

# Bread of Life: Research Edition

Cornell Chinese Bible Study  
Fall 2005



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Dear CBS,

What is "Bread of Life"?

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Jesus is the Bread of Life! This publication's purpose is to show a glimpse of how Jesus has been working in CBS during the past semester. This issue is a little short and does not contain a few of our favorite sections, like "Shoutouts," and we apologize. However, we hope that while reading, you'll be blessed and be reminded of God's goodness, despite the simple format and design.

This issue would not have been possible without God's prodding through persistent individuals, a very small but encouraging, energetic, and hardworking staff, and of course the contributors. Thanks for writing, sharing, and reading, everyone =)

If you have a heart for keeping BoL around because you enjoy this medium of sharing, please consider getting involved in the organization and publication next semester and in the future =)

In Christ's love,  
Editor-in-Chief & BoL Staff

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Dear Chinese Bible Study,

I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts as I meditate upon 2 Corinthians 3, and it's my prayer tonight that this will be an encouragement to you.

As I served this semester, I found myself trying to gauge the progress of our fellowship. Trusting and believing that we as Christians have already been "rooted" in Christ's love, I looked for signs of us growing in our understanding of this Love, and for signs that we are being filled to the fullness of God. But as I look—even now—I realize that it is rather difficult to get a sense of how well this family is doing.

CBS has grown smaller this year, but this in itself signifies neither success nor failure. Low attendance at prayer meetings is a serious concern for us, but we have also witnessed some very encouraging turnouts to community service events like Into the Streets and our handing out Gospel tracts on the engineering quad. And what of the more central issues: Are we actually growing in love? Is our first priority really seeking God's kingdom and righteousness? Or do we care more about doing well in school, finding a well-paying job, just having fun, or getting into a good medical school?

As I reflect upon these, my initial response is that we're in trouble; that we're off-track and losing sight of the narrow road. And as I evaluate my own faithfulness and obedience, I often find myself thinking that I am similarly off-course, not even close to following Christ's call to take up my cross and follow Him. Do you ever feel that way?

I share these thoughts not to cast judgment, but to direct our attention to a key lesson from 2 Corinthians 3. When Moses brought the Law, it was a ministry that condemned man, and showed us that we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. We've just been reflecting upon how we host idols in our lives before God, placing all sorts of selfish priorities on the throne of our lives.

This passage teaches us that even this ministry that condemns us is glorious (the fact that we feel convicted of our mixed up priorities shares a similar glory because the recognition of one's depravity comes from God's Spirit), but that this glory is nothing compared to the surpassing glory of the ministry that brings righteousness. And this is the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Praise be to God! Do we realize that solely as a result of God's grace and mercy and His Spirit who indwells us, we are reflecting Christ's glory more and more? That in simply being a people who share a hope in salvation through Christ, we are becoming more like Him? Well, we are! Jesus Christ has removed the veils that once covered us, clothed us in robes of righteousness, and we have begun to reflect His glory.

So as we hold on to this great hope, we can (and should) be very bold. Certainly, let's take heed of the concerns we have for this fellowship and make an effort to attend prayer meetings to seek God together. By all means, let's pay close attention to the Holy Spirit as He continues to teach, compel, and convict each of us personally. Let's respond by fixing our priorities and learning to take up our cross daily. But as we do so—God help us, as we do these things throughout our life—may we never place our hope in our own measly efforts. Rather, may our hope rest securely and unflinchingly on the glory that comes through Christ alone. Then, with our hope firmly placed in Christ, we will boldly reflect His glorious love, goodness, and transforming power in this world.

Dear brothers and sisters, when you find yourself all mixed up and feeling far from God, don't lose heart, look to the Cross, and see the promise that God will restore you and continue His transforming work in you. It's not about you, it's not about me. It's about what Christ has done and is doing because He loves us despite our wretchedness. To Him be glory in your life, in mine, and throughout eternity!

Your brother in Christ,  
Oli

### Evangelism Ministry

As a new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

My experiences with work this summer and this verse have led me to the conviction that part of this year's goal for the evangelism ministry should be how to make evangelism more than a series of orchestrated events in our lives; evangelism should be an inherent part of each aspect of our lives—studying, interacting with people, or working. The world must know that we are Christians by our love for others. A message I heard on my last visit at Remnant Church focused on Matthew 19: 29-34, the story of Jesus restoring a blind man's sight. In particular, the pastor focused on the radical nature of the phrase: "What do you want me to do for you?" Of course, it was obvious what the man wanted, the pastor explicated, everyone could tell he was blind. He was desperately crying to Jesus asking him to have mercy on him. Yet, Jesus asked him what he, Jesus Christ, could do for him. I believe that this question provides us with an example of the servant lifestyle Christ asks us to lead if we are to truly lead an evangelistic lifestyle.

By Alice Hsu

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In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus calls us to "go and make disciples of all nations." But how are we to make disciples if people don't have the opportunity to hear about who Jesus really is?

I believe that God used these passages over the past year and a half to open my eyes to the importance of living a life for God loudly. I say 'loudly' because I used to think, "As long as I obediently go to church and try my best to love people—it's good enough. I'll leave the evangelizing to people who have the gift of evangelism and who are outgoing." And so I considered myself a good Christian because I served at church. But

I wasn't being obedient because I wasn't obeying God's command to share Jesus. And if I truly loved people, wouldn't I be bursting with the desire to share the Gospel with them?

I've been reading through "Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World" by Rebecca Pippert, and it explains that evangelism is not just an act of sharing the Gospel, but it's a lifestyle. If we live consistently and obediently to God, and with His help, strive to think, speak and act like Jesus, people will notice. They can see that there is something different about us and will want to know why we do not follow the rules of this world. Not that we should just act 'good' and hope others will ask us about Christ, but we must be consistent so that when the opportunity arises to witness, their response won't be: "I don't want any part of Jesus because his followers are all hypocrites."

Bottom line: evangelism isn't just for the people with the gift of evangelism and it isn't just for outgoing people. God calls us all to live as light in a very dark world, so that the message of God's love may be shared with as many as possible.

By Jennifer Lie

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If this is aligned with God's purpose for CBS, we pray that we would ALL understand and take to heart that God can use us wherever, whenever, and with whomever He chooses. EV ministry is not here to be the part of CBS that evangelizes. EV will hopefully make people aware of what we've shared above, and provide opportunities for people to serve with love their community, peers, and anyone else God may place in their paths.

We've been so encouraged this semester, hearing testimonies of our brothers and sisters and realizing that God is working in them and through them, and not by any effort of ours! We are also very thankful for the opportunities He gave our fellowship to serve each other, the campus, and the community, as well as how much fun it's been! We look forward to an exciting Spring semester and trust that He has great plans ahead =)

### InReach Ministry

A simple blurb cannot do justice to the depth and complexity of my experience this semester. I confess that, serving with the InReach ministry, I'm oftentimes uncertain of God's purpose for the ministry and sometimes discouraged when things don't turn out as I envisioned. However, at the same time I cannot deny that God has been faithful to this fellowship and has been growing and molding this body of believers to serve His purpose. Indeed the whole idea of 'inreach' and 'loving your neighbor' cannot be fulfilled by mere activity and event planning; it is wholly a work of God.

I am thoroughly convinced that no amount of ACEs or care packages can adequately substitute that knowing glance from a fellow brother or sister that says, "How can I serve you? I'll do anything and everything I can in my ability to meet your needs." While this notion of servant's love may seem idealistic, it is only impossible when we love with our own strength. Only through God's love—the same love that sent His son to die for us—can we truly understand what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself," and to "consider others better than yourselves." In my tenure with CBS and serving in InReach, there have been many times when I've experienced this kind of love and have been able to love back in the same way. I have also been encouraged when I see others around me sharing and experiencing this type of love. It is through this love that all men will know we are His disciples.

Because I am graduating and have been called elsewhere, I am unable to continue serving with the InReach ministry. Although I will not be here next semester, I know that God will continue to work in CBS, and that it will continue growing in the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for us in heaven. I look forward to hearing news and testimony of God's faithfulness and His love growing in the fellowship.

By Daniel Tsui

### Prayer Ministry

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:7-8

So I was looking at the 'ministry' page of the CBS website a few weeks ago and read the section under 'Prayer': "We want to experience His healing presence and awesome power in the fellowship of united prayer!" Suddenly I got one of those weird pangs you get when you think about something you did a long time ago and you're embarrassed to even think about it 'cause you're like, "Man, I can't believe that was me." At the same time though, I'm grateful for where God's directed us since Oliver asked the servant team for one sentence, explaining what each ministry is for and where it's headed.

#### *'A Paradigm Overhaul*

God's impressed two main things on my heart about the prayer ministry and prayer meetings in general:

1. *It's all for His glory.* In the beginning of the year, I really struggled with having the right heart in leading prayer meetings. (By 'leading' I mean, minimally facilitating and really pleading to God for help.) I knew I shouldn't focus on how many people came, so I thought I was right in praying that whoever came out for prayer meetings would walk out of it having experienced God (hence the "experience His healing presence and awesome power" statement). In the first few weeks, I found myself scrutinizing everything I did during prayer meetings. Did I talk too much? Did I close too early? Did I pray enough about it beforehand? But my focus was off; I was still looking at results and what I could analyze from my end of things. God reminded me through sisters and through prayer that my one prayer for prayer meetings should be that God is glorified and pleased—and what freedom came with that!

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2. Prayer "meetings" are an extension of our personal walks with God. Jesus says "if you remain in me and my words remain in you..." It's only when we see our whole lives in the perspective of living for His glory that we're really able to pray. God's been working on this in my own life and teaching me to acknowledge Him in *all* my ways. Being in the presence of God doesn't start when we say "Dear Jesus" at a prayer meeting or at personal devotions. Harboring a nasty attitude, losing my temper with my mom over the phone, going overboard with making fun of someone, or even wasting time when I totally know I should be doing else, makes it *that* much harder for me to hear from God. If you think about it, it doesn't make sense that I can in one moment bash someone verbally "all in good fun" and then right away say "Ok guys. Let's pray. Now we're entering the presence of God-- Lord of lords, King of Kings, too holy for anyone to look at, and whose very existence demons shudder at." It's not that He's not gracious or good (He is! And so much more than that!), it's that I've built up a resistance to hearing His voice by not obeying. I can't just turn on and off the spiritual 'be-in-His-presence-now' button and get the good feeling of being super close to God. God calls me to live as His disciple and to give Him my life. This requires surrendering every single second to Him.

*Blessings =)*

All that stuff written above can easily sound impractical, not possible, or maybe just not that exciting... but it's so cool because God's showing us how real it all is! As He's turned our prayers toward His glory, He's actually been allowing us to experience the healing and power, that I'd been too focused on previously. It's been one of the many blessings He's poured out on us as we've been learning to focus on Him! Here's just a few more of the blessings He's allowed us experience in prayer meetings...

- His *peace*: A lot of us have been praying about future plans and surrendering them up to Him.

- His *heart*: As God's been giving us His heart for His glory, He's also been giving us a bigger heart to pray for each other and everything that's going on around us.

- His *joy*: it's crazy, so many times we've come to a point where we kind of laugh in joy because He's, once again, blown our minds with just how awesome and good He is!

- *Fellowship*: Last week, I shared an answer to prayer and remarked that I was surprised God would answer so quickly. A sister said to me: "What do you mean?! I've been praying that for like, a month!" It's awesome because we've been able to see God answering our prayers for each other, and because we've known what's going on and have been praying with each other, we get to rejoice together too! What better place to be as a family than with our Dad? It's awesome entering His presence with brothers and sisters.

Thank God that He gives us immeasurably more than we ask or imagine! Amen? *He's* the one that turns our hearts to Him and toward His glory, and helps us live right with Him. We pray for His glory, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace that comes through the blood of Christ. Praise God! He is good. =)

*By Faith Chan*

### **Discipleship**

When asked whether or not I wanted to co-lead the discipleship ministry last year, I asked myself, "What exactly is discipleship?" More specifically, "What is the discipleship ministry?" The Bible does not use the word "discipleship" explicitly, but Jesus spends a lot of his time talking about discipleship; He warns us about costs of being a disciple of Christ (Luke 14:25-34), commands us to go forth and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), and other things that pertain to

discipleship, but how do we apply it to the discipleship ministry here in CBS?

After some prayer and meditation, I realized that for me, that discipleship ministry focuses on relationships that encourage growth in God. The relationships are rooted in prayer, sharing, teaching, and instruction based on God's word. Dave Chiu and I found a verse that really encompasses what I was thinking at the time:

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:1-8

Now that the semester is coming to an end, I realize that discipleship ministry has been a huge blessing. Although I was unsure about how things would work out during the beginning of the year, God has truly shown that He is control and that His plan is sovereign. Out of all the people I could have for a prayer partner, God blessed me with Xi. Every Wednesday, we meet for lunch (hmmmm, Sibbach!), share how God is working in our week, and pray for each other. Although Xi doesn't talk very much, he is a great listener (yea... I can talk a lot sometimes); and the big grin on his face reminds me of how things are not really so bad (It's such a happy smile!). It is also really awesome seeing what God has done in my life and

how He's allowed me use these experiences to encourage Xi as a fellow Cornell Engine (boy do we need a lot of prayer during those long nights of problem setting and essaying haha).

So take advantage of prayer partnerships and the relationships you develop here! Learning from our fellow brothers and sisters is an integral way for us to grow in our spiritual walk in Christ. After learning from them, we will be better equipped to help encourage those who need us in the future.

By Richard Yan

### Worship

...and find out what pleases the Lord.  
- Ephesians 5:10

I don't think any of us on the worship team could have realized just how challenging this theme verse would turn out to be. Since the beginning of the year, we've wanted to not take anything for granted in our understanding of worship – not the five-song set, not the "fast songs first, slow songs last" dynamic, or even the idea that we even need *music* to worship our Jesus. So, from the very start, our prayer had been this: "Lord, would You stretch us in our worship."

Who would've known that in the span of a single semester, He would have already answered that prayer so directly...

First it was the projector, then it was the sound system. (And if it was neither of those, then it was a broken guitar with five minutes before the end of practice.) In any case, God allowed some interesting circumstances to unfold for the worship team that really just made it *difficult* to praise God—at least in the ways that we were used to. But we hung on to the truth of God and banked our worship not on our own talent, but on His faithfulness. We looked at the story of Elijah and his showdown with the prophets of Baal from 1 Kings 18. We looked at how the sacrifice Elijah was about to make was doused not once or twice but *three* times with water. (Water and fire don't



usually mix!) There have been more than a few times that our team has felt rather...doused. Soaked. Soggy. Not the least bit ready to "burn with passion" for our God—let alone to lead CBS into the His presence. But it was at those times that God taught us how to pray: "More rain, Lord. If this is Your will, then send more rain to wipe *us* out so that *You* might receive all the glory." And praise God—not in spite of but *because* of the tough circumstances! The Holy Spirit has been the one to break down our imperfect understandings of what it means to praise Him, and He has started to teach us anew what it actually means to worship in spirit and in truth. And like the Elijah story, I know that our God has been faithful to send down His consuming fire to set our sacrifice of praise, however feeble and broken it may have been, *ablaze* for the glory of His Name and renown! He has met us in our worship and inhabited our praise.

I think I speak on behalf of the team when I say that we look forward to spring semester and how the Holy Spirit will continue to stir us to worship and show us even more of what it means to "find out what pleases the Lord."

*Send Your holy fire on this offering,  
Let our worship burn for the world to see  
It's not for us; It's all for You.*

*By Alex Lee*

### Getting to Know Christa Chi

Christa Chi is a first impression you won't forget. Outgoing and always ready to meet new people, she is exactly what defines a Hotelie. She's studying at Cornell's Hotel School in hopes of managing a hunting or yacht club, or owning a restaurant in the future. She resides currently in High Rise 5 which is commonly recognized as the best dorm on north campus. Next year she hopes to block for Sheldon or Cascadilla. During her years at Cornell, she hopes to spend time working overseas, maybe double majoring in the new culinary institute, and do something memorable that defines her four years. During the short time that she's been here, the most vivid memory she has is of going up to the clock tower every Friday after class to think and reflect.

So, many of you might be wondering, why CBS? Of course, you guessed it! She is here because of the people: all of you! She knew specific people in CBS before she came to Cornell, and felt that CBS was full of spiritual and mature people. But even though she enjoys going to CBS, Cornell in general is a different story. There's not much she misses when she's away from Ithaca, except maybe the people. But while at Cornell, she misses her friends and parents, but mostly the freedom she has driving around New Jersey.

What about this word association? PJ's are comfortable, Frosty is a snowman, angels are cute and chipmunks are cartoons, as well as Smurf, the blue guy.

*By Maggie Tang*

### Cynthia Kwong

Brought to us straight from the big NYC, Cynthia Kwong is a freshman, studying biology and enjoying all sorts of fun classes - honors chem, bio105...definitely no rocks for jocks here! But when she's not being a hardcore scientist in lab, she's jammin' on keys and beltin' out those praise songs. Starting from a young age, she has played the

piano, and her love for it has only grown. She's even excelled in such prestigious piano exams/competitions as the Royal Board of Conservatory. Fortunately, she can't whistle or roll her R's so there are still skills to develop! =)

I was surprised to find out that Cynthia, who says she's a big fan of food, has never been to Terrace or Trillium for lunch before! So chatting with her over one of those famous Statler wraps (which she has just fallen in love with), I found out that she has an older brother who goes to Johns Hopkins. Plus, she's got all these cousins that she has just spent the Thanksgiving holiday with - eating turkey and enjoying family time. Her family is definitely important to her, and so are her roots of Canto-pride. Having grown up going to Cantonese Chinese School, she wishes she had the time to take the language here at school too. But for now, she's having a blast in Chinese 101 and is hoping to go visit Asia during one of these coming winter breaks.

So far, Cynthia is really enjoying Cornell and has absolutely no regrets for coming here =) She's enjoying the small conveniences of living in Jameson (e.g. high-tech gadgets as keys), liking her meal plan/dining halls, and having fun with the other freshmen in CBS. My prayer for her is that she would continue to grow here at Cornell, and I hope the cold doesn't ruin her image of this place!

*By Monica Tung*

### Eric Chu

Fire.

That is what freshman Eric Chu would transform into in order to terminate crime and to save the world from destruction. If Eric could be any superhero in the entire world, he would be the Human Torch who is featured in the movie *Fantastic Four*. Why? "Because I like fire," Eric says.

Eric's predilection for hot temperatures may explain why he does not particularly enjoy the weather here at Cornell. He would change the frigid weather here in Ithaca if he could change

any one aspect of his experience here at Cornell. No wonder Eric's favorite place to study on campus is his room, because he does not have to worry about going out into the cold.

Hailing all the way from sunny San Francisco where the temperatures are not nearly as low as they are here at Cornell, Eric is currently majoring in physics in the College of Arts and Sciences, although he is considering majoring in computer science as an alternative. Eric is unsure of what he would do upon graduation with a physics degree, so he is considering other fields of study that are available for him to pursue at Cornell.

Although the weather is not as inviting as Eric might like, he still holds a genuine appreciation for the campus, which is his favorite characteristic about Cornell. "I like the campus. It's really great. Over Thanksgiving it snowed, and it was the first time I'd seen it snow here. I've seen snow before, but it was just really beautiful," Eric explained. Besides this feature of Cornell, Eric chose to come to Cornell, simply because "it's just a really good school with a great prestige and name." When he applied to colleges, he also wanted to be as far away from home as possible, so Cornell seemed like a suitable pick.

Since he has come to Cornell, Eric's impression of the difficulty of the university's academics has changed. "I thought it was pretty cool when I first visited. My classes were easier when they first started, but now they're not. When people said it was hard, I thought they were all joking and over-hyped, but now I see what they were talking about." An exception applies to hotelies, however, who Eric believes have the most laidback lifestyle at Cornell. "They go out and party every single night. They have no work, I guess," he said.

Eric's fondest memory of his first semester was when he moved into Clara Dickson Hall where he currently lives on North Campus, because move-in day was a time when he met several new people, and he was excited about the prospect of living in a dorm for the first time.

Although he is enjoying his experiences at Cornell thus far, he still misses being around family and friends back on the West Coast. "It's not the same not being able to see them and hang out with them," he explained.

Eric's favorite class that he took first semester was ASIAN 302: The Art of War. "It's a class that studies military tactics from ancient China," Eric said. "The class isn't all about war, and it's more of a history class that is very informative. I'm Chinese, and I know next to nothing about Chinese history, so I think it's a great way to learn about it." Eric enjoys taking classes like ASIAN 302 among others that he is interested in at Cornell. He enjoys the freedom that he has of being able to take whatever classes he seeks to take unlike in high school when he was required to take certain courses that did not particularly interest him.

Eric's passion for his culture can be seen further in his desire to travel to China. If he could travel to any place in the entire world, he would visit China, because he would like to see the Great Wall and the Forbidden Palace. Although Eric has been to Hong Kong, he feels that the city does not offer as many historical sites to visit as other cities in China. Hong Kong has a "Buddha site but not that much else" in terms of historical sites, he said.

Before his remaining three and a half years at Cornell are over, Eric would like to go down to the gorges. Being a nature lover, he visited Yosemite National Park this past summer where he enjoyed all the natural beauty that the park has to offer. At Yosemite Eric and his friends tried to climb the tall summit of the Lambert Dome without a climbing kit or any safety gear, which all climbers are required to wear. Although Eric claims that climbing the summit without any equipment was one of the craziest feats that he has ever performed in his life, he enjoyed the experience very much.

Eric has enjoyed the resources, especially the praise and worship that CBS has had to offer. The songs that are sung

in CBS remind him of his fellowship back at home, and CBS reminds him of the fellowship he used to go to as a freshman in high school. Eric has not been a part of a fellowship since his freshmen year of high school, so he is excited to see what CBS has in store for him as a college student.

We are blessed to have Eric join our fellowship this year. If you have not yet had a chance to meet this fantastically fun freshman, you are missing out, so you should do so right away!

***Did you know...***

that the last book that Eric read was "Flags in the Dust" by William Faulkner?

that the last movie that Eric watched was "Ocean's 12"?

that if Eric could be any fruit in the world, he would be an apple?

that if Eric was stranded on an island and he could have only one thing with him, it would be a pocket knife?

*By Justin Sun*

**Henry Wen – College of Engineering**

*Major:* Tentatively, Engineering Physics

*Current Residence:* Mary Donlon

*Future Residence:* Hopefully Cascadilla

***Top 3 Things To Do Before Graduating:***

- 1) Go out onto the lake for some sailing or swimming
- 2) Gorge jumping!
- 3) Go out on a date with a girl =)

Henry grew up in a small farming village in China where most of his relatives still live. He was there until moving to South Florida when he was 7 years old. His favorite memories as a child in China are from playing with his friends outside in the dirt (mm...mud pies?). The last time he went back was the summer before his senior year of high school. He thought it was cool, though a little awkward to see some of his childhood friends after 10 years apart.

As a kid, Henry wanted to grow up to work with computers, and now he's here at Cornell studying Physics. Henry decided to check out CBS after talking to a Cornell alumnus from church that graduated from the Hotel School in '95 and actually met his wife from CBS. Henry went to CBS the first Friday, liked it, and decided it was the place for him to be. He says that he likes CBS for its Christ-centeredness and faithful members.

His favorite memory of this semester was running to the plantations with Ronny, Cynthia, and Tiffany, and looking down from a hill to see the surrounding gardens and beautiful campus. While at school, Henry most misses spending time with his adorable (trust me, I saw pictures) 6-year-old sister, Emily. "She's so mature, Henry says, "that sometimes, I forget that I'm talking to a 6-year-old."

He misses being the big-brother at home, and although he feels like there is a generation gap sometimes, is thankful for being old enough to appreciate having a younger sibling and the relationship he shares with her. He also says that he misses the sunny Florida weather (but obviously, not as much as his sister!). Although Henry has not been home since the beginning of the semester, he thinks that the thing he'll miss most when he goes home for winter break is the people he's met at Cornell. This past holiday, he was grateful to have been able to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with his Physics professor and later with other CBSers that stayed for break. It was also over the break that Henry enjoyed his first snowfall in over 10 years — but of course, he should be seeing a lot more of that in the coming semesters!

Recently, Henry has been warming up his musical flair—strumming that guitar, tickling the ivory—in preparation for the upcoming felly dinner. In addition to Henry's many talents and undeniably endearing personality, he can also whistle, roll his R's, curl his tongue, *and...*\*drum roll\* wiggle his ears. Now, would any girls like to help him out with #3 on that list up there?

**Word Associations!!**

Pajama: "don't have any"  
 Yule: "log"  
 Frosty: "snow/ice cream/snowman"  
 Angel: "wings"  
 Chipmunk: "Chip& Dale"  
 Mistletoe: "kisses"  
 Smurf: "blue"

*By Yue Pui Chin*

**Kersing Huang**

Kersing Huang is one cool chica. :) She thinks a lot and takes on a passionate interest in engineering and other computer-related stuff. Currently she is sure she wants to major in Computer Science. She has come a long way ever since first entering Cornell. She compares what she had expected it to be to what it turned out to be...and concludes that what makes her really like it here, besides a particularly interesting class called Computers, Information, and Intelligence, is the people she has met here including professors, classmates, and people she has met at clubs. In her spare time, she enjoys web-designing, doing Taekwondo, and watching Chinese soap operas (typically Hong Kong ones). She says that she enjoys watching the more "ancient" ones for their wise proverbs. As a child, she took pleasure in playing various sports such as basketball and in reading. One of her favorite Proverbs goes something like this (for the proper Chinese version, you should ask her): "Everytime you compete with people, you will inevitably get angry; so it's not worth it." o\_o So wise! It was a pleasure getting to know Kersing a little better, and though there's much more to her life than this, it's a sure thing that God has made her a gem of a woman!

*By Cheryl Hou*

**Mandy "Stimson" Zhao**

After spending extended amounts of time in one building, most students either learn to love it, or go crazy. For Mandy, her home-away-from-Mews is Stimson. After dedicating so much time and energy in this building, it's not surprising that her number one goal before graduating is to make her mark on the building in the form of destruction. Of course, she wanted to make it clear that although she hates the building, she does like her professor.

As much as she enjoys spending hours in Stimson, Mandy's most vivid first semester memory is of CBS. She recalled this first night very exactly: "The first night we went to CBS, I was really scared because there were so many people and they were all different and older and really outgoing. It was embarrassing. But they were nice, and I couldn't remember their names, but it was okay. I remember first meeting Oliver because we just saw him speak, and I was like, 'Whoa, important person!' Then he came and introduced himself, and we were like 'wow, that's cool.'"

Now that she can remember more names, and knows CBS a little better, Mandy and Sandy admitted "we're fobs and commies compared to you guys!" When asked why they felt this, they replied in unison, "We're different, We're Mainlanders."

Mandy is a very caring person; she highly values her time spent with others, and when she's away from Cornell, she greatly misses her friends here. What else does she miss when she's home? "The together time of me and Sandy." That's right, she actually likes spending so much time with her sister, without worrying about parents. She likes living with her twin sister, and plans on staying with her, unless she goes abroad.

She's also very supportive of her sister. When discussing Sandy's plan to write a book, Mandy excitedly clapped and exclaimed, "Yeah! Sandy wants to write a book! She's a good writer!"

But don't get too confused, Sandy and Mandy still have their differences. Since second grade, Sandy and Mandy have tried to be more different. They've stopped dressing alike, and have even taken up different interests. When Mandy described her desire to go to Antarctica in order to research ice cores ("Antarctica is fascinating!"), Sandy rolled her eyes.

Although she misses being in an actual family, in a very familiar place at home, Mandy loves it here. And, despite being accepted to Penn State's Engineering honors program with a nice scholarship, she chose Cornell.

So, if you're wondering how to get to know this "fob/commie" better (and you all should), the next time you're wandering around the Arts Quad, stop by Stimson and visit; she also wants to make a chalking before she graduates, so enlist her help next time you're advertising. Or, if you're really desperate to spend some time with this quiet, but ambitious sister, just ask! She may be nervous and scared at first, but soon enough, you'll be blessed to meet the real Mandy Zhao.

### Word Associations

Pajamas - Sleep  
Yule - Ball  
Frosty - Snowman  
Angel - Halo  
Chipmunk - Squirrel  
Mistletoe - Kiss  
Smurf - Blue

*By Carolyn Hsieh*

### Ronny Huang

What do you call a North Dakotan Cornelian engineer who wanted to be a magician when he was little? Wenqian "Ronny" Huang. What's funny is, compared to where he is living now, North Dakota seems as common as New York City/New Jersey/Long Island. Due to the fact that he chose to come to Cornell later than the norm, he was assigned to live in Akwe:kon. However, even though this wasn't his original favorite choice for living situations, he has grown to be very happy in his "American Indian" home away from

home. However, his happiness in Ithaca goes far beyond just his current living situation. He is convinced that more than the independence of college, the thing he will miss most about this place when he goes home is the family he has found here at Chinese Bible Study.

His choice to join CBS was not one made lightly. Some of the reasons that he states for wanting to become a part of this fellowship include: brothers and sisters who share the same passion for Christ, upperclassmen who are "good role models" (he doesn't really know us that well yet), the quality of musicianship of praise team, the ample opportunities to serve, and the insightful bible studies (said with an innocent smirk). By being apart of this fellowship of God, Ronny enjoyed his most memorable experience at Cornell thus far. This would unquestionably be the "Into the Streets" community service project where he along with a group of brothers and sisters got to serve God by ripping books apart. Seems a little weird, but then again, Ronny isn't exactly your run of the mill type guy.

Okay, enough of the minor details of his Cornell life; let's get to the real essence and substance that define Ronny Huang. First, his whistling skills need some improvement, but he can make a whistle-like noise by sucking in. Second, Ronny possesses an uncanny ability to roll his R's. If it weren't for his Asian good looks, I would be convinced of a possible Hispanic heritage. Lastly, when given a list of word associations here is what he came up with:

### Word Associations

Yule: "Uhhh...egg, I was thinking of yoke."  
Frosty: "Ice"  
Angel: "White"  
Chipmunk: "Cookie, I heard chip."  
Mistletoe: "Missile."  
Smurf: "Uhhh... blue?"

*By David Chiu*

**Sandy "blue light" Zhao**

Admit it. You've never had the intestinal fortitude to use the blue-light system, and even if you were in a dangerous situation, you'd probably look for every alternative before resorting to picking up those phones. Not this sociology and government major, though. During her very first week here, she picked up one of those phones, pushed the button, and almost filed a criminal report! Let me tell you the story of this brave girl who lives in Mews and moves around so fast that you've seen her in duplicate all over campus.

During orientation week this fall, Sandy lost her slick-looking razor phone somewhere in WSH and nearly flipped out. Worried, she returned to look for the phone where she had left it with the odd hope that whoever picked it up would proceed to drop it or lose it – like she did – somewhere nearby. As a side note, she picked up a nice \$10 from the ground while she was searching, but obviously, this served as no consolation. Back to the phone: she proceeded to use a friend's phone to call her phone and to her shock, she heard voices conspiring on the other side! "Don't answer it! <giggle> sshhhhhhhh <snicker> – and the other side hung up. Let me take a break and ask you the question, "What would you do in this situation? Go home, pout a bit, write an angry xanga entry?" But not Sandy, who decided to get some higher authorities involved. In the end, everything worked out peacefully, after Sandy re-called and sternly asked for her phone back, but the point: she picked up that blue-light phone when nobody else would.

Though she can't whistle like her sister who likes to whistle the national anthem of the People's Republic of China, and she ends up making gurgling noises when she tries to roll her R's, don't turn your back on this girl ever, cuz she could easily pull an "Esau" and steal your birthright if you're not careful! Mandy, who was born 15 minutes earlier says that Sandy's already stolen her birthright

(more love from their parents), though Sandy says that it's just some "complex she has".

That isn't to say, though, that Sandy is reckless in the least. When Mandy was considering whether gorge jumping was something she'd want to try, Sandy cut in matter-of-factly, "that shouldn't ever be allowed – people die." So take a note from this freshman, no gorge jumping!

To add a couple additional tidbits, she's a writer and environmentalist too. Wondering what this sister's up to this winter? With the month and a bit we have, she plans to work on a book, focusing on character development, cuz that's the only thing she really cares about in stories. Forget the plot and setting, this girl cares about PEOPLE. And her number one goal before graduating? She's going to go the route of G.I. Jane and sneak into Appel's to turn off all those energy-sucking lights like a good green-peacer! "It's so wasteful, where's the sustainability?!" she exclaimed!

One has to be impressed by the legacy she and her sister will leave before graduating, though. Sandy, cutting the power lines on north campus (cuz she'll probably find that's the easier than sneaking into Appel's), and her big sister destroying a certain bio-related building...well, this is a dangerous duo indeed.

All jokes aside, though, it was really cool to hear about how they ended up here together even though they were prepared and almost likely to end up in two different places. From how Sandy described it, it seemed like a great testimony of God's sovereignty in planning and providing for His children. "We bring out the best in each other", Sandy said. And although she readily admits that "it seems like I'm all mean and sarcastic with Mandy", she won't neglect that together, their "personalities are better and more acute".

So, meet Sandy Zhao. The writer, environmentalist, birthright-thief, blue-light-user and now, a friend and sister that we'll grow up with!

**Word Associations**

Pajamas – bed  
 Yule – tide  
 Frosty – snowman  
 Angel - girl  
 Chipmunk - bird  
 Mistletoe – “sorry”  
 Smurf - blue

*By Oliver Chow*

**Tiffany Yu**

**eric likes eatin:** hehe okay! first i guess we start with the basics  
**eric likes eatin:** do you know what your major is going to be?  
**ty3921:** i'm a hotelie?  
**eric likes eatin:** hehe :} undecided is good too  
**eric likes eatin:** What are the top 3 things you'd like to do before you graduate?  
**ty3921:** does visit my friends at berkeley count?  
**ty3921:** build a snowman?  
**ty3921:** 0.0  
**eric likes eatin:** heheh :] what's the last one?  
**ty3921:** graduate from cornell or college?  
**eric likes eatin:** hehehe okay  
**eric likes eatin:** next question. What's the most vivid memory you have of your first semester?  
**ty3921:** durin' the first week of orientation when i went joggin' around bebe (sp? =P) lake the w/ my friends  
**eric likes eatin:** aww that's nice  
**eric likes eatin:** pretty :] ok next: Why did you decide to join CBS?  
**ty3921:** because everyone was friendly... somewhere everyone is very supportive and encouragin' and i felt that it'll be a place where i can grow spiritually as well  
**ty3921:** oooo i kno wut else i wanna do  
**ty3921:** i wanna spend a night maybe by the slope just lookin' at the stars and the pretty west campus  
**ty3921:** (obviously that'll have to be right after school starts cuz that's the only warm time of the year ^^||)  
**eric likes eatin:** haha yeah otherwise, you'd freeze your eyeballs out  
**ty3921:** haahhaha  
**ty3921:** yeahhh  
**eric likes eatin:** ehehhe okay that makes 3 excellent things!

**eric likes eatin:** anything to add to the cbs answer?

**ty3921:** ppl are energetic? there's a dynamics of different ppl

**ty3921:** hehhe

**ty3921:** ooo and and... most ppl are CHINESE jkjk =P

**eric likes eatin:** hahahah

**eric likes eatin:** k :]

**eric likes eatin:** What do you miss most about home when you're here?

**ty3921:** friends

**ty3921:** family

**eric likes eatin:** i would think it was the weather also since ur from cali

**ty3921:** haha, yea

**eric likes eatin:** heheh

**eric likes eatin:** What do you miss most about Cornell when you're away?

**ty3921:** the people

**ty3921:** ^^||

**eric likes eatin:** hehe okay

**eric likes eatin:** now we play a game

**ty3921:** okay?

**eric likes eatin:** word association!

**ty3921:** okay?

**ty3921:** lolx

**eric likes eatin:** i say a word, and you type in the first word that comes to mind

**eric likes eatin:** here we go!

**eric likes eatin:** pajamas

**ty3921:** dreams

**ty3921:** (i was gonna say swt dreams but only one word right?)

**eric likes eatin:** hehe it can be a phrase too

**eric likes eatin:** yule

**ty3921:** wut's that?

**eric likes eatin:** it means Christmas

**ty3921:** oooo

**ty3921:** family

**eric likes eatin:** frosty

**ty3921:** snowman

**eric likes eatin:** angel

**ty3921:** wings

**eric likes eatin:** chipmunk

**ty3921:** chubby

**ty3921:** \*>D

**eric likes eatin:** hahaha

**eric likes eatin:** mistletoe

**ty3921:** wut's tah?

**eric likes eatin:** haha, thats a good response too!

**ty3921:** it is?

**ty3921:** lolx

**eric likes eatin:** smurf



**ty3921:** wait.. is that green thin' for xmas  
**eric likes eatin:** yeah, people are supposed to kiss underneath it

**ty3921:** 0.0 really?

**ty3921:** xmas

**eric likes eatin:** smurf -> xmas?

**ty3921:** nooo

**ty3921:** mistletoe

*By Eric Shen*

## Xi Guo

Cool, calm, collected... and sleepy. Introducing the one and only Xi Guo, proud owner of a two-syllable name (and during assignment pass-back, frustrated owner of a NetID that begins with the letter 'X'). An electrical and computer engineering student by trade, Xi is enrolled in the College of Engineering at Cornell University, located in warm and sunny Ithaca, New York. Following in the footsteps of prestigious Low-Rise alumni including Tiffany CheeEEen, Edgar Lei, Eric Yeh, and myself, Xi has the privilege of taking residence in this beautiful residence hall ("not a dormitory," as Cornell Campus Life is keen to point out) known for its powerfully-frigid air conditioning (Winter availability only, via big sliding window) and the official Low-Rise pastime (fire alarms induced by popcorn microwaved for ten minutes). When asked about his future housing plans, Xi replied with a cool, calm, and collected, "I don't know yet, and I don't care... probably somewhere on campus."

Xi is a dreamer. He is "still waiting for something memorable to happen," caught between his poetic dream world and the harsh reality that is Cornell. Fear not, Xi! Your dreams will come true! Speaking of dreams, Xi is looking forward to winter break, but he will dearly miss his brothers and sisters at CBS. Over break, he'll savor the home cooking and the workless state that he yearns for while in Ithaca. Between high school and Cornell, Xi said that he felt there was no difference between the two. Perhaps the reason for this sentiment is his deep, hidden frustration at his inability to whistle. Then again, maybe not. He can, however,

produce the sound of a rolled R using a special technique (known henceforth as "Xi-style R-rolling no jutsu").

I will now write a few sentences using Xi's word associations in place of the original words. Keep in mind that the associated word is not necessarily the same part of speech as the original word. The original words are: pajamas, frosty, angel, chipmunk, and smurf. Try to guess what words or phrases Xi associated with them! Please proceed at the tone.

The tone.

This is a story of a don't like them—they're scary somehow. His name is Moquifa. One day, Moquifa was walking through the snowy forest when he sighted a big teeth. In the cold, snowman morning air, the light danced around the big teeth and made it look like a big teeth white. But then Moquifa realized that he was in his blue, so he ran back home to drink hot chocolate.

If you're confused, then here's the answer key! Blue = Pajamas; Snowman = Frosty; White = Angel; Big teeth = Chipmunk; Don't like them—they're scary somehow = smurf.

In conclusion, it is clear that Xi is a freshman destined for success. His advanced placement in courses as well as his ability to survive on negligible amounts of sleep will most certainly come in handy. And of course, it's always good to be cool, calm, and collected. As the remaining time to do the final CS211 assignment approached 10 hours, Xi remarked coolly, "I guess I'll go start it now."

Xi completed the assignment with an hour to spare.

*By Hanson Jiang*

**Nehemiah**  
with Greg Huang and Dave Lin

My third-straight Bible Study led by the Kuan-Greg lineage of Bible Study leaders, Nehemiah chronicles the efforts of a man called by God to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem during the Persian period of the Israelites' exile. We learned that, from the start of his epic adventure, Nehemiah relied wholly on God, crediting God with the success that Nehemiah encountered. Nehemiah acknowledges that "...because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests" (2:8) and gave permission to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall. Despite opposition from various local authorities around Jerusalem who did not have the Israelites best interests in mind, Nehemiah disregards them saying that "The God of heaven will give us success." (2:20). Throughout the entire work process, the book of Nehemiah gives credit to people that worked at building the wall (Ch. 3) as well as people who moved back to Jerusalem to help repopulate the city (Ch. 11). The last few chapters describe the Israelite people coming before God in their restored city and temple, confessing the sins that brought them into exile in the first place, as well as praising God that "in [His] compassion [He] delivered them time after time." (9:28). (There's also a final chapter about Nehemiah visiting Jerusalem several years later to fix some problems, according to Pastor Nelson of Tabernacle Baptist's recent series in Nehemiah, but sadly we ran out of time.)

We also did a few unusual things in our Bible Study. We had a couple meetings that were called In-Study-Pre-Study (ISPS) where Greg and Dave basically had us go through the chapter and perform a pseudo-pre-study of our own, with them chiming in to answer any historical context or other details that we might have missed. This was particularly effective in giving us a feel for what goes on behind the scenes of a CBS Bible Study. The other thing that we did was have a time of general sharing each week

before we actually started studying Nehemiah. We'd share about things we learned in our own devotionals or other interesting things that had been going on in our lives.

*By Jeffery Peng*

**EPHESIANS Bible Study, Fall 2005**

We, as freshmen, could not have been luckier. Every Thursday night, we had the opportunity to learn about Ephesians with wonderful people who made bible study interesting and worthwhile. Not to mention we were always well fed with everything from ketchup chips to baked goods. Aside from the food, we have realized that there's a lot more to Ephesians than we ever thought. As Henry says, "the idea that everything will be brought under one head, even Christ (1:10) and that we are God's glorious inheritance (1:18), what a thought!" Xi feels that the Ephesians study was important to his spiritual growth "as it solidifies [his] beliefs" and "introduces practical situations along with different ways to view and apply them". We certainly witnessed practical, daily life applications of "the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (4:3) when we got to know everyone better with the "homework" assignments and activities (The human temple...the pyrite...the fossils...blackboard illustrations and metaphors about being drunk...on the Holy Spirit, of course). As we learned about how to be alive in Christ, to be children of light, and to be rooted and established in love, God was glorified in the diligent leadership of Oliver and Eric, and the amazing kindness, fun, and insight of everyone in the study. We thoroughly enjoyed every night spent in the study of Ephesians. So, with that, we would like to extend our thanks to Eric and Oliver for being fantastic leaders and learning not to ask "yes" or "no" questions; to Justin and Alice, for giving us rides back to North, your cars were great and useful, but your generosity and thoughtfulness are what we appreciate most; to everyone else, we

thank you for all the times you made us laugh, think, and feel not as lost and confused freshmen, but as brothers and sisters, together learning God's Word.

*By Sandy Zhao*

### **My Bible Study Experience**

On my first Friday at Cornell, I came into CBS not thinking too much about the actual Bible study aspect of a Christian fellowship. So when the ballots were passed around, I checked the topic that sounded the most unusual, half expecting to never hear from it again. But the following weeks proved otherwise, as Dave Chiu sent out emails and the Bible study proceeded.

I must admit that my motivation in going to the first few Bible studies did not come from God. Rather, I simply went because I did not want to disrespect my fellow upperclassmen. The studies themselves seemed to me tedious, perplexing, and irrelevant. For example, how could I apply the year of Jubilee to my Christian life? I even considered switching Bible studies, but was again unwilling to show disrespect to Dave, Iris, and the others.

As the semester crossed the halfway mark, God began to work in my heart. Pushing aside my excessive pursuit of academics, He revealed to me a different kind of wisdom. He began to converse with me in my devotions, making them a lot more intense, yet worthwhile. These quiet times created in me a greater feeling of inner peace. Even from the outside I noticed marked changes in my humility and compassion. At the same time, I did not want this momentum to stop. I wanted God to continue conversing with me, sharing with me more of His wisdom. As a result, I sought for this wisdom in Bible study.

The next Bible study consisted of a lively discussion about the causes of poverty (although sin is the ultimate cause). Many causes were mentioned, and by the end of the discussion, I was absolutely inspired by the God-given insight and lucidity of my older brothers

and sisters. The Bible study was indeed a source of wisdom, so from then on I endeavored to absorb all that was taught in Bible study. Whether or not the material was practical, I realized that it was God's word and it was a means of conversing more with Him.

As for what I learned, I must admit I do not remember most of the specifics. However, I've gained a much better perception of Biblical shrewdness. As Christians, we have a task far greater than that of non-Christians, for we are called to glorify God. Accompanying this responsibility, however, are the many blessings that come with being a child of the Lord. Therefore, we must utilize these blessings like assets, maximizing their benefits everyday in our quest to glorify Him.

Overall, the Bible study experience has been good, and I look forward to another semester of it.

*By Ronny Huang*

### **Luke Bible Study**

The Gospel of Luke and how to apply it in one semester, with Will Lin and Cliff Jao! Our Luke bible study sure had a blast this semester. Parable after parable we learned from Jesus how to live our lives according to His Word. We learned of how Jesus faced temptation and how we can deal with it (ask us how... we might know). We analyzed the lives we lead: which kind of soil are we? How can we be a good Samaritan? How can we be humble? All these timeless questions of immeasurable value were considered during our Thursday nights at Will Lin's apartment. On top of all these lessons we found time for food and fun; Ice cream to pizza, cookies to mini soda's, and of course we can't forget Bonanza. I hope I spelled it right. We hope you enjoy our skit tonight and learn as much as we did.

*By Maggie Tang*

### **Colossians with Han(son) and Dan**

Wednesday night, Plaza 6A. Time again to see what God – and Paul – has to say to the church at Colosse – and us. This

semester, the Colossians Bible study learned about (defense against) Gnosticism, the mystery of Christ (which has been revealed), the old and new selves (you can't have both), seasoning our speech with salt (to make people thirsty for the living water!), and much more (we're sorry you missed it). We chiseled slowly but steadily into the truth of God's Word to find out its meaning and application into our lives, confident now that we have a stronger defense against those who would try to take us "captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy" (Colossians 2:8).

*By Anna Liu*

Dear CBS,

I am going to speak frankly here - I don't know what to write about. I read through all the past coordinator letters that are in my possession and asked the BoL staff what coordinators were supposed to write about—to which, their response was "a letter of encouragement." So I thought about it and came up with a few possibilities: there's the 'let's-relate-the-semester-to-our-vision' letter, the 'what-I've-been-learning-this-semester' letter, and the 'heart-to-heart/honest conversational' letter. Obviously I went with the last one, so we'll see how it goes.

Truth be told, I don't have any big words of wisdom that haven't already been said. But here are a bunch of cliché statements that illustrate what I'm talking about: "Always trust in God"; "Keep God as your focus"; "Keep God as your #1 priority." While these are all well and good, I want to impart something that people will hopefully remember and be able to apply to their lives immediately.

When we think about the Christian life—not the "Christian" part of a Christian's life, but the all-inclusive life we should live as Christians—several analogies come to mind: we can think of it as 'walking on water' (Matthew 14), 'running a race' (Hebrews 12, 1 Cor 9), 'living like a prodigal son' (Luke 15), or growing as a 'branch from the vine' (John 15). It seems like such a daunting task, living for God, and one that will never be complete (until we get to heaven). When my *Looking into Luke* Bible Study studied the passage on the cost of being a disciple (Luke 14, which Pastor John happened to cover that same week in CBS), one of the questions we discussed was, "what if we sit down to count the cost of being Christ's disciple and decide we can't complete it?" Clearly it is only by the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit that we are able to live a life devoted to God, but let me share a something I've learned along the way.

In the November 16th page from "My Utmost for His Highest," Oswald Chambers uses 1 Cor 10:31—"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"—to write about the Christian life on the human level:

We want to be able to say, "Oh, I have had a wonderful call from God!" But to do even the most humbling tasks to the glory of God takes the Almighty God Incarnate working in us. To be utterly unnoticeable requires God's Spirit in us making us absolutely humanly His. The true test of a saint's life is not successfulness but faithfulness on the human level of life. We tend to set up success in Christian work as our purpose, but our purpose should be to display the glory of God in human life, to live a life "hidden with Christ in God" in our everyday human conditions (Colossians 3:3). Our human relationships are the very conditions in which the ideal life of God should be exhibited.

In this semester's *Colossians* Bible Study, we looked at 3:3: "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." When we looked at the verse (in conjunction with verse 4, which says that when Christ appears, our life will also appear), I thought it meant that the fact that we are Christians is hidden with Christ since there are no visible marks of salvation, and that when Christ comes back we will finally be in our glorified state, in our new bodies. But Oswald Chambers puts a different spin on this verse; he says people shouldn't notice us when they notice how we live, but Christ in whom we're hidden.

So again, we're back at the question of how we are to live. It might seem all well and good to live our lives for Christ in everything that we do, in human things like eating meals and playing Settlers and going to class, but how does one get to that point? Let me share with you something a brother once shared with me. In his devotional *Handling the Overwhelming*, Ron Hutchcraft starts with a short anecdote about Jeremy, a boy who thinks that one day of Kindergarten is enough for him.

I think Jeremy was feeling overwhelmed, and he sure would have sunk if his mother had tried to explain the educational marathon he has ahead. He has no idea. But Jeremy's going to make it. Hey, look, you did. I did. Not by thinking about twelve years, but by doing that school thing one day at a time.

...  
Our word for today from the Word of God is from Deuteronomy 7:17. ... Verse 22 says, "Do not be terrified by them for the Lord your God is among you, and He's a great and awesome God. The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little." What hope-giving words! God will win this one with you and for you, but not in one great victory. Jeremy won't be able to get his education cared for in one day, or in one week. It's going to be little by little. And that's God's plan for you to handle the overwhelming - little by little.

Break it into daily chunks - manageable pieces. Have a good day. Let Jesus be the Lord of the undone at the end of that day. Remember, daily is how He promised He would give you His strength. He said, "Your strength will equal your days." There is no strength for Friday when it's Thursday. You've only got Thursday's strength. You run ahead of your strength and you'll sink.

Maybe you've been wondering how you'll ever beat some sin that's been beating you, or how you can carry out your desire to dedicate your whole life to Jesus. Win for one day. You let Jesus be the Lord of that weakness for this one day. Tomorrow you have another twenty-four hour victory. And don't try to dedicate your life to Jesus unless you do it by dedicating each new day. You give Him a day, and then another day, and then the day after that. He'll make a life out of it. The Christian life is the sum total of a thousand little victories a day at a time.

"Then he said to them all: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). And so, what I want to leave you with at the end of this very long letter is that we are to take it day by day. So give your life to God for just one day. It gets easier the day after that to do the same! Have a great break, one day at a time!

*From the computer screen of William R Lin*

