

crossculture

Asian Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship

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TRIPLOVE



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.

Valentine's Day or Singles' Awareness Day?

thoughts on singleness

by Laura Li, IV Staff Worker

ONE OF MY FAVORITE MOVIES IS "NEVER BEEN KISSED" – you know the one where Drew Barrymore is a reporter who poses as a high school student and falls in love with her really cute English teacher? (Hmm, I am realizing now how shady that sounds.) In the movie, Drew's character exclaims: "I'm 25 years old!" and, "I've never really kissed a guy." Well, ironically, those things are true of me too. In fact, I am 25 years old, and I've never even been in a dating relationship. Yup, I've been single my whole life. Maybe the thought of that scares you or makes you laugh. It does for me too. Actually, I toggle between both extremes; some days I feel utterly alone, and long for a meaningful relationship (not just with a guy, but just in general). Other days, I find so much joy in being completely surrendered to serving God with all of my time and energy. And most days, it is some of both.

While many of my friends in college were excited at the prospect of meeting so many new people and potentially someone who they might date, I think God had something else planned for me. In those years, God really formed my ideas about himself, myself, and the world. From serving as a leader in (then called)

CCF, to building friendships with many Christian sisters and brothers, I came out of my shell and discovered what I was passionate about. I loved that experience! There were circumstances in which I could have possibly entered into a dating relationship, but God kept telling me that he had something else in store for me. I couldn't deny it; I had to pursue that instead of what might have been fun, cool or even exhilarating. In the past four years since graduating from college (yes, it's already been that long!), I've witnessed dozens of weddings. In fact, in the last nine months I've been to six weddings and am headed to another one this very weekend! I joke with people that going to weddings seems to be the height of my social life these days (not to mention the lightness of my wallet). Being around people who are in love makes it impossible not to wonder, what about me? Will I ever find that someone? In fact, singleness has gotten even harder now that I am the age where people start asking that question: "What's next in life?" It seems only normal that after college, and after getting a job and working for a while, marriage is the next expected life stage. But is that really what God ordained, or is it simply what society, culture or media promotes?

A married friend once told me that whatever struggles you have now as a single person, be it loneliness, sexual temptations, or interpersonal conflict, those same struggles will exist when you are married, except then you face them as a married person. The myth that being married or being in an exclusive dating relationship will meet all your needs is just that: a myth! Being single has made me understand that I can only find completeness in God. Only Jesus has

the power, ability, and love to wholly satisfy me. While I might think that finding a guy will fix my loneliness, it's really only Christ that can. The longing for intimate, close relationship comes from the very core of who God has created us to be. As image-bearers of the Triune God, intimate community among human beings is the very climax of creation! But that can only truly happen when we are in close relationship with God as well. Human relationship without Christ cannot fulfill us as we want it to. I've come to learn this through being single. I can't say it has been easy, but it has definitely been significant. I know that right now, God is enjoying having me all to himself, and I am growing to love it as well. I do pray that marriage might be in God's plan for me in the future, but for the time being, I am content in being wholly and perfectly loved by my Savior.

Footnote: I want to encourage those of you who are still single and maybe struggle with not wanting to be. And perhaps there are some of you in relationships and wondering if it's the right thing for you right now. Let's stay close to God; only he can give us the courage to be who we are called to be. If you would like to talk with me about any circumstance or situation, I'd love to talk and pray with you!

LARGE GROUP SCHEDULE for March

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."
(Colossians 3:15-16)

**Usually every Friday, 7pm,
at Forum Hall
in Palmer Commons**

- 3/7 | *Coffeehouse II*
East Hall Auditorium
- 3/14 | *IV Joint Retreat*
Union--Kunzel Room
- 3/21 | *no LG (Good Friday)*
- 3/28 | *Holy Spirit*
(part of the Trinity series)
Speaker: Gracee Biskie



ISAIAH 49:15-16

**Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and
have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.**

the West Quad Wedgies

my experience with leading small group this year

by Jon Go, Junior

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM, MY NAME IS JON GO AND I CO-LEAD THE AIV WEST QUAD SMALL GROUP. At the beginning of the year, I was not completely confident at my abilities to lead a small group and I was scared that we would have no new members or they would feel uncomfortable and leave. Even through all my doubts, God showed me so much through West Quad so far. God blessed me with great members who were open and welcoming. The small group basically just took off by itself and all my worries flew out the window.

Here is a little story to hopefully help describe the character of West Quad small group. It was in early November during the night of Coffeehouse. I was not able gather up the small group to walk to East Hall together since I was helping out beforehand. I thought it would be a good idea for me to pair up some of the new students to walk together to East Hall, so they would not have to walk alone and they could be better acquainted. For the sake of their identities, I will use fake names. Will and Dan (it's purely coincidence that these are names of members in my small group) were my initial targets.

I talked to Will beforehand and mentioned to him that I thought that it would be a good idea to walk with Dan to Coffeehouse so they could "bond" as new students. Will gave me a deranged look and said something to the effect of, "Uhh... ok... but I already see Dan a lot. We eat dinner together and we've gone to the CCRB a lot." Will went on about all the fun activities that they were doing behind my back. I was stunned! And saddened that they did not need my help to set their little play dates up. After the initial shock, depression, and fury, I was overjoyed that my members were actually interacting with each other and I did not even have to initiate it!

Eventually, as the small group members got to know each other more, it seemed that we found out that we all have a lot in common. Members were eating together, playing instruments together, and going to the CCRB to work out quite regularly. We would have 10-15 of our members go bowling about every other week, and this semester we consistently go play free pool for an hour every Wednesday. All of this being set up by small group members.

It is amazing to me that so many of our members have so much in common and that we like to do all these things as a group. Basically, to have a small group that meshes so well by itself has been a true blessing (since it's been so easy on me!). As this year has gone on, I have been astonished not only by member cohesiveness, but by so much spiritual growth in individual members. I think that this growth is a direct effect of how comfortable our small group is together. Without that vulnerability and trust outside of small group, I do not think that we would have gotten anywhere inside of small group. I have seen first hand members asking questions, vocally analyzing text, and even starting to pray openly. It is great to see how much each individual person has learned, grown, and developed spiritually within the small group.

Overall, this year has been an exciting one for me. I have seen first hand at what God is capable of. He has brought so many people from different backgrounds to a single small group and he has made us into one body. As a leader, I am so thankful that the members of our small group have really bonded well as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ask Melissa & Betsy advice column

by Melissa Pan & Betsy Lau, Juniors

Melissa and Betsy do not know all the correct answers to your problems! They simply give advices and recommendations. These questions were proposed by fellow members of AIV. If you have a problem, feel free to email or talk them!

Dear Melissa and Betsy,
I met a man in need of money on the street and bought him a meal. I also gave him my phone number. He called me this morning asking for help to take care of his medical bills. I think he's sincere. What should I do?

Yours truly,
The Good Samaritan

*Dear Good Samaritan,
That was a really brave move! Well, first: pray. Second: do you know exactly how much are the medical bills? Maybe you should take a friend and talk to this guy again. Even though his intentions may be good, you don't know this guy very well yet, and it's simply not safe to go by yourself. You don't want to be caught up in a situation where he's forcing you to pay, because you should be able to make that choice. If he... ..seems like he really needs*

Discontent has led to recent discussions about fellowship

by Donica Liu, *Junior*

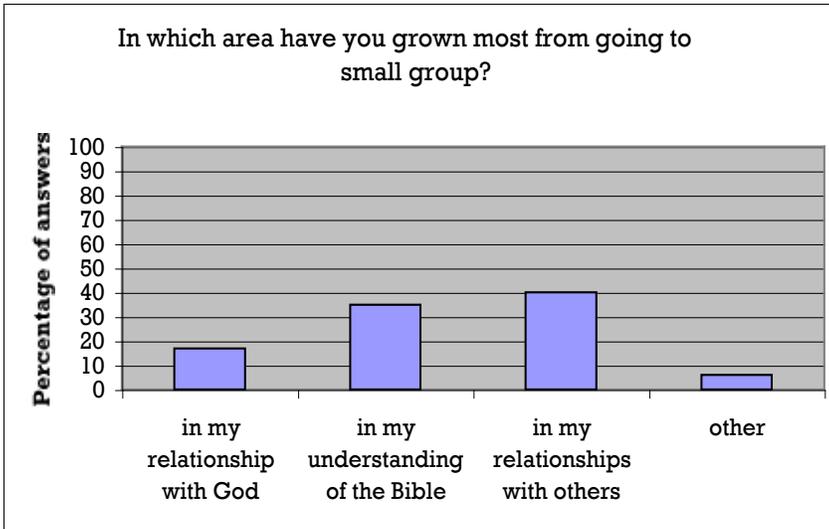
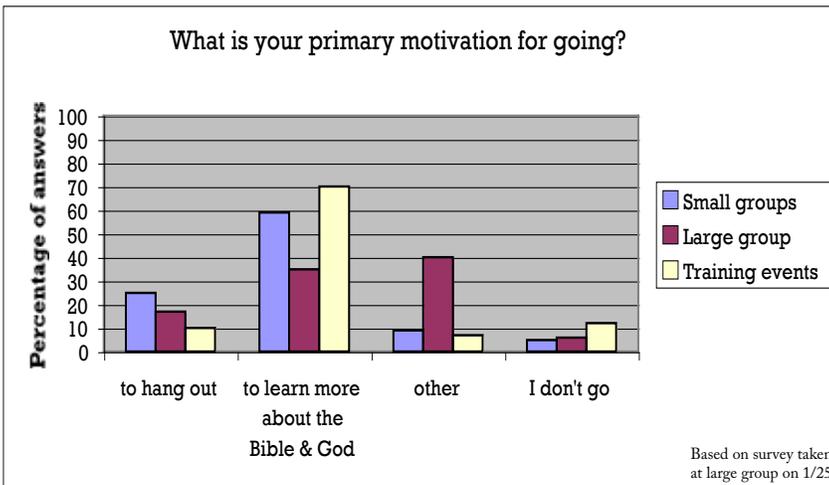
PERHAPS LEADERSHIP SELECTION HAS OPENED THE DOOR TO DISCUSSION ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP, BECAUSE I'VE FOUND MYSELF in the midst of many conversations about where our fellowship is at right now. Although aspects like our focus on missions and the partnership with our sister chapter, IV-ME, have been very encouraging this year, many AIV members seem unhappy with how things are going otherwise. Growing concerns about our

small groups, leadership structure, and sense of complacency has made many people feel overly burdened. Over and over again, I hear ideas about what our fellowship should be.

Thinking about "what our fellowship should be" makes me feel like our goal is on a huge, intangible level that we will never reach. And this is true—our fellowship will always be flawed. When we expect improvement, we must shift our focus from the capabilities of our leaders and organizational structure to God.

We are God's house, His field, His clay, meant to reflect His goodness in all its glory, in all we do and definitely in our fellowship. God's standard of perfection may never be fully obtained while brokenness pervades our life here on earth. But the reality is that the gospel brings the Kingdom ideal into the present time. What a conundrum: we must work hard to make our fellowship glorifying to God, yet we can't take things into our own hands.

Although there is a fine balance between personal responsibility and letting go to let God do His thing, we must trust more in the latter. Jesus is the only way to be healed from our brokenness. He alone gives us the power to experience freedom from sin. Therefore, it is not on our shoulders to cure the fellowship. *Cue waves of relief*. Let's pray for AIV, for our groups, large and small, for DPMs and gender discipleship, for broken relationships and complacency issues, and for the coming of God's Kingdom.



help, then it's your choice to help them out. However, there is no way of knowing where your money would go, unless you go pay the bills with him, so use your own discretion and don't let your money go to waste. It's one thing to buy someone a meal, but paying for someone's medical bills is a whole different scenario.

--Melissa & Betsy

Dear Melissa and Betsy,

This year I roomed blind in the dorms. My roommate is not Christian, but we've become good friends. However, our values and lifestyles are very different. Right now neither my roommate nor I have plans yet for next year's housing situation. A few days ago, my roommate asked me if I wanted to room with him again, I have yet to reply. Even though we're good friends, because of our differences, I really don't want to room with my roommate again. But at the same time, I don't want to hurt our friendship. Any advice? Please?

--Tough Love Roommate

An Update on IV-ME

with Emily Bier, *Junior*

What is IV-ME's organizational structure?

IV-ME is very loosely organized, most of the time. The positions change year to year. What you guys call "Core," we call "Exec(utive Board)." This year, that includes a President, Large Group Coordinator, Administrator, and Discipleship Coordinator. They meet up every week and do a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff. They're also pretty fun people to hang out with, just like our Small Group Leaders!

Small group leaders from both chapters get together about once a week to plan out our various small groups and talk about what's up, so to speak. In case you're wondering, their names are: Grace Kim, Kate Eshman-Wissman, Elise Darling, Peter Bartlett, Becky Steiner, Annie Van Dyke, Katie Sharkey, and me. Our Small Group Coordinators are myself, Annie Van Dyke, and Katie Sharkey. Luckily, we live together, so it's not hard for us to meet!

Then we have what you guys call "small group helpers"—their roles are less defined in IVME, but we call them Core. Essentially, that includes any returning member who isn't a small group leader.

What have been some of your struggles and successes for this

year?

We have boys! Haha, no I'm kidding. We've been struggling with unity across the chapter, with having the same specific vision, and with over-scheduling. We've succeeded in having fantastic small group communities, good relationships with the freshmen, and improving large groups.

Do you feel that there is a need for two separate chapters? Or would combining AIV and IVME make more sense?

I think AIV serves a very specific need on campus. I don't really feel like I can speak authoritatively on this, though.

How are your small groups and DPMs doing? What book of the Bible are small groups studying right now?

Our small groups are doing great! I think our small groups are pretty well connected to one another—we have meetings once a week to go over scripture and how we're doing. We're about to start studying the fantastic book of Hebrews.

How has the closer partnership with AIV influenced your fellowship?

Well, for one thing, we have a

lot of sweet new friends and get to explain early our ideas about multi-ethnicity! It helped a lot, I think, with follow-up for us, and with defining our mission for small groups and whatnot.

How can AIV better support you guys?

I honestly think AIV is doing a really good job of integrating us into their fellowship whenever we're hanging out together. I think all of the small groups need to work on integrating with each other, but I don't know that AIV needs to step up any support for us.

How can AIV & IVME be more involved with other Christian groups on campus?

The first question here is whether or not we should be involved with other Christian groups on campus... which I think (and you clearly do too!) is an unequivocal yes. The only issue though, is how much we should be involved. I think we're making a great start with our MLK weekend activities—doing proxe stations and going to the symposium, and being somewhat involved with 40 Days of Prayer. I don't know how much more I think it is effective to get involved with other Christian groups, though—in general, it requires a lot of energy and logistical work, and the fruits of that labor somehow don't seem to match up. But as always, we're open to suggestions!

Dear Tough Love Roommate,

This is a pretty tough situation, but not one that you shouldn't be able to talk about with your roommate. If you guys are good enough friends, you should talk about this issue with your roommate. Tell them your concerns about your different living habits, and how you are looking for other options as well (cheaper prices, for example). If you are unable to find alternate options, perhaps living with your roommate again is not such a bad idea. You never know what God might have in store for this relationship – perhaps you are in the perfect place to help bring your roommate closer to God. Good luck!
--Melissa & Betsy

Dear Melissa and Betsy,

I grew up in a Christian home, but my family never really talks about faith, religion and stuff. Sometimes, I can tell that my parents are concern about my spiritual wellbeing, but they won't talk to me directly. Recently, I've been initiating such conversations, but the atmosphere is so awkward. Why is it so awkward? How can I approach my parents without feeling so out of place?

--The Loving Child

AIV Men Have Gone MAD

by Pastor Bob Lynn, Knox Presbyterian Church

SOME OF YOU AIV WOMAN MIGHT BE THINKING ABOUT AIV GUYS YOU KNOW AND WONDERING, "And how is this news?" Well, I mean a different kind of mad. I mean Biblically MAD. As in Men's Accountability and Discipleship kind of MAD.

Last December, Jack Wang, Jon Chen, and Ken Tang came together to pursue a new vision for the men of AIV. Their assessment was that even though men were usually in small groups, there wasn't the kind of growth and accountability among men that they longed to see. Their question was, "What does it mean to live in community as men, not only having fun together but also caring for one another deeply?" And so they decided to start MAD. Friday afternoon at four o'clock was the day and time chosen and MAD was off and running the first Friday in January.

Jack, Jon and Ken wanted to create a weekly place where men could come together and open up their hearts and lives to one another. As Jon put it in his first email invitation, "Guys, especially Asian guys, keep to themselves a lot and during these MAD meetings, we will try to break those barriers and open up to one another." To help make that happen, the one house rule of

MAD is "what's said in the room stays in the room." MAD is a safe place where brokenness or need can be put boldly on the table and the response is support, not judgment; acceptance, not rejection; and love, not condemnation.

So, what does MAD look like on a weekly basis? Right now there is an every other week pattern. One week there is an outside speaker who challenges the group. The next week the group follows up, discussing the speaker's topic and asking the tough questions, "How are we doing? What are the difficulties we're having in following Christ? Where do we need to grow? In what ways can we holding one another accountable? Are there practical ways we can be encouraging one another?"

The topics vary from week to week. I've come twice to lead discussions about Biblical sexuality. James Pateroster helped the men explore the question of friendships with women and will be back on March 14 to consider some big questions about dating. Tom Trevethan challenged the group about the connection between prayer and evangelism. Pastor Chuck Jacob will be coming in a few weeks (March 28) to talk about courage and fear. Some of the topics are 'guy-specific,' while others

are challenges that men and women face as they follow Christ. But either way, MAD seeks to help men to apply these themes in specific ways men face as they endeavor to follow Jesus.

So, what's the long-term vision of MAD? Well, quite honestly, the end of MAD. MAD's ultimate success will be a time when there is no need for it. My prayer is that more and more men will be drawn into the ministry of MAD, to the point where AIV becomes a ministry where men don't need to go to a special ministry to care for, support and disciple one another. It will simply be the culture of AIV for men. Imagine a time when an entering freshman doesn't have to ask when MAD meets but will from the very beginning of his four years in AIV be drawn into grace-based, gospel-centered, life-changing relationships with other men. We've got a long way to go before we get to that time but for now why not think about getting MAD every Friday afternoon at 4 PM?

P.S. Women of AIV! Let me encourage you to be praying for the men as they get MAD in order to follow Jesus in new and more challenging ways.

Dear Loving Child,

Glad you want to share with your folks! Talking about faith and belief can be uncomfortable. Sometimes, it's the most awkward with you are talking with your family. It may be intimidating to your parents for you to approach them with the subject, like faith, so suddenly; but at least they know your concern for your spiritual wellbeing too. Rather than jumping right into topic, try start by doing the little things such as maybe a prayer together before everyone eats, or on Sundays, talk about what you guys did at church. And perhaps, ask your parents what God means to them. If you guys are comfortable enough, ask them to share their testimony, even if they haven't ever done it. Since you're initiating, share your thoughts and testimony with them too! Get them to share these personal memories; big or little things. Eventually, they'll start the initiation! But remember to pray together! Don't underestimate the power of prayer!

--Melissa and Betsy ■

Q & A ABOUT CORE with Core by Core

Johnny: So let's get this party started.

Q1: What is Core and what do you do?

Johnny: Well, usually we sit around and discuss what we can do to help steward the fellowship.

Jon: I'm tired, I ate dinner at Bursley.

Brian: I'm not really anyone cares about that.

Jon: Anyway, we could meet about different events that we're planning as a fellowship, or different ministries going on (Large Group, Small Group, Evangelism, etc.)

Johnny: Make sure "Prayer" gets on there so it looks I'm doing something.

Alfred: ...

Jon: It's important to note that Core isn't just a group of people who are "better than everyone else". On Core we felt we were called by God to help serve and cast vision for the fellowship.

Alfred: It's also looking at big picture things and seeing what we'd like to accomplish as a fellowship for the year.

Brian: I guess basically, we're all students doing our best to help other students in following God through the things we do in the fellowship. Sound good?

Johnny: I affirm.

Brian: Fantastic. Moving on.

Q2: Who's the best looking person on Core?

Q2: How do you get onto Core?

Johnny: Core is selected each year by the previous year's Core.

Jon: They make their choices based on spiritual maturity, physical appeal, and characteristic traits.

Jon: Like musical talents! (Alfred)

Alfred: I sing at Core meetings.

Jon: Anyway, the decision is a semester-long process that involves a lot of prayer and discussion and meeting up with people.

Johnny: It's not like we sit around and draw names out of a hat. There's actually a lot that goes into each meeting and these decisions. Though maybe we should move to drawing names out of a hat for next year.

Brian: Core also takes into account each individual's calling and how (and if) they feel God is calling them to serve in the fellowship for the upcoming year.

Alfred: Core also realizes that we don't know everything about everyone, and that's why the leadership surveys are passed around, along with meeting up with people on a one-on-one basis.

Jon: That's why it's important for everyone to fill out these surveys! Everyone on Core reads every single survey. Several we read multiple times.

Johnny: Core doesn't take leadership decisions lightly at all, it is a very long and intense process.

Brian: And above all, we consistently ask God to be with us as we make these decisions, because ultimately, this is His fellowship.

Q3: How does Core know that what they're doing is in line with what God wants for the fellowship?

Brian: That's a good question.

Johnny: There's always a lot of discussion and prayer that goes on within Core when we need to make decisions. We also have to trust in God that He's taking care of our fellowship as well.

Brian: I think sometimes it's easy for us (and really scary) to get carried away with a sort of complacency toward decisions, where we as flawed people might just make decisions based on gut feeling instead of really consulting with and hearing God, so it's important that we get everybody's thoughts before making a decision, because (hopefully) at least one of us will remember that we need to hear God in all of our choices.

Jon: It's also important to remember that we need to approach each decision with humility and realizing that we don't know everything.

Q4: What's the hardest part about being on Core?

Johnny: Realizing that you can't do everything on your own and that we have to really trust in God to help us get things done.

Jon: Also, as our culture seems to dictate, we're sometimes reluctant to ask for help and would like to do everything by ourselves, and it's tough to do it all without burning out.

Johnny: Or trying to accomplish too much without realizing how much we can realistically do in a year. I think we all had lofty goals coming into this year and not all of these have been accomplished. Go to DPMs.

Alfred: I think with that too is just realizing that God's perception of success might be different from the way we

measure success.

Brian: I think for me the hardest thing is realizing that sometimes the vision that I had and the vision we've inherited from years past and tradition just differ too much, and that change happens slowly. As people I think we like to see things happen quickly, and realistically, that's just not the way things work. Everything works on God's timing, which is almost always longer than we would like.

Jon: But it's encouraging to remember that God uses the broken to lead and serve a broken group of people.

Brian: Also it's tough sitting across from Johnny at every meeting, because his sheer good looks just blind me and fill me with an overwhelming feeling of inadequacy.

Johnny: I affirm that.

Q5: How do you deal with conflict on Core?

Jon: This is something that actually occurs a lot, almost on a weekly basis. We need to be respectful of everyone's opinions and to realize that we're not out get anyone. Conflict is usually a result of a misinterpretation of the other person's point of view, so one thing we really try to work on is communicating efficiently with one another.

Johnny: At the beginning of the year we established some good values for us to have as a group: communication, common goals, and respect.

Brian: And when those sometimes start to fall apart, we usually remember to take a step back just to stop and think and pray before we proceed any

further.

Johnny: Emphasis on prayer.

Brian: It's important to remember that even though we all have different opinions, we're all working for God and ultimately He's the one whose opinion really matters.

Jon: We're all on the same team.

Johnny: We're all in this together.

Brian: Alfred, do you want to add something equally clichéd and cheesy?

Alfred: Yay team!

Brian, Jon, Johnny: GO PATS!

Alfred: (groans miserably)

Q6: So what goals do you have for the fellowship for the rest of the year?

Johnny: MORE PRAYER. GO TO DPMs.

Brian: I think I'd really like to see the fellowship more involved with each other on both a social and spiritual level, and for us to really be able to grow together and help each other on our walks with God.

Johnny: I wholeheartedly agree.

Brian: I also think it'd be great to have more small groups, but that might be a decision left for next year.

Alfred: And it would be nice if more people got to large group on time and brought their Bibles.

Jon: MO' BIBLE FO' ER'RYBODY.

Brian: I think that's it for questions.

Johnny: Core's not some secret organization that meets to talk about the fellowship and make secret decisions. We're really trying our best to serve the fellowship and make sure we're doing what God wants for all of us.

Psalm

by Josh Shyu, Junior

it's five am and the world is asleep
but slumber will not bestow relief on me
for my mind's held hostage, my thoughts
they scream
shame for my blunders, my big city dreams

i spend every second cowering in fear
that before i know it, tomorrow is here
and i'll have nothing to show but scars
a broken coward with an empty heart

Father, it's so hard to be brave
when my back's covered with blades
my foes have brought me to my knees
my friends all fled at my time of need
they have snapped my spine in two
the only one i have is You

so i'll be a soldier for Your cause
i won't let them slander my King
and though i'm barely hanging on
my God shall be my everything

ten thousand armies' battle cries
won't quell this tiny voice of mine
their spears, their horses, their armors,
their swords
are nothing compared to you, my Lord

Father, anoint my lips, my throat
and I will roar your songs of hope
every time i even part my mouth
praises will never stop pouring out

bless my fingers, bless these strings
help these black and white keys sing
i'll shout the message loud and clear
broadcast my gratitude everywhere

though my city burns down in flames
i won't stop praising your name
though my neck is in the noose
my God, i'll never stop loving you

**though i have everything to lose
my God, i'll never stop loving you**

YOU'VE READ ABOUT SAMSON. YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT GIDEON. BUT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT

EHUD?

FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES - THE FIRST OF A THREE-PART MINI-SERIES.

LEFT HANDEDNESS. MY CULTURE CONSIDERED IT A WEAKNESS. BUT DESPITE MY SOCIAL FLAW, GOD HAD A PLAN FOR ME, A SPECIAL TASK ONLY I COULD FULFILL.

EGLON KING OF MOAB, A GLUTTON OF A BEAST WORTH TEN STRONG MEN IN GIRTH. HE TOOK BACK THE CITY OF PALMS FROM US, AND MY PEOPLE STARVED EIGHTEEN YEARS.



I WAS APPOINTED TO BRING HIM MY PEOPLE'S TRIBUTE. GOD HEARD MY PEOPLE'S CRIES, FOR EGLON'S HAND WAS HEAVY UPON THEM.



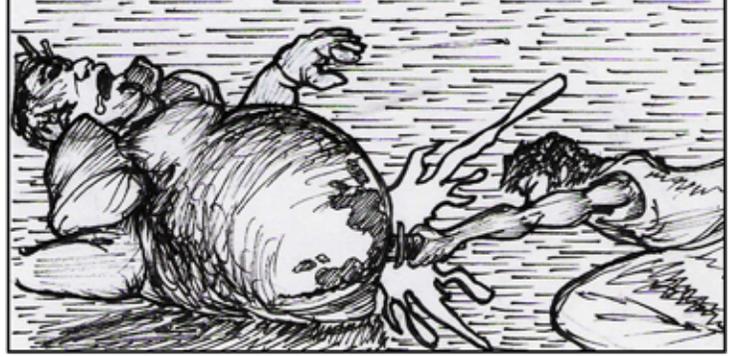
WHO DARED DEFY EGLON IN FORTRESS JERICHO? BUT DESPERATE DAYS CALLED FOR DESPERATE ACTION, NOT DOUBT OR FEAR.



SO ON THAT DESTINED DAY, I FASHIONED FOR MYSELF A SMALL SWORD AND HED IT UNDER MY CLOAK. INTO THE HEART OF THE ENEMY I TRAVELED, TO PRESENT TRIBUTE.



"GOD HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU," I SAID. HE SENT HIS SERVANTS AWAY, AND WHEN WE WERE ALONE, MY LEFT HAND DREW THE SWORD, AND I STABBED HIM. HE DIED IN HIS OWN FILTH.



THAT DAY, GOD DELIVERED MY PEOPLE AND WE TOOK BACK THE CITY. I, A LEFT-HANDED MAN, A SOCIAL OUTCAST - AN ASSASSIN! - BECAME ISRAEL'S WARCHIEF, HER JUDGE. AND THE LAND ENJOYED PEACE FOR EIGHTY YEARS.



DO YOU ALSO HAVE A PERCEIVED WEAKNESS? DO YOU ALSO HAVE SOCIAL FLAWS? DON'T DESPISE YOURSELF - WERE YOU NOT FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE IN HIS IMAGE? SO TAKE HEART! *

GOD WILL USE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MIGHTY DEEDS!!

*VAL'S DAY JUST PASSED...IT'S THE SEASON OF HEARTS! ;)