opportunity to respond in prayer by committing your life to Jesus—in about 2-4 minutes, you don't really know the message you are trying to share. Two: develop a habit of being more open about your life. Share your real thoughts, feelings, and ideas about life with people around you, and develop a more a relationship of trust with them. If you do that, and if following Jesus is real to you, they will ask about your faith.

You mentioned that not only students must struggle with the question of how to be a follower of Jesus. Are there any ways that you, as a pastor, struggle with following Jesus and doing your job?

Sure. I have to work at listening to God's voice, responding in obedience, and having my soul shaped to be more like Christ. For me, as a pastor, one of the realities of following Christ is that the words that I say (and don't say) make a difference to the people I am serving. Learning how to best follow Christ and use my words to encourage and to exhort (and knowing when to not use words but to listen,) is a daily task.

RECOMMENDED
READING:

A MIND FOR GOD
BY JAMES EMERY
WHITE

YOUR MIND MATTERS
BY JRW STOTT

Leaders in AIV

by Gloria Shan, *Junior*

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO BE SMALL GROUP LEADER AT THE END OF FRESHMAN YEAR, I WAS COMING OFF A YEAR OF SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE AND GROWTH. I wasn't sure if I was ready for the job. As my discipler was my small group leader, I had seen how hard it was to lead a small group- the responsibilities and frustrations. It was a daunting task. Yet, there was something inside of me that was excited to be part of AIV leadership. I wanted to support the incoming freshman and new students of AIV, because I understood exactly the bewilderment and anxiety they would have felt in a new environment since I went through similar experiences. I also wanted to show people how faithful and good God can be because He has been good to me especially during my academic and personal struggles. After talking to several people and praying about it, I finally accepted the position.

One of my most vivid memories during my preparation for small group leading was at chapter focus week during one of the chapter prayers for small group ministry. Small group leaders and helpers were asked to come up with prayer requests regarding our personal doubts and fears of small group leading. As people put their hands on me and encouraged me and blessed me with the mission of leadership, I felt God's power inside of me as well. I knew that, even though I am helpless and weak, God's is mighty and powerful and that nothing I do could ruin His plan for His kingdom.

Unfortunately, the following year of small group leading was wrought more with self-doubt and skepticism towards God than those warm fuzzy feeling I

felt at chapter focus week. The burden of expectations from myself and expectations from others weighed upon me heavily. I find myself asking God, "What am I doing? Why am I here?" There were no more prayers to remind me of God's love when a member of my small group told me that she no longer believes in the Old Testament and that she believes God to be vengeful and spiteful. There were no more words of faith and belief when several members showed up to small group depressed and down-spirited. There were no joys in my mission when weeks after weeks of follow-up, no new members show up during small group. Buried in a sea of responsibilities, I rarely had time to ruminate over God's words and think about His plans for me. I was too occupied with my hardships, my frustration, and my failures.

I realized now that God was doing many things through me and for me. He did bless my small group. Returning members who always came to small group with baked goods. Returning members who always encouraged Spencer and me as small group leaders. Returning members who always remembered us in their prayers. Mentors who always challenged and prayed for me during my worse weeks. My mother and sister who often send me bible verses to remind me to read God's words. I began to see that I was not alone during my leading experiences. He was there with me, sharing my burdens through friends, through family, through faithful small group members.

Moreover, I also realized that AIV needs more in-reaching and support for leaders- especially new leaders. This year, I come back to AIV as a small group helper. I see the same fatigue look in new leaders' eyes, the same frus-

tration and challenges that they face. I know now that I can make a difference. I can help follow-up and meet up with new members. I can attend small group as regularly as I can to help support the small group leaders. But most importantly, as I had wish someone had done for me last year, I can encourage people with bible verses and remember them in my prayers.

I once read in that, if we mean "leader" as someone of authority, someone in charge, then not everyone is a leader. However, if we mean leader as someone who can influence the actions and decisions of others, then we can all be leaders. From "More than serving Tea" Tracy Gee says, "...you can't wait to be discovered, you have to seek God's mind and put yourself out there." I agree with her saying that God-centered leadership is less about what we do, our "titles", our apparent fruitfulness and more about who we are becoming and our faithfulness to God's message and His kingdom.

So start that GIG that you think will benefit new members of the faith, help out the AIV newsletter by writing on a subject that you are passionate about, help out small groups by leading games or even try leading a bible study, suggest new ideas about upcoming events, or even simply expressing appreciation to someone who organized an event that you enjoyed, and to always, always, always remember to pray for the leaders that lead us and to remind them of God's words.

From my youth group back at home, I learned that life is not neutral. As Christians today we are continually struggling spiritually. The mission of AIV is not just to be part of the University of Michigan campus- our goal is to disturb and rearrange the attitudes

ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
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on this campus as Jesus Christ had disturbed and rearranged history. This can be analogous to a battlefield, and as spiritual leaders, we are standing at the front of the troops. Therefore, leadership is pain and it is challenging, but thank goodness that we are not alone, for we have each other for support and we have God as our ultimate leader and commander in chief. And it is ultimately God acting through *all of us* in AIV to usher in the new Earth and Heaven. As the disciple Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Meanwhile, I encourage everyone with these words:

“Stand firm then, with the belt of Truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of Righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of Faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of Salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:5)

BOOK COLUMN

More Than Serving Tea

by Melissa Pan, *Junior*

LAST YEAR AT URBANA, I BOUGHT A BOOK CALLED “MORE THAN SERVING TEA: Asian American Women on Expectations, Relationships, Leadership, and Faith” by Nikki Toyama. For all the girls who are reading this, I highly recommend this book to you. For the guys, I also encourage you to read this book to get a sense of some of the struggles your sisters go through. Even after reading just a few short chapters, I have been challenged to think about many aspects of my life. One chapter that especially spoke to my heart was the chapter on perfectionism. As Asian Americans, most of us are used to being “perfect” in every way. We strive to be perfect, in our relationships with people, in our academics, in our extracurricular activities, and much more. We try to attain a level of perfection that is simply not attainable. Nikki Toyama writes about how as a child, her mother would assign her extra homework after school so she could “get ahead”. How many of you can relate to that? I know I definitely can. However, Nikki comes to the realization that this is not what God expects from us. This quote spoke especially deeply to me:

“He (God) does not call me into perfection. He calls me to transformation. And transformation requires putting aside the mask that creates a false perfect exterior.”

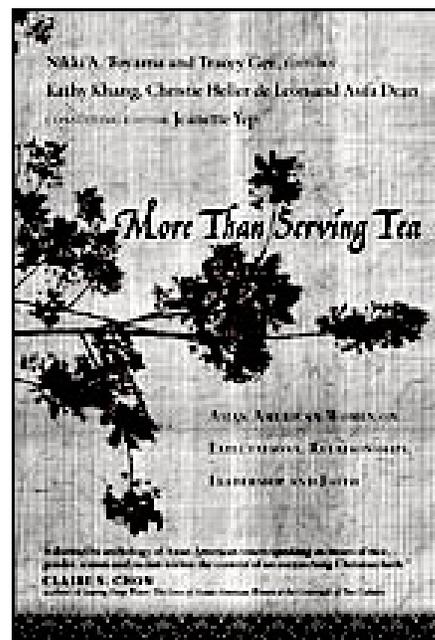
“God’s love is not about me and my performance. It’s about my God who created, delights in and loves me, regardless of what I do or what ideals I

have attained or how close to perfect I am in my own eyes.”

There was another chapter on suffering. As Asian women, we usually don’t like to share our weaknesses and struggles, because we want to “save face” and preserve our dignity and pride. We think that others won’t like us as much or will think we are “weak” when we show these weaknesses or problems. We often don’t even show God these things because we’re afraid of what He will think of us. However, that is not what God calls us to do!

“God doesn’t ask us to be stronger than we are. He doesn’t ask us to swallow pain or pretend that we are always happy. He can handle our honest emotions, our pain, and our questions.”

I really encourage all of you to read this book. Many other issues are covered in this book, most of which all of us can relate to. It’s so inspiring and comforting reading about experiences from Asian American women and to hear the wisdom and lessons they have learned throughout the years. God used this book to do some great works of deep healing in my life, and I’m sure He will speak to you through this book as well!



A Different Way to Worship

by Belinda Feng, *Senior*

SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY WHICH DISNEY MOVIE THIS QUOTE COMES FROM: “You’ll have your looks! Your pretty face! And don’t underestimate the importance of body language! Ha!” Despite that it’s coming from the evil sea witch Ursula, the statement that one should never “underestimate the importance of body language” is, in my opinion, right on the mark. However, the light in which I find this statement to be true is quite different from Ariel’s attempt to use her body language to capture Eric’s love. What we’re talking about here is body worship and how that form of body language can help us experience a new way of worshipping our father in heaven.

For those of you who don’t know, body worship is most simply put a medium of worshipping God through body movements and sign language. Ideally, it’s a seamless blending of the two that creates a vision of movement reflecting the message or theme of a song. AIV has often used body worship for Coffeehouse and other evangelical events to share the gospel in a new way. Indeed, body worship is a fantastic medium through which you can share your faith with non-Christians. It takes the old saying “actions speak louder than words” to new heights when you are literally presenting your love for God through your body. But just to be clear, I feel I should specify that in this context, body worship isn’t about showing your love through actions such as praying for friends or cooking dinner for fellowship members. These are all great of course, but body worship is a bit different in that it’s a way of letting your body speak for you. Getting yourself to this point, however, is not always easy.

Understandably, we’re used to worshipping God through speech or song. But what if you couldn’t speak? In the end, you would have to express your faith in a different way. This is, to me, what body worship is all about: it’s allowing your body to speak for your heart.

Though this may be easy for some, I think for most of us it’s not easy because it doesn’t come naturally for us. There is a certain level of inhibition that people need to overcome. You can’t



be shy with your self expression. An important aspect of letting your body speak for you is stepping out of your comfort zone of what feels like normal movement for your body and face. This process is the main reason why I have always felt that the one who benefits the most from body worship is you. When you are using your entire body to convey your love for God, the experience is much more powerful because there is nothing about you that is being held back. In short, all of your being is worshipping in His presence. A simple example of this concept is kneeling in prayer. If you’ve ever knelt in prayer I’m sure you can share my sentiments. The act of kneeling before God is beyond humbling. Without even speaking, our actions convey our utter brokenness and humility before Him as well as our

indisputable need for His grace. In other words, when genuflecting, there is a strong connection between our mind and our body. It’s this connection that makes worship all the more powerful and personal when your entire body is involved in the experience.

Through all this, there is one more aspect of body worship that I find crucial in our relationship with God. If body worship is essentially allowing our bodies to speak for our hearts, then what happens if our hearts are not God centered? Are we able to still worship with our bodies if our hearts are in the spiritual pits? For me, the answer is an unequivocal absolutely. I will be the first to admit that I have long struggled with the strength of my faith. It’s a daily battle for me to seek God and His truth. Nonetheless, body worship has offered me comfort in Him because when my heart couldn’t initially be in Him, my body could. And when my body was there, my heart was able to follow. The mind-body connection doesn’t need to run in only one direction from the heart to the body. For me, it also ran from the body to the heart. Again, I bring up the example of kneeling. When God feels almost nonexistent in my life and the last thing I desire is to talk to Him, there are times when all I need to do is kneel down, acknowledge His presence and power, and slowly my heart will feel Him again. Admittedly this doesn’t always happen. There are of course times when my heart resists enough that there is nothing my body can do to change my mind. Nonetheless, I stress that body worship isn’t just for “the good Christians.” It’s for anyone honestly seeking God’s truth. If you can break out of your comfort zone and allow your body to be the mouthpiece for your heart, then body worship is an amazingly rewarding method of communication with God and His children.

Loving God's Word

by Jon Chen, Senior



DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING, SING LIKE NO ONE IS LISTENING, AND READ THE BIBLE EVERYDAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST? Ok, so maybe that isn't the best way to put it. Sometimes when I hear that quote (the real one – for those of you that don't know the real one, it ends with live everyday as if it were your last), I can't help but feel a little depressed. I feel that way because I can picture myself standing in front of God and having Him ask me to tell him a bedtime story about David and Goliath. After I elaborately explain how David was sweet and through the power of God (with a little grin on my face and a wink towards God as I mentioned that part), God would perhaps ask me to tell him about the story about Ruth. I would hesitate some and not really be able to tell God the story so maybe He would ask about Samson.

The list could continue of which I would come up empty-handed and not really be able to respond in a way that would be pleasing to Him. I would look at God and although He wouldn't say it, I would feel guilty and in my mind I'd be thinking, "Of all the time I had on Earth, I couldn't read through the Bible enough to know what it says inside, but I had time to read all 7 of J.K Rowling's Harry Potter's." Then I'd try and go find a place to hide in Heaven but then realize that I couldn't hide from God on Earth, how am I supposed to hide from Him in Heaven. Silly me.

The above story did not actually occur, so for those of you that thought it was real, sorry to burst your bubble. For those of you that think I have an idea of what Heaven will be like, I also apologize to you because I have absolutely no idea what that'll be like either (other than it'll be sweet). The main point was to demonstrate that I don't know the Bible nearly as well as I could. But isn't that true for a lot of us? Isn't it a lot easier for to remember novels and stories that we've read a lot easier than the Bible? I can remember some of the books I read in middle school. Do the books Hatchet and The Giver sound familiar? I was always under the impression that the Bible was filled with old and historic information, boring stories, and a lot of rules that we are told to follow, so it never was my first choice in books to read. I've since then put that thought away and view it now as a book that is filled with wonder. I'm not one to say that I read the Bible everyday now and that I know it inside out, but I can definitely say that the Bible isn't the boring book that I used to think it was.

To illustrate this a little better, I'll bring up a few examples. The book of James starts off with a very encouraging yet unique concept. James tells us that trials and hard times should be looked at as joy and that the testing of our faith is actually good for us. Talk about something that's generally not said... The book of James is filled

with things aren't boring, but rather thought provoking and interesting. Let's take a look the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 25 says that the Lord has been a refuge for the poor and the needy, a shelter from the storm, and the shade in the heat. It continues to tell us that the Lord will swallow up death forever and wipe away tears from all faces. It may just be me, but the Bible contains fascinating information, and these are only a few examples!

As I continue to read the Bible, I am finding out more and more about our God and how wonderful He is. And to be honest, it's exciting. When I once didn't want to read the Bible because I didn't see the relation to my life and I felt it was full of boring information, I now want to read more and more because I do see the significance of God's word in my life. In my Control Systems class, we would call that positive feedback (As I read the Bible, I find more relevance to my life. As I find more relevance to my life, I want to read more Bible). With all this said, I strongly encourage all of you to pick up a Bible and read it from cover to cover (join me as I'm trying to do that!). You'll soon find that the Bible is full of interesting material and not only that, God will speak to you in wonderful ways. Continually being in God's word is one way that we can draw closer to God, so sit down, get comfortable, and crack open that Bible.

TESTIMONY

In God's Provision

how I found AIV

by Antoinette Chinsomboon, *Freshman*

I REMEMBER WHEN I ATTENDED AIV LARGE GROUP FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE WARMTH AND LOVE THAT I EXPERIENCED THERE. Last year, in the midst of making my final decision for universities, I spent a lot of time browsing through several universities' websites looking for a Christian fellowship. I knew that I wanted to be a part of some sort of a Christian community during my college years. While I was searching through the maize pages of U of M, I found a fellowship group that particularly caught my attention. It was called the Chinese Christian Fellowship. I was so excited but to my dismay when I clicked on the link, I was taken to a deactivated site.

This past summer, when I was

in Maryland visiting D.C., I attended Alicia Chen's church. After our encounter there, Alicia kept me updated on her fellowship's events. When college started, she invited me to go to the Bubble Tea Bash. Apart from her invitation, I saw the event clearly chalked throughout the campus concrete floors. I later learnt that this event was part of Asian Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship. From there on, I went to AIV's first large group. There, I learnt that AIV and CCF is one and the same. I was so overjoyed because CCF was the fellowship I was originally interested in. The Lord God really works in mysterious ways!

Like any other freshmen, we struggle most with finding the 'rhythm'

between schoolwork and personal time. For me, the hardest part is being so far away from home and my family. In addition, I realized that it is extremely important that I find my niche in this big university as my college life experience will depend largely on who I spend most of my time with and what activities I engage in with those individuals. This year, my spiritual goal is to grow more in Christ's likeness and learn to become a godly woman. So far, my experiences in AIV and church on Sundays have already taught me so much. Coming from a Buddhist country, it has been really hard for me to proclaim my faith and not get teased about it. It was definitely tough being the only church-going girl in my high school class. Thus, I felt like my spiritual life had no room to grow. Today, I am embracing the freedom of spiritual expression that I have always longed for. As a foreigner, not only do I find comfort in an environment of people who resembles my ethnic background, but most importantly, share my faith in Jesus Christ, my sweet Savior.



That's what they said.

by Tammy Yang, *Senior*

"Did you hear?"

"Wait! Are they going out?"

"I don't know, but they're always together."

"Did you know...?"

"Oh my! Are you serious? But I heard ..."

Sadly, such conversations have become part of our everyday dialogue. These ordinary, yet seemingly harmless chats have blinded us from the real issue – gossip. For at least the past three years, gossip has greatly affected the unity of the fellowship and, surprisingly, has never been formally addressed. We all know it happens. Some of us perpetuate it; others are victims of it.

A trend within AIV (formerly CCF) is a growing lack of maturity when it comes to dealing with certain aspects of our personal lives, especially the relationship-side. I've witnessed backstabbing, concealing of friendships/relationships, rude comments, and too much speculation. I have not only observed, but have also been affected by the consequences of gossip.

As a personal victim, I was very tempted to leave the fellowship at the end of my freshman year. The summer after my first year, I kept questioning, "Is this how a Christian community should be? Shouldn't we be able to

dealing with gossip in the fellowship

maintain a relationship with someone without the fear of being judged or the anxiety of being the new topic of discussion? Why would I want to put myself back into that environment?" Jeff Liou, our CCF staff worker at the time, challenged me with a simple observation: "Every organization has its flaws. Going to another fellowship doesn't mean other issues won't arise. Maybe you should help CCF manage the problem..." So yes, I decided to stay.

"I had a vision that proper discipleship relationships would foster an environment of trust and support and as a result, more unity and less gossip."

Having gone through such a painful experience, I became increasingly sensitive to issues of gossip within the fellowship. There didn't seem to be

much improvement the following year, so I attempted to address the problem through my role as Discipleship Coordinator my junior year. I had a vision that proper discipleship relationships would foster an environment of trust and support and as a result, more unity and less gossip. There have been steady improvements, but the unpleasant talk-



ing still remains a hindrance-- preventing us from fully reflecting the body of Christ. So what do we do?

During our annual Lock-In, we studied Hebrews 10. My small group came across verse 24 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" and brainstormed ways how we, as individuals, can support the larger fellowship by "spurring one another on." A few suggestions, also pertinent to the issue of gossip, were prayer and rebuking out of love. These are just one of many ways we can, by working together, eliminate unwholesome talk. We can do it!



Joyce Pan

"Hello from Cleveland! I'm an AIV '07 alum who is currently working on IV staff at Case Western. I've transitioned well to life in Ohio, though I often think fondly of my Michigan roots. I've enjoyed working with the Koinonia chapter – already we've seen the fruits of our labor! You can be praying for the Case students to be ever-considering God's mission in the university. You can also be praying for me as I deal with life in Buckeye territory."



Reflections on Coffeehouse I

by Jenny Wang, *Sophomore*

*He has filled our hearts with wonder
So that we always remember*

During the last worship set of Coffeehouse, I couldn't help but marvel at the way people came together to make the entire night possible. It was a great display of unity in the body of Christ.

From the food prep to the skit team, everyone had to rely on someone else. There was such an encouraging attitude of service as people spent hours in body worship practice, out in the cold chalking, or setting up equipment. So many different talents and gifts came together and were used to glorify God.

*You and I were made to worship
You and I are called to love*

We are not just another club on campus, or just a gathering of people. We're united by our love for God, and when we allow His Spirit to empower our words and actions, and to fill our love and worship, we become a witness for Him to this campus. The church in Acts gives us a glimpse what a Spirit-

filled community looks like. The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, prayer, and shared everything they had; "all the believers were of one

"We are not just another club on campus, or just a gathering of people. We're united by our love for God."

heart and mind" (Acts 4:32).

Evangelism is most powerful when Christians act together as a corporate body rather than relying on certain individuals. Our community should testify God's presence in such a way that the people who encounter it will get a taste of God's love, justice and truth.

*You and I are forgiven and free
You and I embrace surrender*

Just as every single body part has a specific role, every person in our fellowship is necessary as a part of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27). "In fact, some of

the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary" (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Every member of our fellowship had a role in Coffeehouse. Though they might not have been given a title such as greeter, or seem as important as worship leader, the most necessary responsibility was bringing non-Christians in to encounter our spirit-filled community, and to encounter the gospel.

Coffeehouse is an outreach event, but only about 20% of the attendees were non-Christian. Think about how what that percentage would be different if everyone had brought just one person. Admittedly, no one I invited came. But as a community, we need to be encouraging each other to outreach and rebuking each other when we don't.

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere" (Mark 16:15), is a command from God. Though we all have different gifts, God calls us all to share about Him. God entrusts us, broken people, to take part in the great task of reconciling Him to the world (2 Corinthians 5:18). It's not just a task for you, or for I. It's something God has entrusted to all believers. For you and I.

*You and I choose to believe
You and I will see who we were
meant to be*



I Corinthians 7: 29-31

"The time is short. From now on those who mourn should live as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if they were not engrossed in them. For the world in its present form is passing away."

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