The background of the entire page is a photograph of a forest at sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the bare trees. A dirt path winds through the forest from the bottom center towards the right. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

bread of life

CHINESE BIBLE STUDY
FALL 2013
cornell unversity

Editor's Letter

Dear Chinese Bible Study,

I am truly thankful to God for yet another semester here at Cornell. Through all the good times and the bad, God has led us and been there to take care of this fellowship. This is important to remember especially when we are so involved in organizing CBS events and logistics that we lose sight of the overall purpose of this fellowship.

CBS is not about going to events and organizing activities; if it were simply that, what would distinguish us from any other student group at Cornell? I genuinely believe CBS's main purpose is to transform lives through the power of the gospel. We are a group of students dedicated to knowing Christ and making Him known.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

This semester we heard from many speakers on the value of Romans 1: how we are all sinners and all have some knowledge of God, yet have chosen to reject Him and worship the creation rather than the creator. The amazing news of the Gospel is visible all throughout Romans, but none more powerful, in my opinion, than Romans 6: 3-11 which I quoted in my letter last semester. Frankly, I believe the entire Gospel can be summed up in these few verses which portray a clear picture of our death to sin and living to Christ Jesus.

Because our old self is sinful and incapable of upholding the law, we know that the law is unable to save us. Thus, through His incredible act of love and grace, God sent His own son Jesus Christ to die in our place; He took the punishment for our sins so that if we might believe Him, we might have eternal life. Because death no longer has mastery over Him because He lived a sinless life, He now lives a life to God which we can partake in when we have faith in His amazing work on the cross.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3: 7-8

As a result of believing in this marvelous news of the Gospel, we now live our lives in response to the amazing grace that He has shown us. Our vision this year is on counting everything else in our lives a loss compared to the worth of knowing Christ Jesus. But how many of us actually do that? When we have an hour to spare how often do we use it to read the Word or encourage another brother or sister? How selfish are we with our money and time when we know we are simply stewards of the resources He has provided for us to use wisely? The message behind this verse is quite similar to discipleship's vision this year. Note that even though Jesus may not ask you to give up everything in your life, how would you feel if He did? It is incredibly difficult to think about the loss of our loved ones and all material possessions we have worked for our entire lives, but ultimately, we are called to count them all as loss for the sake of Christ. And so I urge you, brothers and sisters, what could you be willing to give up for Christ? While it is important not to force ourselves to sacrifice or turn this vision into a set of legalistic rules, I want to encourage you all to think carefully about the ways that you spend your most precious resources. Live out the Gospel every day.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

In Christ,
Jeffrey Yu

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Coordinator Letter 1

Dear CBS,

First off, you all deserve an apology. I have been neither the nicest, the most discerning, nor the most encouraging older brother, and I have hurt many people through my insensitivity. And so I need to apologize. I am sorry.

The other thing that's been on my mind is the following question: How can CBSers do more with less? I really don't like that we tend to judge each other's growth by the number of events that person attends. Looking at the number of events CBS has per week, I can see why some people joke that CBS is a six credit course. It is quite a lot of work.

However, the Bible never stated anything like, "You have to attend small group once a week," or "You have to do EV once a week." What it did say about living a Christian life is in Galatians 5:13, 22-26.

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

I love the Bible in that the mandates are clear and liberating. I love that it gives me clear principles, but allows me to decide how best to apply them in my life.

But I know my first reaction to the verse is like, "Oh, I need to serve others more. I need to meet up with more people. I need to participate in more ministries, etc..." But that answer is so shallow; it is me desperately straggling to hide my inadequacies, to appear holy in front of my brothers and sisters. It doesn't answer the issues in my heart: the desire to indulge the flesh rather than serve my neighbor.

It also shrinks down the power of God and the power of the grace he has given me. Time and time again, I have attempted to solve problems through my own power and knowledge, only to see my solutions fall through. Then I see how God solved the problem, and it would be something I had not even considered, but it was beautiful. How narrow is my mind when it comes to addressing the problems of my spiritual life, and yet how broad and ambitious are God's plans for me.

And so I urge you not to start writing in more events in your schedule to better serve your brothers and sisters, but instead to pray to the Lord. Seek His counsel, and find peace in the fact that you are already saved. Then move forward in faith.

Not much to say beyond that. Good luck with your finals. Please bear with me for another semester,

Your brother,
Michael Cao '14

Coordinator Letter 2

Where does your joy come from?

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. (Romans 3:10-12)

In our Bible studies this semester, we studied Romans. One of my favorite Bible study sessions was on Romans 2-3. I like passages that explain the depravity of people because it reminds me why the Gospel is so good. At first glance, the passage seems sobering as it reveals how sinful we are and how we are without excuse. But for those of us who know how Romans ends, the passage is setting up the greatest demonstration of love (Romans 5:8).

When I think about the Gospel, I think of the difference between the two types of being found. When you are a kid and you are doing something wrong in secret and your parents discover your delinquency, you are found. Alternatively, when you are a kid and you are lost in a mall and then suddenly you hear the voice of your parents, you are found. I think I misunderstand the Gospel to be the first type of being found when the Gospel is much more like the second type. The Gospel is not about me and how I messed up and how I need to make up for my sins. The Gospel is about how I was so lost that I could not help myself but then God found me. When the situation was so dire, He paid the price for my sins. The Gospel is about how no price was too high for God to pay to get us back.

Being found by God is joy.

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? (Galatians 4:8-9)

There is joy in knowing God and being known by God. Our vision this year was based on Philippians 3:7-8. We want to consider everything a loss in comparison to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Although there is sacrifice and suffering in following Christ (Philippians 3:10, Luke 14:27), it is the greatest joy.

John Widjaja '14

Bible Study Ministry

Dear CBS,

“Thus says the LORD:

‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.’”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 tells us that first, it is possible to know and understand the Lord (though never exhaustively) and second, the Lord desires for us to boast in Him alone. There is no wisdom, strength, or wealth that is greater than the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Here I saw the challenge of this year’s vision – how do we begin to know and understand Jesus? It may seem like an abstract and daunting task, but the Lord has provided us with many ways, one being the Bible. Thus, my hope and desire for the Bible Studies Ministry is to encourage and inspire our fellowship to boast in knowing the Lord through the study of His word.

As I was praying for this ministry, the image of feasting on the word of God came into my mind. We often ask each other out for lunch or dinner (there’s the occasional brunch at earliest), because we enjoy conversation over food. Similarly, we need food for our souls, yet how often do we ask one another to study the Bible together? Imagine with me for a moment: what would happen if we began to hunger for and feast on the word as a community? In Hebrews 4:12-13, it says

“For word of God is living and active. Shaper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

The Word of God is powerful, yet I often lack the motivation to even read it. Therefore, just as individual study is encouraged, I exhort us to study together as a community: to spur each other on, to question and challenge, to seek for answers, and ultimately, to grow. I pray that we would have this desire for our Bible study groups, and I pray that the Holy Spirit would place an insatiable thirst in our hearts for Him.

Leading this ministry has been both a joy and a challenge for me this semester. Thank you for all of the prayers and encouragement; thank you for loving me as your sister; and thank you for allowing me to serve you. As I seek to iron out logistical issues, I am reminded that this is the Lord’s ministry. He longs for us to understand and know Him, and I pray that He will use our small groups mightily!

With love and in Christ,
Esther Jiang ‘16

Discipleship Ministry

Leading Discipleship Ministry together this year has been an incredible blessing. While the aim of discipleship in CBS is traditionally not precisely defined, we decided that for this semester, the purpose of discipleship ministry was to create and nurture healthy relationships between older and younger prayer partners centered upon following Christ together. Notice first that our objective was not simply to “pair people up,” as some would suggest, but also to care and nurture these relationships, ensuring that the older prayer partner is in a place where they are able to not only care for their own needs, but also the needs of others. The other main point we wanted to focus on this semester was that the relationship would be centered upon following Christ together. We carried out this statement in two main approaches.

We first wanted to encourage older prayer partners to become more open about sharing their own lives and struggles. We wanted to ensure that the older prayer partner’s relationship with God was strong before they began mentoring a younger prayer partner and influencing their spiritual walk. While CBS discipleship has traditionally encouraged a fundamental teaching aspect to the ministry, we agreed that because the older prayer partner has only a few more years of experience that it was important that we see ultimately view discipleship as a mutual relationship. Because we are not making disciples of ourselves but rather making disciples of Jesus, it was important that we emphasize the relationship should not be one person leading the other, but centered upon following Christ together.

26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26-27 NKJV)

Moreover, the other main approach to implement our objective was through our vision of seeing CBS counting the cost and carrying the cross. While this vision verse may seem harsh at first, it is simply stating that your love for Jesus Christ should be so much greater than for anything else in this world that you would have no trouble giving up all your other dearest possessions and closest relationships if required by Jesus. Note carefully that Jesus never asks anyone to just become a “Christian,” but a disciple, a follower who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship, therefore, is the process by which disciples grow in Jesus and are equipped by the Holy Spirit to overcome the trials of this present life to become more Christlike. Discipleship ministry embraces this challenge by pairing together prayer partners deemed by God who will best be able to mutually support and encourage each other in their spiritual walks during their time at Cornell.

This year, we have been doing a few things differently than in previous years. First, we decided to hold two meetings for older prayer partners rather than one. A primary reason behind doing this was so that we could spend focused time on both our vision/theology behind discipleship and practical matters when it comes to a prayer partnership. Second, we have begun to send out weekly discipleship emails to older prayer partners, featuring a Discipleship Article of the Week to give them Biblically sound food for thought as well as challenge them in what discipleship means. We figured that these articles could also be good talking points between prayer partners, especially as some younger prayer partners will become older ones before we know it!

Finally, another ministry change we will be implementing second semester of this year is that we will be offering opportunities for prayer partners to serve together. By offering once a month trips to do things like help out at the soup kitchen downtown or build houses for homeless Ithacans, we want to encourage prayer partners to be doers and not just listeners of God’s command to serve the poor. We are hoping that with these opportunities, we can connect CBS with the wider Ithaca community in a way that inspires a greater heart of service in our fellowship. Furthermore, we are hopeful that prayer partner relationships will be even more blessed through time spent serving with one another. Ultimately, Discipleship Ministry is trying to encourage intentional relationships among our CBS community. As in previous years, our ministry wants to encourage CBSers to share lives, prayers, meals, laughter, and struggles together. We have faith that God will richly bless these relationships founded and forged in His name.

Evangelism Ministry

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the semester comes to an end, I reflect on how it has been both an encouraging and challenging year for Evangelism Ministry. Unlike previous years, Evangelism Ministry is led by only one ministry leader this year. I am grateful for the challenges of leading without a ministry partner because I am continuously reminded of how God's grace is sufficient and that His power is made perfect in my weakness. It also encouraged me to not lean on my own strength and understanding, but to always pursue God's wisdom and guidance in every step of the way.

Over the summer, I had been praying for God's direction for the ministry and was reading the Book of Jeremiah for my personal devotions. I was deeply inspired by Jeremiah's burning passion for God and how he was not afraid to prophesize God's truth even in the face of persecution. It is evident that Jeremiah's love for God and for His people were greater than his own fears.

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." -Mark 12:30-31

I thought about the fears that we had of sharing the gospel with people around us: fears of not having the right words to say, fears of not being spiritually mature, fears of being judged by others, and the list goes on and on. If loving God and our neighbors are the greatest commandments, then why do we hesitate in sharing the good news of salvation with others as God had commanded? Do we not love our neighbors enough to want them to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Do we not fear being disobedient to God? The simple answer to all these questions shows that we have placed ourselves above God and His people.

The ministry vision for CBS this year is to "Share the gospel for the GLORY of God and for the LOVE of others". I hope to encourage a heart in everyone that is on fire for the gospel, a heart of obedience to God's commandments and a heart that has a love for God and others that is greater than our own fears. Similarly, this year's vision verse teaches us that love should be our motivation in sharing the good news with as many as possible.

"We proclaim Him, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." -Colossians 1:28

The vision verse comes from Colossians 1:28, in which we are reminded that we proclaim the gospel not for our own sake but for the sake of others, presenting every one perfect and mature in Christ. As children of God who have been given new hearts to love with His love, I pray that CBS can be a community of believers that are salt and light to this campus. May God's love overflow from each and every one of our hearts so that the Gospel can be proclaimed from one end of this campus to another. On a final note, I would like to thank God for bringing brothers and sisters to our North Dinner Outreach events. I thank God for giving them courage and strength, but most importantly I thank God for their genuine and obedient spirits that fear and love the Lord with all their hearts. I encourage the fellowship to step out in faith and let the love and grace of God be made plain and clear to those who do not know Him through the work that we do in His name.

InReach Ministry

Praise God for another semester! Despite the challenges of leading InReach ministry and the struggles and changes in our personal lives, God has blessed the fellowship and ministry in many ways and has been faithful in providing an InReach team that is eager to serve the fellowship.

InReach ministry is committed to building up the body of Christ through love, encouragement, and service in obedience to God through activities and events within the fellowship. This year's vision comes from Ephesians 4:1-3.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

In Ephesians 4, Paul describes the calling we have to glorify God and be unified and gives us attributes to living out this calling - humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, and diligence. This year our vision is for CBS to focus on the unity we have through Christ and dedicate ourselves to “keeping the unity of the spirit.” We encouraged brothers and sisters to look past the differences we may have in hobbies, majors, and other activities and glorify God by being unified and living as the body of Christ. As believers we share the same one Lord, salvation, life and future and these things are far greater than any differences.

God desires for us to experience unity with one another and the best model for unity is the Trinity because the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are completely unified as one. As part of God's family it is our responsibility to protect and preserve the unity of the church/fellowship that He has already established.

We prayed that brothers and sisters would understand the importance of community and seek to form Christ centered relationships. Throughout the year we were encouraged to see people demonstrate Christ's love through care packaging, meeting up and sharing with one another. And truly this is what we desire to see in the people in CBS. To put it in Paul's words:

“I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.” Romans 1:11-12

Lauren Tang '15 and Rachel Villamayor '14

Praise Ministry

Every Friday, we enter into a time of worship before CBS. Every Sunday, we begin service with a time of worship at our local churches. But sometimes, we sing because that's what we're used to doing. Whether we'd like to admit it or not, we sometimes find ourselves falling into a routine. In these moments when we fall into the routine, we forget what we're singing or why we're singing. Even worse, we don't mean the words we say. I'm not saying that having regular praise is bad; rather, it's a great thing that our sin has blemished.

I have found myself falling into these routines in the past and, upon talking to others, realized that this was a common struggle amongst Christians. Therefore, I wanted the fellowship to focus on what it means to truly worship and better understand why we worship. Quite simply, we worship because we are made to give God glory.

“For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.” Isaiah 48:9-11

In praise team meeting bible studies this semester, we focused on God's glory. To many, God's glory is an abstract thing that we don't really understand. While we will never be able to fully understand it here on earth, how can we worship, if we don't have a good understanding of what we are worshipping?

What is God's glory? God's glory is so great that there are no words that can truly capture the fullness of His glory. But I believe that God's glory is the display of His magnificent and perfect characteristics. One thing we learned this semester is that we can participate in God's glory. God wants us to participate in His glory. Through the death of Jesus on the cross, we are united with God once we repent and ask our Father for forgiveness. This unity allows us to share in His glory. We are not bystanders. We get to be part of this perfect magnificence of our great God.

This year, we've dedicated a time of sharing praises before we practice for our set. This was to help praise team remember all the things we have to praise God for because it is impossible that we go through a week, a day, an hour, or even a minute without finding a reason to praise God.

If you find yourself falling into the routine or just yearning to worship God wholeheartedly, feel free to come to praise team meetings, or talk to a praise team member. Whether or not you have these struggles, reflect daily on all the reasons why God deserves our glory. But in the worst of days and the best of days, praise God because He took us undeserving wretched sinners as His own by enduring the greatest suffering through Jesus's death on the Cross.

Aaron Hui '15 and Agatha Siu '14

Prayer Ministry

We Christians live transformed lives not out of a fear of the afterlife, but out of gratitude and adoration for God (Romans 8:15). This gratitude manifests itself in a yearning for God, for we are also uniquely blessed with the opportunity to gain intimacy with our Father.

At least, it should.

So many of us lack a desire to talk to Him. Rather than being an obsession, God is merely a helper in times of distress. And when troubled, we blame God for a perceived lack of concern for our well-being. Our selfishness is even more astonishing in light of our blessings as Ivy Leaguers. If we were in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25), we would be the servant who was given twenty talents, spent it on a good job and nice house, and complained that the other servant was given twenty-one talents and a spouse.

God stoops down to interact with us. Every time He talks to us, He has to cover Himself, lest we turn into babbling fools after seeing His glory. After talking with God, Moses' face shone so much that he had to wear a veil to stop frightening people (Exodus 34). And he didn't even see God face-to-face. Why do we treat God so? Because it's hard to worship someone you don't adore. And you can't adore someone you don't know. And you can't truly know someone unless you spend time with him. And you can't spend time with God unless you pray and bask in His presence.

This was the motivation behind prayer ministry's vision for the year: "Seek God before seeking others." Our verse was complementary: "Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always" (1 Chronicles 16:11). We sought to encourage the fellowship to look to God first for advice, for approval, for comfort, and for friendship. To that end, we planned prayer prompts and prayer meetings and praying for classes and praying for the fellowship and other things. We were ambitious.

Then the semester started, and we forgot our own vision all too quickly. When overwhelmed by life, we tried to overcome by our own strength rather than God's. Meetings started much later in the semester than planned. Things within and outside the fellowship discouraged us. Our schemes stagnated.

But thankfully, CBS is God's fellowship and not ours. He works despite us (2 Corinthians 4:6-9). He is faithful, and he will sustain prayer ministry and CBS as we pick ourselves up and continue running the race (Hebrews 12) so that one day we may hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And we rejoice in our trials (1 Peter 1), knowing that God makes all things work together for our good (not success) (Romans 8:28).

Prayer ministry's hope is that the people of CBS will seek the things that are above (Colossians 3) and delight in the law of the Lord (Psalm 1:1-3). God cares about not how much you put into the offering plate but how much you keep out. And this isn't just money. This refers to time and activities and strength and devotion. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6). Want your heart to be somewhere? Put your treasure there. Feeling spiritually dead or apathetic? Devote yourself to God. Sacrifice for Him. Abide in Him, and your joy will be full (John 15).

Charlie Qian

Charlie thinks that this picture is self explanatory and doesn't need a description.



Major: No Idea, Engineering (possibly CS)
Hometown: Montville, New Jersey

Interviewer:
Jeffrey Huang

Word Associations

Ithaca: Odysseus
Senior Class: Wrinkles
Tide: Washing clothes
Junior Class: Charles?
Hidden: Tiger
Sophomore Class: Jeff Yu
Fresh: Prince
Freshman Class: Robin
Strike: Turkey

This is Charlie, Charlie Qian. Some of you may know him by the alias "C-Money"...because his last name means money in Chinese. He is from "the glorious town of Montville, New Jersey (13th best town to live in in the US, according to CNN/Money, circa 2013), so there is a chance he might be one of the best people you will meet in the US, that is, unless he is one of the citizens who make Montville the 13th best town to live in instead of the best town to live in....But I will leave that up for you to decide.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

It's beautiful, everywhere I look, I see awesome things, awesome people, awesome nature. I think the most impressionable thing that I observed when I visited was that when people shared, they were willing to share, unlike the Asianness of people back home, who weren't as open. It was very encouraging. It might be attributed to the fact that Asians at Cornell are

more ambitious.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

How much I love it. I love it a lot. When I was choosing colleges, I was like, whatever college I go into, I will grow/force myself to love it. But when I came to Cornell I realized that I just loved everything about it, everything from there being chopsticks in every single dining hall to the proverbial gorge pictures everybody has to take walking across that bridge, just the people here. Everything from its beautiful things to its ugly things.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I would bring...Dangit that's such a hard question. I would bring Cornell University, World peace, my Mom. I couldn't imagine anything else I'd want.

What superpower would you want and why?

I've always wanted the ability to read other people's minds, and to some extent, I've already been given that ability. Because when I look into people's eyes, I can read what they're thinking in Python code. As for why, because people have always perplexed me, and I ...can't even read my own mind. I would also like the ability to water bend. Because my dad does Tai chi, and I want to be like him, but better; also, water bending is derived from Tai Chi.

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

A perfect day for me? That's a bad, bad question. What I mean by that is that I don't want to answer it as if my happiness on any particular day is based on how good the day was, which in some sense is arbitrary. I think my happiness on any particular day cannot be

affected by the circumstance on that particular day, because that is what joy is. It's having a greater sense of peace, and having a sense of something like happiness, no matter what happens in the day.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

Huh, did I even have a childhood? I'm having trouble remembering...what happened in my childhood? Runescape happened, but that's not a toy...I guess Bionicles, just because because Bionicles are so awesome. All I know is that Bionicles were awesome, and my parents made a lot of sacrifices to buy some for me.

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

I guess I would have a bank named after me, cause that would bring much luck and prosperity to the bank. And if it becomes famous, people will finally be able to know how to pronounce my last name...(it's funny because his last name means money in Chinese)

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

Why do I need to graduate? What if I decide to drop out, to follow whatever crazy call God has given me? I guess, assuming I graduate, I want to grow closer to God, to be able to put my entire trust in Him. There's so much uncertainty about being at Cornell, everything down to which fellowship I serve, or how I serve. So I guess what I want to do is to do what God lays out for me, instead of what I lay out for myself, even if it is good by human standards.

Charlie seems like a nice guy, probably nice enough to be from the 13th best town in America. Thus, I will let him have the last word, "In Conclusion, Jeff is a troll."

Donald Feng



When I first got to Cornell, I thought the campus was huge and I didn't know where anything was. I knew where north campus and the engineering quad were, but I sort of just lumped everything else together. I was sad that I would have to walk 15 minutes every morning to my class.

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Winchester, Massachusetts

As Donald entered the Duffield atrium on that overcast Thursday afternoon, the hall was abuzz with the hushed murmur of engineers. But as he neared our alcove, our exclamations of delight grew with tremendous crescendo, until the sounds of studying were completely inaudible under the racket we were generating. With the upperclassmen clamoring over each other to cast their inquiries upon the freshman that had entered into our midst, I knew that I must brave this interrogatory battlefield and fulfill my duties as a BoL interviewer. Thus, with laptop in hand and pencil behind ear, I leaped across the alcove table and put forth such a bombastic catechization that time itself seemed to stand still. What follows is the conversation that occurred during this moment.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

My memory doesn't go back that far anymore. Um... It's really inconvenient to get to places. It's kinda far from everywhere. That's about it. That's all I remember. Oh yeah, I also thought about League. Like League of Legends. As for CBS, I thought you guys were really dedicated. You guys are so committed to meeting on Fridays. I'm always busy, but you guys are always here. It seems like a "no-judgement" place, and seemed to be very welcoming.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

It's a lot of work... And I don't sleep. I sleep about the same as I did in high school. Well I don't actually work, I just play League. That's one thing that surprised me. How much time I have to play League.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Ipod, headphones, guitar. Probably won't be able to charge the ipod after a while, but I'd be cool with that.

What superpower would you want and why?

Time travel, 'cause it's OP (overpowered). I would relive that happiest moments of my life. Except, I'm not sure what the implications of that are... They might be bad, but I think they're worth it. I hope...

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

I rest well, don't have to think about work. I would spend time with friends. Do things that I want to do – fulfilling my agenda. That would consist of working out, listening to music, playing guitar. So essentially what I would be doing on the desert island. Pretty simple stuff.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

Pokemon cards. I still like pokemon. 6 generations are just too much for me. I got a year into 5, but then I became kinda tired of it. I still play the old games though. My favorite pokemon is Dunsparce. Why? I don't know... It's the most useless pokemon.

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

It would be a place that I would like to be. So... it would be a house. Like a residential house. It would be identical to the house I grew up in. Not the insides or the configuration, but just the building itself.

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I want to have made friends, and set up a network of people. Have learned a lot of technical skills related to engineering so I can get a job. Have good memories of college.

As the last syllable of Donald's response echoed throughout the now-silent atrium, I turned triumphantly to face my fellow upperclassmen. However, I was greeted not with applause and praise, but with slack-jawed stares. Raising an

Interviewer:
Stephen Wang

Word Associations

Ithaca: cold
Senior Class: old
Tide: cleaning
Junior Class: junior
Hidden: power
Sophomore Class: west
Fresh: meat
Freshman Class: north
Strike: bowling

eyebrow, I spun back around and Donald had vanished. Where he stood mere seconds ago, lay only a picture, the beauty and complexity of which steals the breath of all who looks upon it. And floating above it, in ghostly white letters, was a caption. Some say Donald still roams the alcoves of Duffield. Others say he went on to become the world's greatest mechanical engineer. But no matter where he went after that fateful day, I will never forget the haunting echo of his last word to me: "bowling..."

Edward Chen

Edward cloned himself and drew a Pokeball "For Kicks".



Major: Economics
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Interviewer:
Nicholas Kung

Word Associations

Ithaca: Cornell
Senior Class: weed
Tide: detergent
Junior Class: nerds
Hidden: Power TM10
Sophomore Class: cool
Fresh: vegetables
Freshman Class: young
Strike: aguero

Edward used his last meal swipe for the week to attend this interview. He went hungry the next day, but it was worth it. Anything is worth a CBS BoL Interview.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

I thought Cornell was really nice. Not put off by the weather. CBS was really cool since it was Student Run. I liked the environment.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

It feels more like high school than I thought. It's not as competitive as I expected this school to be.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

A Mattress, Sheets and Pillow. Wish I could include Sunglasses!

What superpower would you want and why?

Telekinesis: Control stuff with my mind.

How would you describe a perfect day for you (at Cornell)?

Waking up at 10:30, Going online watching soccer for 30 minutes. Try doing math homework for 20 minutes. Eating Lunch. Sleeping for 2

hours. Waking up and watching more soccer for 30 minutes. After 10 pm challenge friends to Fifa for the rest of the night.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

Stuffed Animals. I used to have a stuffed animal monkey. My relatives gave me a lot of trouble for it.

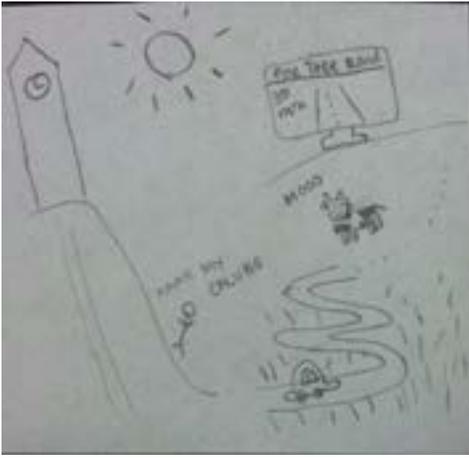
If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

Cathedrals or a Mosque. I like the design of Mosques. I like religious buildings except for synagogues

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

Be Smarter.

Disappointed that there were no questions about "Which animal could you be and why?" Edward left abruptly wondering whether he should have used his last meal swipe for a Bethe lunch. What an interesting guy. I support his love of soccer and pokemon.



I remember the seemingly endless patches of greenery with grazing cows on both sides of Pine Tree Road when I first drove up to Cornell. The GPS in the car just said “keep in Pine Tree Road for 30 minutes” and I remember thinking “where am I?” Also, I can’t forget about workout on my calves when I walk up the Slope.

Felicia Sadikin

Major: Biological Engineering
Hometown: Portland, Oregon

Felicia and I gathered on a cold night in November at Bethe dining hall for intriguing questions, good conversation, and wings. Unfortunately, Bethe ran out of wings so we had to compensate with fried food galore and celery, but we still had good conversation and intriguing questions.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell was my far reach school and I thought it was something unattainable, but God has provided and brought me here. I am really grateful that I have met some many welcoming and amazing people here at Cornell and in CBS. People in CBS really opened their arms to me to make me feel comfortable to be part of their family and part of the larger Christian community. Moreover, it was really HOT on the first day of classes.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

I was surprised by how many talented and amazing people are at Cornell and how many people mispronounce Oregon or don't know where/what it is.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

A motorboat (I will find a way to make biofuel), food, and my phone.

What superpower would you want and why?

Hmmmm. Flying...no...teleporting

because I'm lazy and don't want to work. [perfect for Cornell]

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

My perfect day would be Christmas Day. It would start out with Christmas service back in Portland with my family. Then we would have a barbeque outside, where it is sunny and 80 degrees, with steak and fancy plates. Afterwards, my family would take a walk through the forest to work off all the calories we just ate and finish the day with a movie. Finally, my sisters and I would all get into the same bed to talk/bond and “sleep.”

Which childhood toy most defines you?

I used to own a stuffed animal (can't remember what kind of animal) that had silk ears and feet, but the silk got lint and was destroyed because I kept rubbing the ears and the feet. The stuffing inside the animal was also removed because there was a bell inside the animal that would ring whenever I touched it and the ringing would annoy my parents. Essentially it was a flimsy and worn-out, but much beloved stuffed animal.

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

A Villa (for chickens) [aka a chicken coop!]

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I want to know myself better and know

Interviewer:
Jess Wong

Word Associations

Ithaca: cows
Senior Class: John
Tide: What!?!? (laundry detergent)
Junior Class: Eddygate karaoke
Hidden: door
Sophomore Class: soooooooooo many!
Fresh: man
Freshman Class: me
Strike: baseball

what I want to do with my life. Also, I hope to be a stronger/ bolder Christian and be more confident with sharing and living out the Gospel.

It was such a delight to talk to Felicia!! I learned a lot about her and got to see her quirky personality. For those who haven't gotten a chance to meet/talk to her, you should definitely do so and ask her about celery (pronounced CHel(e)rē). Hehe! It is amazing that God guided her to come all the way from Portland to Ithaca and that we have the opportunity to watch her grow physically and spiritually in the next four years at Cornell.

Glenn Alvarez

Major: Human Biology, Health, and Society
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY



Interviewer:
Harry He

Word Associations

Ithaca: trees
Senior Class: N/A
Tide: rope
Junior Class: N/A
Hidden: locked
Sophomore Class: N/A
Fresh: new
Freshman Class: N/A
Strike: protest

It was a chilly Thursday noontide outside Statler Hall when I met Glenn. He had never been inside the building before, so I was looking forward to being there for his first meal at Statler. I first led him to Terrace, allowing him to feast his eyes upon the vibrant vegetables at the salad station, the delectable delights of the Panini bar, and the gourmet grill to top it all off. We then moved onto Mac's to which I proclaimed the loveliness of the savory sandwiches and palatable pasta. Then, to my great despair, Glenn informed me that he already ate at Trillium! It was not meant to be. Thus, I, all on my lonesome, bought a chicken salad wrap and sat down to talk with Glenn. The ensuing conversation cheered me right up as I got to know Glenn a little better.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

My first impression of Cornell was good, but I was not expecting the difficulty of the academic material. It was rather tough adjusting to that. I definitely like the campus though. My first memory of CBS was participating in class ACE with the sophomores. We played goldfish and it was a lot of fun.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

When I took my first prelim, I was startled by how difficult it was compared to high school.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I would take my phone to call for help, a knife for general survival usage, and a change of clothes.

What superpower would you want and why?

I would want the power of teleportation where I can go anywhere I want in an instant. This is my superpower of choice because I tend to wake up late for things I need to get to, and it would help me be punctual.

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

It would involve having the day off without school or work. I get to sleep in late and watch Spongebob Squarepants on TV. I'd then play some video games with friends and eat my mother's homecooked meals.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

That would have to be my Gameboy. It first introduced me to gaming and I [of course Harry would ask this] played Pokemon. My starter was a Charmander. I still enjoy gaming to this day and my Gameboy was what got me started.

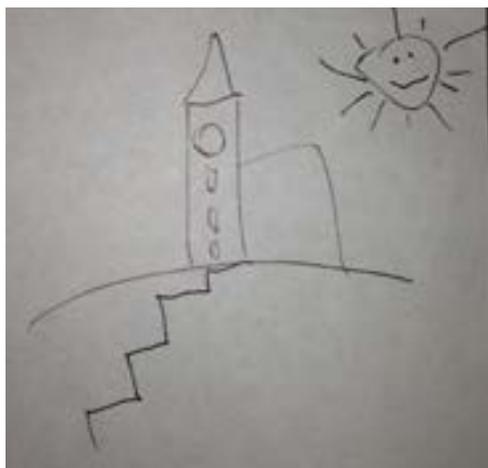
If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

Definitely an underwater building. You'd have to swim down to the ocean floor to enter it. It would be a residential building with many apartments and living areas. There would of course be a giant viewing room to see the sea creatures swimming around outside.

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I hope to get into medical school and do some of the activities suggested in the list of things to do while at Cornell.

If I had one word to describe Glenn, it would be practical. His selections for being stranded on a desert island is great for getting off of that island as soon as possible while being relatively hygienic and his superpower of choice, which can be abused for villainy, (eg. Katnappe with the Golden Tiger Claws) is actually being used for making bigger day to day issues much more simple and less of a hassle. I am very impressed by Glenn and am excited to see where God will take him in the four years he is at Cornell!



There's obviously the iconic clock tower. Then it's sunny sometimes, and there are stairs everywhere. And everything is on a hill.

Jerry Xu

Major: Chemistry
Hometown: Carmel, Indiana

On a cold Ithaca night, I sat down with Jerry Xu, a freshman at Cornell from Carmel, Indiana majoring in Chemistry. Convening together in the freshman confines of Appel, we discussed some of his experiences at Cornell, and other random, compelling questions:

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

It was warm and sunny, although that didn't last long. The campus was big, with many slopes and steps. I thought CBS was pretty chill, people know each other well. Lots of Chinese people, though surprisingly not all Chinese. Fun group to hang out with.

What is one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

The squirrels! They live everywhere. Also, the size of the school, in terms of number of students.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

I'd bring a nail clipper, toothbrush, and toothpaste for the toothbrush [the writer notes that Jerry perhaps wouldn't last long].

What superpower would you want and why?

I'd be elastic, so that I don't have to reach up for stuff.

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

I'd wake up at 12. I'd be staying in a hotel, for some reason. I'd play League (of Legends) until I get sleepy. Call it a day well spent. I'd eat cereal (Kashi Go Lean with soy milk and Mini-Wheats) for my meals. I'd win a lot of games and level up.

What childhood toy most defines you?

A wind-up toy car, because it goes on its own, and it's fast, like me as a child, though that speed didn't really carry over. I had one as a child but lost it in a sandbox. Sad.

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

It'd have to be a dorm room. Freshman would be like: 'You live in Jerry Hall? That sucks!'

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I hope to get all my requirements, and become enlightened. I hope to get to know more people.

Interviewer:
James Zou

Word Association:

Ithaca: Gorges
Senior Class: Chill
Tide: Detergent
Junior Class: Eddygate
Hidden: Valley
Sophomore Class: Energetic
Fresh: Apples
Freshman Class: The Best
Strike: First

And with that, we parted ways, both of us having other things to do for the night. The future may be hazy for Jerry, as it is for many of us, freshman or not, but with his sense of humor and outlook, the future seems bright nonetheless. Who knows what awaits him at Cornell?

Myung Kim

Poop with snow on it. The first day I was at Cornell, I was intimidated and sick, so I felt like crap. This place is cold, too.



Major: Fine Art
Hometown: Little Ferry, NJ

Interviewer:
Jevon Yu

Word Associations

Ithaca: boring
Senior Class: nice
Tide: *ppssshhhh*
Junior Class: awesome
Hidden: introspective
Sophomore Class: community
Fresh: clean
Freshman Class: small
Strike: attack

It is a dark stormy evening. I trek slowly in the rain towards the place that is known as North Star. I sit myself in one of the vacant couches downstairs. Then he comes: the one and only Myung Kim. We go upstairs, grab a warm and hearty meal, and the interview begins.

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell was intimidating, just seeing and meeting a lot of really smart people. But yeah, I don't think that's the case anymore. I did feel that Cornell was a little bit lonely, being situated in the middle of nowhere. However, I was attracted to that idea that this is a little bit romantic and atmospheric. Thus, I wanted to be a recluse here, but of course, that didn't really happen. CBS was very reminiscent of the organization I was part of during high school, Asian Young Life. Asian Young Life was a home, a place where I belonged to and felt comfortable with and I really liked that quality. CBS is a lot similar and that's what attracted me to it.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

That it's not too hard (yet).

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Bible [first answer that popped into his head]
Toilet paper (I need to be comfortable. I can't use leaves.)
Suntan lotion (I don't want to get sunburned.)

What superpower would you want and why?

This is about the third time you CBSers have asked me this question. The power of conjuration. I want to store things in another dimension I own and be able to summon them whenever I want. [*demonstrates with really cool arm motion and sound effects*]

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

A day where I get only 4 hours of sleep, but do not feel tired at all.
[Jevon: What? What would you do with those 20 hours you're awake?
Hmm, that's a good question. Be with people. [deep...]

Which childhood toy most defines you?

A red boat and a black Power Ranger.
[Jevon: Wait that's two toys!]
Those were the two toys I recall, but I don't think they define me at all.
[Jevon: Make something up, haha.]

I really like the black ranger since his character was very social and outgoing, but relative to the rest of the cast, he's in the background, and in that way, I don't like to pronounce myself very much, but I still like to associate myself with others. (I say this in a very sarcastic voice, this is sarcasm!)

I really like the red plastic boat because it was able to float in the tub, and that represents how I floated through life peacefully and gently. Red represents power, but that completely contradicts what I was saying, so I guess it has no significance. (This is all sarcasm)

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

Red brick building, like the ones in New York City. Mainly because my art mentor influenced me in that sense, I don't like skyscrapers all the much since she thought that they were man's futile attempt to reach God
[Jevon: Sounds familiar, haha. Tower of Babel?] Haha yeah.

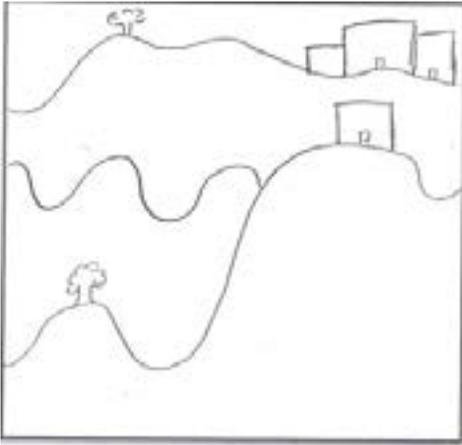
[Jevon: Was she a Christian?]

Yup, but in all seriousness, aesthetically, I really like skyscrapers. Actually, I want to change that answer to Fortlee (city in New Jersey) apartments, just from personal experience and hanging out with friends on the way to hang out and chill at an internet café, they're really plain, but I really like looking in the windows. I really like doing that and not seeing anything in it. I'm not being creepy or anything, haha. But it makes me think about my future in that way. And they're quite cheap.

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I would like to graduate, haha. Other than that, maybe. I'm not really into making tons of money, so I'm not really driven to accomplish many worldly and secular goals. I'm not here to build up a great resume. Rather, I would like to enjoy my time here. That would be very sweet. And of course, get closer to God.

Myung Kim. Deep. Profound. Mindblowing. These are the words that describe the man that is Myung Kim. I thoroughly enjoyed conversing with and getting to know this brother. He loves God deeply and glorifies him with many talents he has been blessed with.



So many hills everywhere!

Phoebe Lo

Major: Human Biology, Health, and Society
Hometown: Holmdel, NJ

An hour after the sun had set at the early hour of 5PM, Phoebe and I met in Appel. We went up the stairs reminiscent from freshman year and entered the dining that had changed its set-up since last year. Fortunately, the place was not crowded and we found a place to sit pretty quickly. After getting some hot food, I got to know Phoebe more. Here's some of what transpired:

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

I don't really remember my first impression of Cornell because I visited the summer before my senior year, but on my second visit, I thought Cornell had too many hills (especially the one leading up to HUMEC). I also don't quite remember my first impression of CBS... My friends and I were kind of late, so it was really dark when we walked in and we sat mostly by ourselves. Afterwards, I thought the fellowship was really friendly!

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

I was worried about Cornell's large campus, but I was (pleasantly) surprised to be able to walk the whole distance. I'm also surprised how I recognize a lot of people despite the large size of the campus.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I would bring a lighter, water bottle, and a computer (for entertainment).

What superpower would you want and why?

I would want the ability to teleport so that it's easy to get everywhere (no more hills!!) and it's the same as invisibility when I need it to be.

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

A perfect day would be one when I felt like I accomplished a lot in a small amount of time, get lots of sleep, and have lots of fun with people.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

Well, I only remember an old doll that I had... It was soft and I would hug it a lot. My family and I were heading over to Taiwan when I realized I had forgotten the doll, but since we were in Taiwan, I couldn't get it (I'm not sure how this defines me... Interviewer isn't sure either... =3)

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

I would want the tallest building in the world to be named after me (to make up for my height).

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

Um... to actually graduate...? Hopefully by the time I graduate, I have more of a plan in mind and be heading over to med school. I'd like to get used to hills by the time I graduate, though!

Interviewer:
Dorothy Zhang

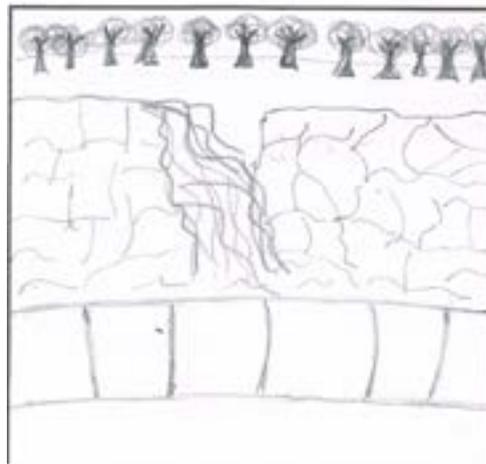
Word Associations

Ithaca: Cornell
Senior Class: Robin
Tide: Waves
Junior Class: Wendy
Hidden: find
Sophomore Class: funny
Fresh: freshmen
Freshman Class: new
Strike: baseball

I'm so glad to have been able to interview such a sweet and disciplined girl on a busy Thursday night. She's quite practical (as seen in her response to the deserted island question), but I was also impressed at how much sleep she gets! She's also been to Taiwan many times and likes to watch Asian dramas as a reward for good studying. I'm glad to have had dinner someone as great as Phoebe, and I can't wait to see how much she grows in the next few years as well as see her get used to the hills!

Stephanie Chan

When I drove up to my dorm, I went over that bridge by Baker Lab to get there. This is a picture of the gorges. Should I draw more trees?



Major: Electrical Engineering
Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Interviewer:
Christine Loui

Word Associations

Ithaca: Cold
Senior Class: Family
Tide: Ocean
Junior Class: Friendly
Hidden: Secret
Sophomore Class: Close-knit
Fresh: Fruit
Freshman Class: Small
Strike: Hit

On a windy cold November night, I traveled to RPCC to eat with Stephanie. Though there were many e-mail exchanges and cancelled appointments, we finally found a time to meet up. After searching near and far for a table at crowded RPCC, we sat down and got some food. We ate delicious sandwiches with our forks and finally got down to business.

What was your first impression of Cornell?

I thought the weather would be a lot colder. And it's really big. I got up really early to check out where all the classes are. I thought the food was pretty good.

Of CBS?

People are really friendly. People in CBS went out of their way to welcome me.

What is the one thing about Cornell that has surprised you the most?

How many people are out on a Thursday night. It's really loud outside and I can hear it because my room faces the courtyard.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Stephanie: Can I bring things that get me off the island?

[Christine: Well it doesn't specifically say you can't so I guess you can *laughs*

Stephanie: I would bring.. an airplane, a pilot.. That's two things... and I guess water.

What superpower would you want and why?

I would want the ability to stop time and move around time. If I'm tired, I will pause everything and take a nap and then wake up again or go back in time to just to see what different times were like.

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

Maybe spending time with my family and friends and [also] travelling. I'm not sure what I can see in a whole day, but I would like to go to Italy. I also want to go to Australia.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

Stuffed animals. I would make up games [with them]. I guess that's why I like stories because I [used to] make up stories with my stuffed animals.

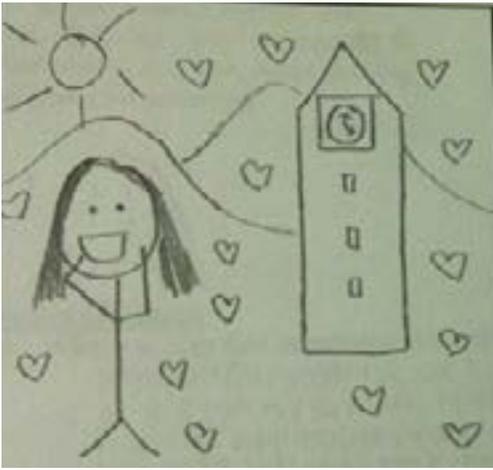
If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

Maybe like a museum. More like a science museum, but art would be cool too.

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

I guess to know what kind of career path I want to follow and knowing what I want to do. Maybe just be able to trust God more and to form relationships with people that will last beyond college.

Then we got to word associations. We had to move out of the noisy dining hall to have our conversation at the tables on the second floor, which is where we heard the wonderful music of someone practicing the piano.



I climbed all 161 steps to the top of the clocktower and fell in love!

Xinran Pan

Major: Engineering (Undecided)
Hometown: Princeton, NJ

I barely got to Ivy Room when a wild Xinran appeared! I had already become acquainted with her at large group and just random encounters over lunch or around campus. She is always smiling and can always find something to find joy in and I looked forward to another enjoyable time!

What was your first impression of Cornell? Of CBS?

I appreciated how beautiful the campus is, in many aspects. It has so much to offer in terms of opportunities and has so much natural beauty. I remember climbing up all the steps of the clock tower, looking at the hills and lakes and fell in love! My first impression of CBS was that it is special and different. It is a community of people that love one another and God and I wanted to be a part of this close-knit group.

What is one thing about Cornell that surprised you the most?

Daily life in college is always different, which was very different compared to the routines of high school. Each day is jam packed with new adventures and trails, and I enjoy all the new experiences.

Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Um, a boat? [No, make that number 3.] An airplane, then a jet pack! And the boat, just in case the other two don't work.

What superpower would you want and why?

Well, I would want invisibility because it's handy and to turn into whatever animal I want because I love dogs... so can I turn into an invisible animal?

How would you describe a perfect day for you?

To begin with, no classes! And I would like to go to Disney World with my friends.

Which childhood toy most defines you?

My dad gave me this Hello Kitty bunny when I was two or three that I still have. I'm not too sure how it defines me but I'm pretty similar to my dad.

If you could have a building named after you, what type of building would it be?

I would change McGraw Clock Tower to Xinran Tower so my legacy shall go on haha!

What do you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?

Foremost would be to grow in my relationship with God, especially because I think I would really want to seek Him during hard times. I also want to build lasting relationships with people in fellowships on campus.

Interviewer:
Hayden Chung

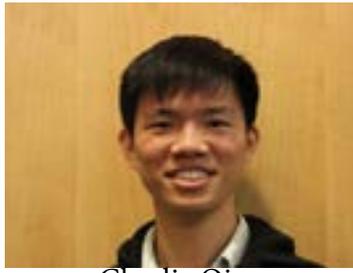
Word Associations

Ithaca: mall
Senior Class: Rachel
Tide: laundry
Junior Class: Hayden [wait, I thought you were a junior!]
Hidden: treasure
Sophomore Class: majority
Fresh: men
Freshman Class: bonding
Strike: ILR school [like labor strikes!]

After sharing many a laugh during this interview, I am excited to continue to get to know Xinran as a sister and friend. She is delightfully adorable and eager to learn more about God and what He has in store. Ask her about her PE class; she does some pretty cool stuff!



Charlie Phil



Charlie Qian



Donald Feng



Edward Chen



Felicia Sadikin



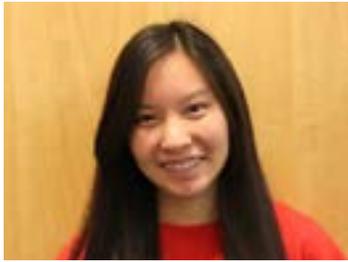
Glenn Alvarez



Jerry Xu



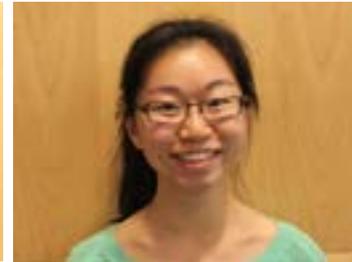
Myung Kim



Phoebe Lo



Stephanie Chan



Xinran Pan



Studies in Romans

Jeffrey Yu and Michael Cao's North Campus Bible Study

This semester, the Saturday night men's bible study on North had a chance to dive deeper into the book of Romans. The density of each chapter was quickly realized and every verse had to be carefully read and understood in order to follow what Paul was writing to the Romans. We discussed everything from the law to the significance of baptism and the importance of belief. Most of all we were able to remind ourselves of our condition and learn more about the theological basis of our faith. One verse that is basic to what we learned in Romans this semester is Romans 3:23, which says "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This important verse sums up our human condition and how broken we are. It is why we should not be ones to judge others. It is the knowledge that comes from the law. Many of us love the law because of its holiness and goodness. However, we are always subject to condemnation by the law due to our sinfulness. Our original relationship to sin shows how much we need Jesus. While we were slaves to sin before, we have died to it due to our belief. Believing that Jesus died and rose again leads us to die to sin like Jesus did. It also enables us to live our lives to God. We are no longer slaves to sin but rather slaves to righteousness. These truths from Romans are what we learned in bible study this semester and are what we aim to live out in our daily lives.

Raymond Wu '15

Wendy Wei and Tabitha Kim's North Campus Bible Study

As the only freshman in this small group, I feel so blessed to have such an amazing group of older sisters with whom I can meet up every week to learn about God through Paul's words, as well as support each other through fellowship and prayer. We have been trying to tackle the entire book of Romans, reading a chapter every one or two weeks. Because of how dense Romans is, we can sometimes spend fifteen minutes on just three verses, attempting to fully understand everything Paul is saying and have referred to the dictionary countless times. In Romans, we are reminded of our unrighteousness, God's wrath, and the power of sin, but the overarching theme of righteousness through faith and by His grace alone displays God's love and power. One idea that has really stuck with me while going through Romans is how "death no longer has dominion over him" (Romans 6:7) and "sin will have no dominion over you" (Romans 6:14). We also share our highs, lows, and prayer requests for the week with each other, and then spend the last part of our small group time in prayer. I feel comfortable enough to share my struggles and thoughts, and I know that we all genuinely care for each other. To get to know each other better more personally, we also have weekly meet-ups in random groups of two. I really enjoy my small group time, and am extremely thankful for all these people that God has placed in my life.

Felicia Sadikin '17

Studies in Romans

Harry H., Matthew Y., and Hayden C.'s Collegetown Bible Study

The Collegetown Co-ed Bible Study meets on Sunday nights and is led by the knightly Matthew Yang, the magnificent Hayden Chung, and the okay Harry He. We always begin with an adorable question that stimulates our drowsy, lethargic minds into vivacious action. Past questions have included superpower of choice, career choice independent of monetary concerns, and favorite Pokemon. After we spend some amount of fun-filled time on this part, we would dive into the book of Romans. It is a fascinating, scintillating, and meaty book that thoroughly expresses the Gospel, central to the Christian faith. A lot of the conversations revolve around Paul's diction and attempting to understand why he chose to use the words that he did in order to understand the passage. It was a humbling and necessary reminder every week to see our utterly terrible sinful nature and how much it is at work in our lives. Yet Romans ultimately also reminded us of the wonderful grace that was provided to us in the form of Jesus Christ. As we go through the passages, we are constantly challenged and encouraged as we understand our identities in Christ more and more. The leaders generally make sure to apply the passage to our daily lives.

There is a lot of discussion from everyone in the study and people raise insightful questions that give us opportunities to delve deeper into the passage and see what Paul truly is trying to say. Though they may at times be difficult to answer, the questions are always helpful in our true understanding of the passage. We also had helpful guest leaders from other Bible studies that also contribute their wisdom and understanding of the Word. Romans definitely/certainly makes a lot more sense after attending this Bible study! Special shoutout to Esther for elucidating the passages and preparing the leaders to lead Bible Study!

Hayden Chung '16, Harry He '14, and Matthew Yang '16

Heeyoung Yoo and Jessica Chu's West Campus Bible Study

This semester, in our West Campus sisters' bible study led by Heeyoung and Jess, we studied the book of Romans. Each week, we read a half or whole chapter and looked at the logical way in which Paul presents the main points of his letter. Paul begins by addressing the sins committed by the non-believers and how God condemns these sins. However, like the Jews whom the letter addresses, we often do not act very differently from those who have not learned of Christ. Instead of behaving like "children of God," we disobey His will and choose to act like "orphans." While studying this chapter, we took a self-assessment which gave us insight into the numerous attitudes and behaviors that display our shortcomings when it comes to fully obeying and trusting God. It was definitely humbling to realize the many areas in which we fail to act like the children of God that we are called to be. Despite our failures, God has made us righteous through the death of his Son, and it is because of this that we can put our faith in Him and overcome any struggle we face because of the assurance of hope in Him.

Before or after looking into God's word, we also had a time of sharing our praises and prayer requests from the past week. This was a meaningful time during which we not only prayed for the struggles that our sisters were facing, but also learned about His wonderful work in our lives in answering our spoken and unspoken requests. After fellowshiping with our sisters over dinner, we walked (or took the bus) back up the slope, nourished by the physical food from the West Campus dining halls and the spiritual food from His word.

Stephanie Chan '17

Studies in Romans

Jevon Yu and David Cui's West Campus Bible Study

Jevon and David led the Men's West Campus Bible Study on the Book of Romans this past semester. Written by the Apostle Paul, this book is a letter written to Christians living in Rome.

Paul teaches that all people are sinful, Gentiles and Jews alike. We cannot save ourselves alone without Jesus Christ, the Savior of all people. Salvation is the gift of God given through the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Nothing in all of creation is more powerful than God's love and as Christians, we should offer our lives as living sacrifices.

Although many of the things in Romans are things that we have often "heard before" or "know", studying Romans was always a good reminder of who we are as children of God and what God has done for us through the Gospel. Going through Romans chapters 1-3, we learned in-depth about God's wrath and judgment on those who are unrighteous under the law and how no one (including us) is righteous. Chapters 4-6 focused more on what saving faith and being made alive in Christ looked like and how through that, we are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness. This culminated in chapters 7-8, in which we saw how we are able to obey the law by the power of the Holy Spirit and the future glory and assurance that we have in Christ.

We all enjoyed eating together before the study, getting wings and bibimbap at Bethe, and pad thai and fajitas at Keeton. Like the selection of vegetables and protein going into our food, there were many spiritual yummys in Romans that nourished and breathed life into us. Although some parts of Romans were initially indigestible, through our careful study of them, they eventually turned out to be delicious and nutritious to the soul.

Nicholas Kung '16 and Zhijiang Li '16

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Philippians 3:7-8

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