

FROM THE EDITOR

You know how the story about the 'Boy who cried wolf' is supposed to be an object lesson on why lying is a bad thing? Or, how the story of the three little pigs is supposed to teach us something about the value of doing things the right way, and not cutting corners.

I'll tell you what. I've another story to tell you, and see if you can't guess what I learned. Once upon a time, I called a meeting for Bread of Life, set it to start at precisely 6pm, and sent out all the proper reminders. Then I came an hour late. They forgave me anyway. In the next meeting, while everyone was busy with work, I stepped outside to buy the group some drinks, and sure enough, by the time I was back, the work was nearly done. "Was I gone that long?" I wanted to ask, but I didn't have the heart to interrupt.

And now, the morning after the night that we began to finish up, I have hardly enough fingers on both my hands to count the number that stayed into the morning hours, editing or drawing or dropping text.

So, even now, blurry-eyed and sleepy, I think I am beginning to see.

The making of this very issue has been a physical, tangible, I-lived-it-myself lesson on grace. Praise God. Thank to all of the Fall staff, and to all who volunteered their time and great talents. My hope is that you will be as encouraged in reading this, as I have been in seeing it written. Peace.

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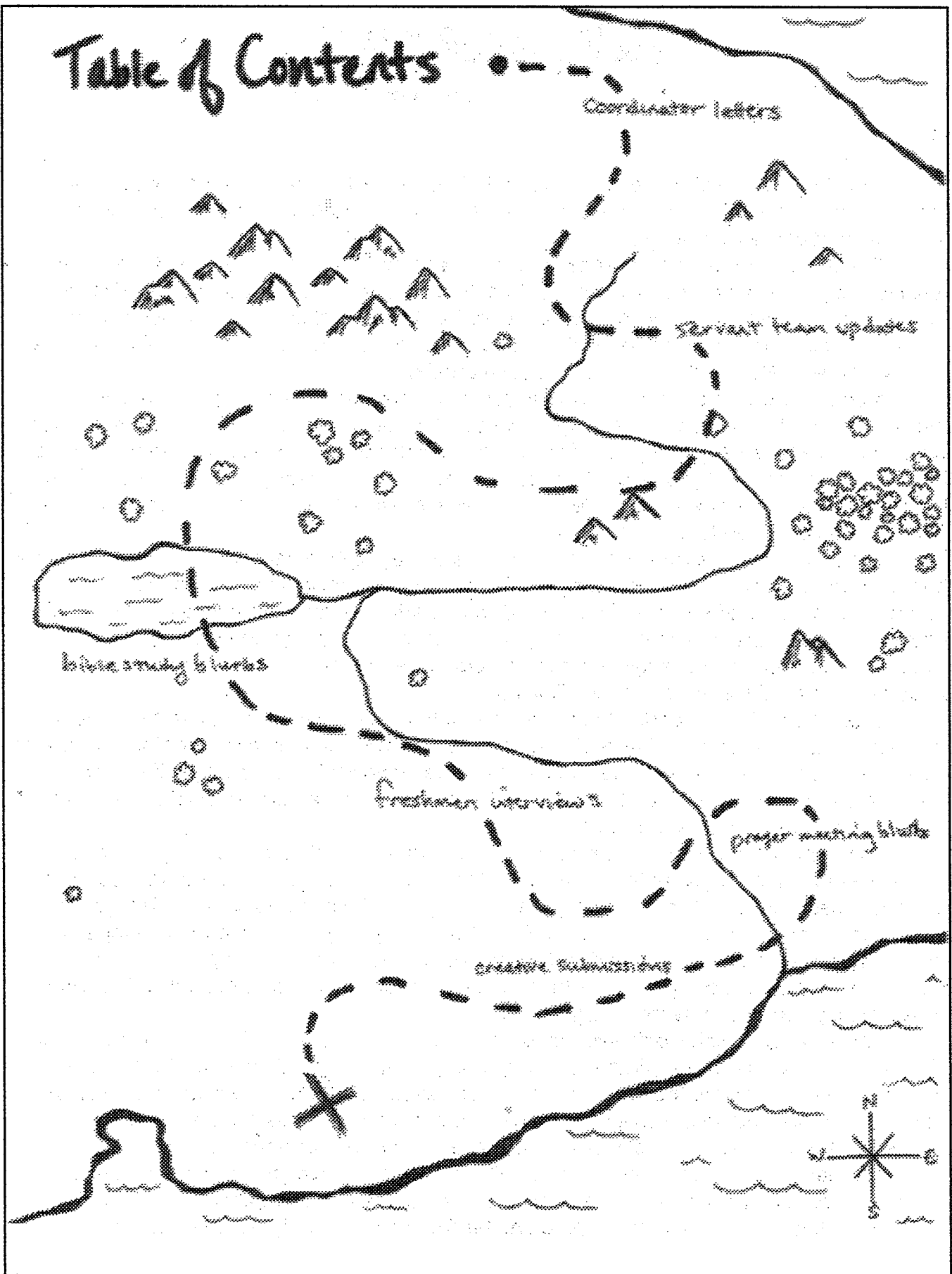
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COORDINATOR LETTER

BY ALEX S. LEE

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Hey Family,

Time flies, eh? We're already at the end of fall semester, and it seems like just weeks ago we were introducing this whole "Be" business. But... wow, God has been gracious to us since the start of the year, amen?

To tell you the truth, I don't know how it all happened. Matt and the rest of the Servant Team would probably say the same thing. Somehow, by the grace of God and *irrespective* of our plans and programs, I firmly believe the Lord has been leading our family along a road that is bringing us to closer intimacy with our ever-present and always emphatic God, whose name we know is Be—and closer too with each another.

It probably doesn't come as much surprise, but the word that springs to mind when I think about CBS this semester is *family*. Dave Smith talked about how "family" is distinct from "community" because any group can do the latter: just put on the right-colored jersey or wear the proper name tag and you've pretty much got yourself a community. Easy. But it has been something else to see how God has led us and, yes, stretched us to know and cherish this family He has provided for us in each other.

Yeah, I admit, it's a little strange at first. Our Friday night emails have warned you more than once to be prepared for something a little "different"—from inviting our non-Christian friends to come out and share, to breaking off into apartments for more intimate "living room" fellowship (and baking!). Somehow, through all of these small things, the Holy Spirit has been revealing to us more of His tangible grace and guidance. We're learning to "carry each other's burdens... and fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

Quick story: The other day I had breakfast with a missionary, who spoke fervently about the house churches in China. He kept emphasizing the blessing of coming together to pray, of seeking God as *family* in Bible study and simple, open fellowship. I found myself moved by every word of his testimony, but it wasn't until I was driving home from breakfast that it hit me: *Isn't this what God has been doing at CBS?*

Think about it for a moment. It's true, "CBS" and "house church" probably don't seem like they even belong together in the same sentence, but as we learn to move from *community* to *family*, doesn't it seem like something the Lord might be trying to teach us? It isn't just a China thing. Check out what happened in Acts: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved**" (2:46-47).

Family, I don't think God's even close to done with us. I think we're just getting started. Did you catch that last verse? Somehow, in growing together as children with God as their Father, "the Lord added to their number daily those were being saved"! **Somehow, in family, God births missions.** In the past month we've been encouraging each other to pray with the people you live with—in your hallways or your apartments, with brothers and sisters that live upstairs or next door. This may not be a "CBS" thing... but it is everything that God has been teaching us about carrying each other's burdens and bringing one another to the feet of Jesus (remember Galatians 6:2, and the cripple and his friends in Luke 5!). Who knows, but that



God will reveal Himself to our friends, for John writes: "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:12).

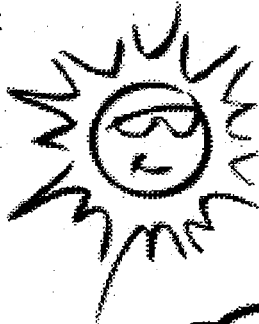
This is as real as it gets. So my prayer is that we will continue to *be* the family that God has called us to be, just as *He* continues to be emphatically present—a God "who alone does marvelous deeds" (Psalm 72:18).

Much love. Your brother.

COORDINATOR LETTER

BY MATTHEW WONG

John 3:26 - "He must become greater; I must become less."



It wasn't until recently that I experienced any spiritual reality of self-diminishment and Christ-magnification for myself, and came to the understanding that John the Baptist's personal conviction was and continues to be a bottom line call to action for all Christ followers that cannot be compromised. In order for Christ to become more in my life, in order to 'glorify him', I need to make the

conscious decision to become less in all I do. In the daily decisions I make, the worship I bring, the prayers I submit. If within each of

those acts of "worship" I remain more so, and Christ much less, I take the Lord's name in vain, and rather than anything being an act of worship, it becomes an act of deceit and idolatry; it becomes a bastardization of a magnificent love into a mere religious system. God's glory cannot exist with me still itching to be in the spotlight in any facet - if my faith's purpose is to serve myself.

This semester, for the first time with a more sober perspective, I'm slowly apprehending what I truly am: an idolater. I am a man whose life is so full of himself and his own motives, the polar opposite of someone like the Baptist that I can't repeat with a shred of sincerity John's call to action. But I need it, and I need to. I need to unless I influence others to love themselves. To love moral agendas and self centered convictions.

Take a moment. Is your life Christ centered? Does it take on a new meaning today? Who do your grades please, and who



COORDINATOR LETTER

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...CONTINUED

do your conversations comfort? Is it yourself? Does your love for your family and friends soothe your ego, or magnify a love that is not your own? Is your Christian walk a testimony to the heavens or to man on earth? Is there a hint of "me" engrained in the fabric of your being? Certainly there is in all of us, and certainly there will continue to be, but it must "become less"...

When we make decisions with God as the Godhead, the root, the gravitas, and the weight of our thoughts and knowledge, not just some peripheral moral compass, suddenly an individual and corporate *life* takes place. Things *breathe*, they *beat*, they *pulse*, and there is beauty in existence. Christianity becomes to us a living and moving Gospel. It becomes an unrestrained, undeniable force. It breaks hearts, it changes lives, and it rebuilds foundations.

But if we don't, if we stray from this picture, the peace and love of Christ does not rule. It gets lost amidst this self-centeredness, this misguided proclamation of Agape Love, which is often nothing more than a convoluted form of idolatry: a pretty and polite means to sinful ends. When love loses its way, religion rears its ugly head, and the world, secular and non-secular, begins to hate the God who is who He is, and who is Love. Crusades, homophobia, sexual abuse, moral superiority, self-glorification, all of *that*. All the sin that we are: it becomes magnified because in sober reality, that is us. These stains, they are how we look deep in our insides. It's an ugly picture, and Christ weeps over it.

It's a terrible thing, it's a weighty matter, and it's one to be prayed for.

But let me assure you, our Lord whose name is Love, moves. Love, scripture assures us, is more jealous than Death as is His grace and redemption (Song of Songs 8:6). Love moves so much so that He came from the heavens and "moved into our neighborhood" (John 1), to be with us, to empathize with us, and ultimately to die for us. He wants to win you over because he wants to rule in this world, and there is a hope that exists with Christ's death on the cross. At the cross, love won and *love wins*. We, as Christ followers, as misguided as we are, *we win*.

We have got to see that the message of love breathes and is alive, regardless of the messengers. The Gospel is a movement, beyond our control (Colossians 1). A Living, breathing active gospel that gives us life and breath and everything else. There is nothing that we can do to stop it, or further it, but there is so much that we can do to claim it and magnify it. CBS is a place where we can begin to capture God's love, clasp it as it moves, smell the sweet fragrance and hear the harmonious music so deeply engrained in all of nature. Part of why Christ died for us was so that we could feel this, to exist in this.

Maybe you're part of the movement already. Maybe you are dying daily, and you see the Lord breathing in your life in an undeniable *freeing* passion. Praise the Lord because I love that you are there! But if you're anything like me, and it has taken me until now to realize it, let us stop in our tracks, *embrace humility in all of its freeing and life-giving dosage*, and begin to die, so we can loosen the chains of captivity and be restored to the image of our creator, as the reflectors of Christ Love. This is our hope.

Let us together forget self, and remember grace.

Love, Joy & Freedom.



MINISTRY updates

PRAISE TEAM
DISCIPLESHIP
INREACH
EVANGELISM

praise team ministry

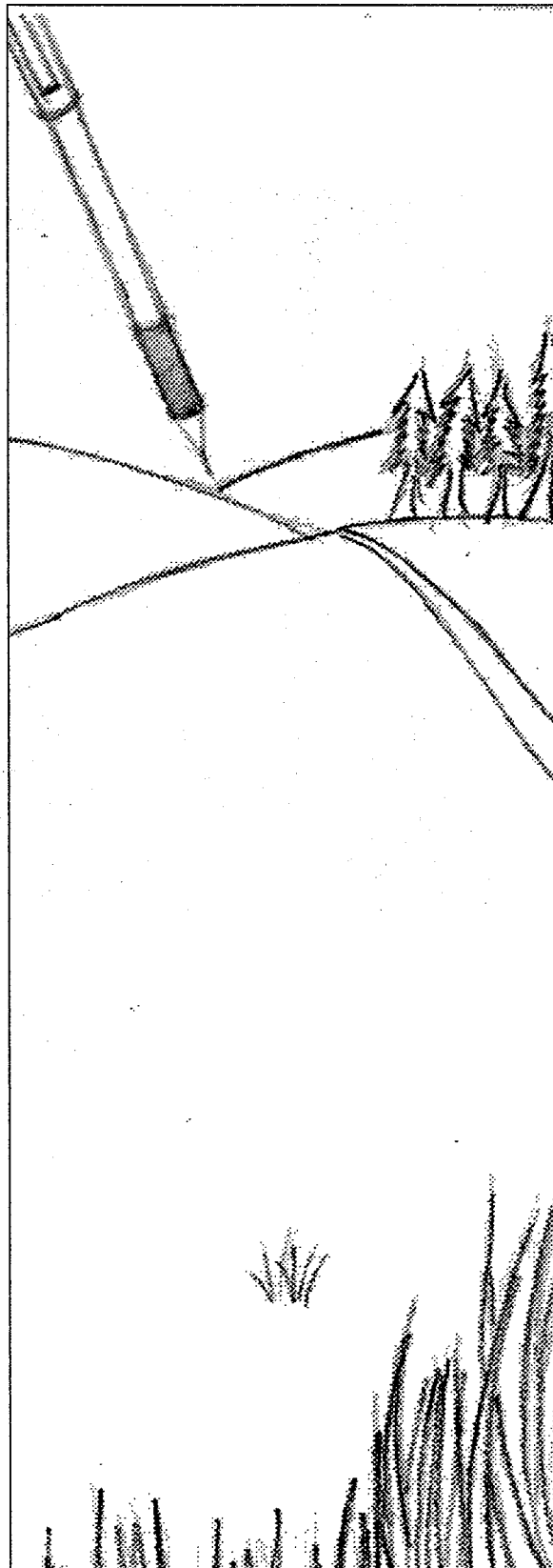
BY ANNA LIU

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Even as CBS was challenged at the beginning of this year to reexamine our ideas about who God is and the role that He has in our lives, praise team has been forced to reconsider how we worship. It is so easy—habitual, even—to limit our worship of God to passive songs that we sing with our voices. But as we learn more about this God whose name is I AM, how can that not change the way we worship? What does it mean to worship BE, the God who is so “emphatically present” in our lives? As we understand how present and active God is, we recognize that our worship must be engaged and thoughtful.

To worship is to respond to this God, an act as natural as breathing, as natural as saying hello to a friend on the street. God IS, and our response is to worship. It’s easy to understand that we ought to say “thank you” to God for what He has done in our lives and the ways in which we see Him moving. But worship as only a way of saying “thank you” has a dangerous tendency to become conditional, only to happen when we feel like God is doing something for us. So accompanying our wider vision of who God is must be a deeper understanding of what it means to worship Be because while He certainly is present in what He does in our lives, He is also so much more. He is the God who sees the whole arc of history and holds eternity in His hands; He is the God who understands the depths of our hearts and gives enough grace to cover our sin. When we think beyond the songs that we sing and begin to think about this God that we worship, we begin to realize how small we are. I would not say that this is the totality of worship. I suspect that such a thing could not be put into words, and if so, certainly not by me. But I think this is a starting point: to gaze into heaven, to ponder forgiveness, to be touched by grace, and to recognize the rightful place of God in our hearts, in our lives, in this world. These are the songs that we want to sing, and this is the attitude of worship that we seek to cultivate.

“He must become greater, I must become less.”
—John 3:30



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

BY RICHARD YAN & IRIS LIANG

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Discipleship ministry has always been on my heart, and it's a privilege to be able to serve in this ministry for another year. But being on the team after a year's experience absolutely does not mean that I was prepared for all the challenges that come with a new year. The large number of brothers and sisters who needed prayer partners was encouraging, but created a daunting challenge for me and Iris to pair up for prayer partners. Just so all those who are wondering how the pairing actually works, we input all your names in a computer program we bought called Pair Me and we simulate all possible pairs to find the optimal pairing... => Thankfully, we have something much better than a computer program; we have God's grace and wisdom. I'm sure Iris will agree, that all in all, it was nothing that we really did that helped put prayer partners together. Sure we met up and talked to potential partners, and asked other brothers and sisters which partnerships they thought would be best. But ultimately we had to rely on God, praying for his wisdom and direction for the partnerships.

As you guys have heard before, the verse on our hearts for the prayer partners is 1 Samuel 14:7, which says: "...Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

This is in the context of Jonathan and the armor-bearer going into battle against the Philistines, facing tremendous odds against them. Meditate a bit on how to support each other with such intensity that your whole heart and soul is devoted to it. For me, it starts with prayer. Meeting up and sharing with one another can be great, since you get to hear each other's hurts and can learn how to comfort one another. But without prayer, no battle is ever fought. All you did was listen and respond with words, but took no action. The armor bearer didn't just go "Oh Jonathan, I know it's tough, but you can do it!" and then sit and watch. The Bible says the armor bearer followed "right behind." Do that for each other. God's Word says that we do not fight a physical battle, but a spiritual one (Ephesians 6:12). Praying for one another is fighting for each other in spiritual terms. And so, my prayer for you

guys, is that you will support each other and go through struggles together so that you may get a deeper understanding of God's love.

Dear God,

You are great beyond all measure Lord, and You delight in Your children. Grace falls on the prayer partnerships that You have put together, Lord. It is Your desire for us to lift each other up to You, to lift our burdens up to You. I thank You that, though we cannot do anything about our own burdens, you hear our prayers and petitions and you fight on our behalf.

Lord, I am in awe of Your grace and the way that You have placed me in discipleship ministry. I am amazed that when I was a baby You placed people in my life that pointed me to You. A sister once said this about prayer: "Let's listen and ask the Spirit to lead us. That's how we'll pray... We don't have to talk until the Holy Spirit prompts us to." Perhaps that was the first time I understood that prayer was not me praying to you so much as it was the Spirit that You gave me speaking through me. So, when we lifted each other up to You, I felt like I was actually kneeling in front of You with sister beside me. She said to me: "every prayer is a fight for our Father in Heaven." Since then, every time I pray with a brother or sister, I can imagine that I am really fighting for him/her—that I have a sword in hand, and a shield, and that I am fighting the evil spirits that Satan brings to stumble us.

Lord, I thank you for my own prayer partners, and my prayer for the other partnerships is that You would bless them and teach them how to pray for one other. Make them BOLD in their prayers, Lord, and PERSISTENT too. I pray that they would love each other with YOUR love, that they would fight alongside each other like Jonathan and his armor bearer. I pray that they will spur one another on to love and good deeds, and experience together Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control together... because that is Your will

In Christ's name I pray these things. Amen.

INREACH MINISTRY

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BY TERENCE MOY & JENNIFER SU

As always, this semester has been a learning experience. Serving CBS through the Inreach ministry continues to be challenging, humbling, but of course rewarding. Our ministry is nothing new; many of you are probably still familiar with past Inreach visions, calling us to love each other as we would our own families, and emphasizing our role as reflections of Christ's love.

But in the simplicity of those words, we often lose the urgency of our call to be brothers and sisters, serving each other in love. The reiteration of 1 John 4:12 still numbs us to its truth: *"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."* God desires to use the ministry as more than just a way to *reach in* to our fellowship, but also as a way to *stretch ourselves* as we learn to make His love complete in ourselves, as well in each other.

Philippians 2:1-5 -

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...

God has made apparent how much we all struggle with similar issues of sin, faith, and love and how much more we all need encouragement. We've been seeing God stretch our team by teaching us how to encourage, welcome, and love both Christians and non-Christians alike. While we often approach the needs of believers and non-believers from different angles, at the core, God's heart for us all is the same—just as ours should be.

Recently as a team and as a fellowship, we've had the opportunity to explore what it

means to carry each others' burdens. In studying the power of a friend's faithfulness in Luke 5, in being challenged to confess our sins, and in praying corporately and individually for each other, we've witnessed how God is changing hearts and neatly weaving together fellowship and love until there is no separation between them. In learning to have our attitudes *"be the same as that of Christ Jesus,"* we have also seen how practically our spiritual lives are interwoven with our love for others. As we care for and look to the needs of others before our own, the things of this world and even our own personal struggles begin to pale in comparison.

1 John 2:10 says, *"Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble"* (1 John 2:10). To grow as Christians we need to grow in Christ's love for others. We inevitably falter as we chase this goal, and as we are reminded of how our selfish nature eagerly keeps us from truly giving ourselves to others, may we be reminded that it is only through Christ that we are given love and enabled to love. Ultimately, the goal of our ministry is to involve the entire fellowship in the vision, so that we may all learn to love as Christ did (and does, even now!), and not be afraid to lift each other's burdens up in true fellowship.

Evangelism Ministry

BY GREGORY HUANG & ERIC YEH

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Eric: A semester of serving on the evangelism ministry has changed my perception of what it means when we mention phrases like “spreading the gospel” or “ministering to the lost.” Our vision for the 2006 to 2007 academic year is Psalm 34:8: “Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.” I came into the year wanting to show people that the Lord is good, and now I realize that I was most in need of seeing that goodness. The ironic part (or cool part) is that God showed to us the most of His perfect grace, mercy, and generosity, while we were trying to share with others those very same things! One thing I believe God has shown both Greg and myself, is that preparation and stepping out come hand in hand, not just one before the other. Like, prayer with a brother or sister (for the right heart and right attitude) before talking with someone about God is so essential...

Greg: ...because prayer *is* both the preparation and the stepping out. It lets God open wide our hearts for the people we’re going to talk to, and it reminds us who it is that truly saves. So, whether they are new acquaintances, good friends, or family members, pray for them by name. I guess I was like Eric in thinking that evangelism was just the going out and preaching (*Go, tell it on the mountain...*); I thought that ‘success’ was directly related to how well we knew our apologetics. But you know what? In talking with our fellow students, we found that they honestly didn’t care to battle theologies. What they really wanted to know was, “why bother?”

Eric: We will never be able to offer enough empirical evidence to convince someone beyond any doubt that the God that we serve is truly a real and great God. Often times those battles of theology just ended with more questions, because honestly, I do not have all the answers. And I believe that that’s fine. However, there is one thing that we can offer the world. That one thing is our witness. I can tell you what God has done for me, in my life, and how God has impacted and molded me in a very tangible way.

I can tell you how God has brought me to a point in my walk, where I think it’d be harder for me to believe that God *doesn’t* care, that He wasn’t actively seeking a relationship with me. Our Ivy Room chats have taught me that I cannot force people to take a step of faith, but I can tell them how my own personal life was changed when I did.

Greg: hmm...I think I’ve heard that before... somewhere.

Paul [the apostle]: When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.



bible study blurbs

WASTING TIME WITH JESUS

SALT AND LIGHT

PARADIGM SHIFT

SUBMARINE

How many words would it take to describe Jesus? Glancing at this magazine's title, you could easily say he's the Bread of Life, but take a second to look up John 6:35-59. Jesus says to the Jews: "I am the bread of life [...] whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." Now pretend you're a Jew listening to Jesus – maybe he's your friend Joseph's son. Would you still easily accept the teaching to eat this man's flesh? As Greg or Alex, the leaders of "Wasting Time With Jesus," might say, that was a pretty bad PR move.

This seeker's bible study was all about analyzing and even questioning Jesus' actions to get to know him. We went through miracles, such as Jesus feeding the five thousand and raising Lazarus from the dead, and looked at Jesus praying in Gethsemane, being crucified and finally resurrected. I was really moved by two characterizations of Jesus that were affirmed during this study. One is of Jesus struggling in Gethsemane to go through with his crucifixion. The other is of Jesus going to such great lengths so that we may believe he is Lord.

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed three times: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). Why was it difficult for Jesus to accept his task? Jesus is both man and God, and here we can relate to him as he acts as our substitute on the cross. In addition to being our substitute, Jesus acts as our guide. He goes to great lengths to cast away our doubts so that we may trust in Him and believe. One particular example appears in John 20:25-28. After Jesus' resurrection, Thomas tells the other disciples: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Jesus' response to Thomas? "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." And Thomas does believe: "My Lord and my God!"

BY JANICE CHEONG

wasting time with jesus

What is Salt? What is Light? Think you know, eh? Well, well...

This Bible Study, led by Hanson Jiang, Justin Sun and Calinda Yew, gave us all some insight in what it means to be true followers of Christ. **10**

Starting out by listing characteristics of salt and light—with practical metaphors ranging from eating saltines to drawing lighthouses in the dark—we discussed these and other examples in Scripture to better understand the need for spiritual discipline in our lives.

To truly be "salt of the earth", one must preserve unity in the body of Christ, enhance the flavor and aroma of God's love, and make others thirst for the promise of salvation. This can be done in everyday interactions and conversations with brothers, sisters, and friends, just by taking care of what you say and how you act.

And what about being the "light of the world"? Simply put, it's about illuminating the truth of God's glory for all to see. This is not done by relying on our own abilities or apparent acumen, but by relying on God's Word, His wisdom, and His teachings alone.

In the end, the importance of being Salt and Light is not so that we can accomplish anything by our own strength, it's ultimately important as a testimony of God's infinite grace and faithfulness. We should be trusting and honoring Him through our obedience, and striving to do all that Psalm 96:2 says: "sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day."

BY SANDY & MANDY ZHAO

salt and light

11 Call it what you want—Paradigm Shift, God Is Our Father, Jeremiah, or Colossians—our Bible study was a little of everything. What began as a simple study of how God desires a personal relationship with us serendipitously deviated from this original “paradigm shift” and took us on a semester-long journey towards the fellowship God is calling us to.

While we did pick up a few cool tidbits along the way about how God is a relational being (He calls Himself a shepherd to His sheep, a Father to His sons and daughters, and a bride-groom to His Bride) and how the crux of Christianity is this relationship rather than a system of beliefs, we soon realized that these were not the media through which God was calling us to truly *experience* Him. Showing us how our focus on knowledge was a little off, God nudged us in the right direction—back to Himself.

He showed us how we needed your prayers and how we ourselves needed to be giving the study up to God. After spending time in prayer, we saw essentially a new study. Our study wasn't a study of grandiose ideas but a study of God. All we knew was that we didn't have the answers; through wrestling corporately with His word, God revealed to us His love.

Although He could have revealed His love to us through any book, He specifically showed us through Colossians. Through the writer Paul's patient tone in his letter, his humble use of personal pronouns, his intriguing use of clothing imagery, and, of course, his Christ-centered content, we couldn't help but sense his sincere love for Christ and for his brothers and sisters. As a study, we finally began to see a glimpse of how real God's word was; how real God was.

Maybe the name of our original study, “Paradigm Shift,” wasn't that far off after all—there was a paradigm shift, but the real paradigm was our idea of Bible study. And this time God did all the shifting.

“ ‘Meaningless! Meaningless!’ says the Teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.’ ” Ecclesiastes 1:2

Such is the Christian faith if we do not listen and obey God's commands. In the book of James, God speaks to us on how we should act every day to show others His glory. Through temptations and trials, we must persevere with patience. When we are with our brothers and sisters, we should be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires” (James 1:19-20). From this, we are able to watch our tongue and proclaim encouragement to each other with the grace of God.

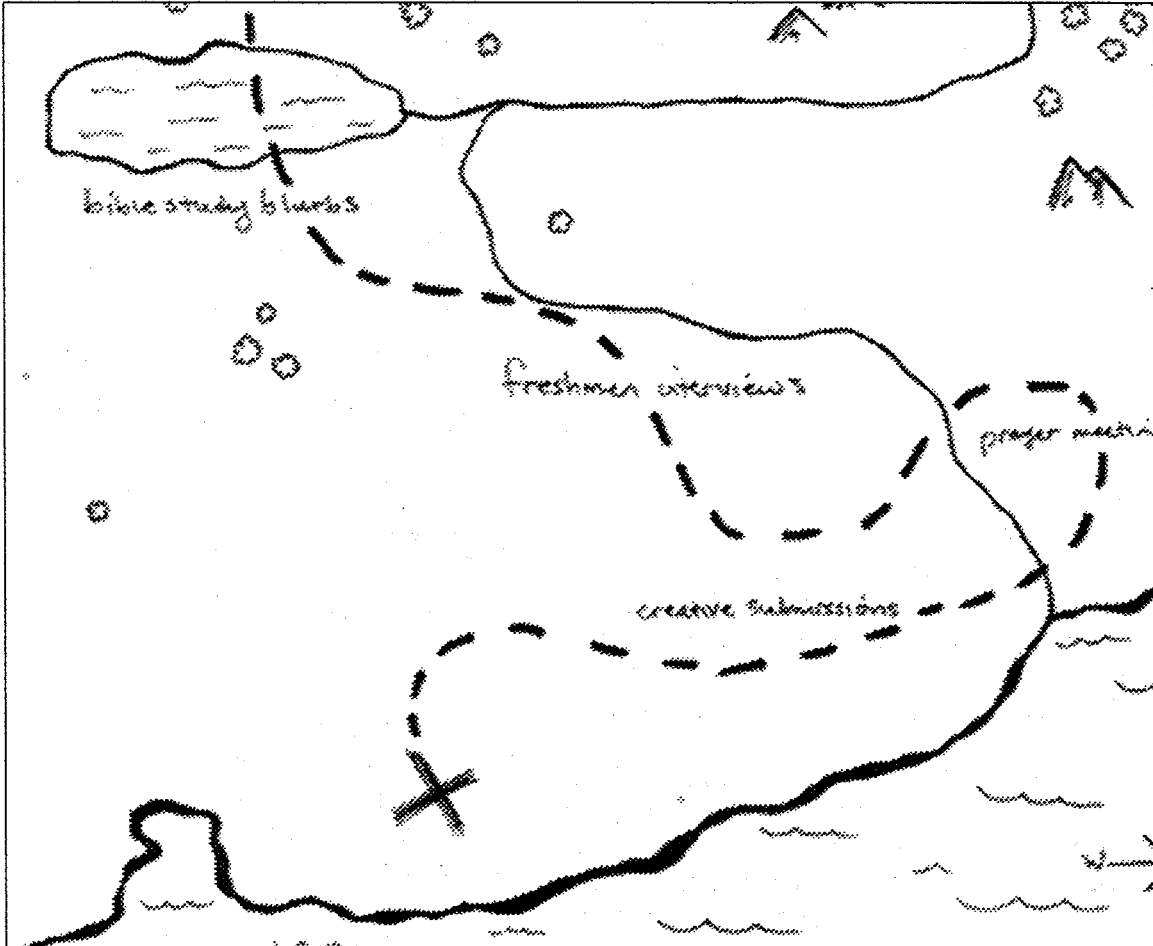
Currently, this Bible study group is in the book I John, which revolves around the theme of love. Why and how we should love God and each other is the topic of the book. I John 3:16 says, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” Through deeds such as walking with your brothers and sisters back to their apartments and dorms, or praying for one another, we can show God's light to others.

BY AUSTIN DENG

paRadigm Shift

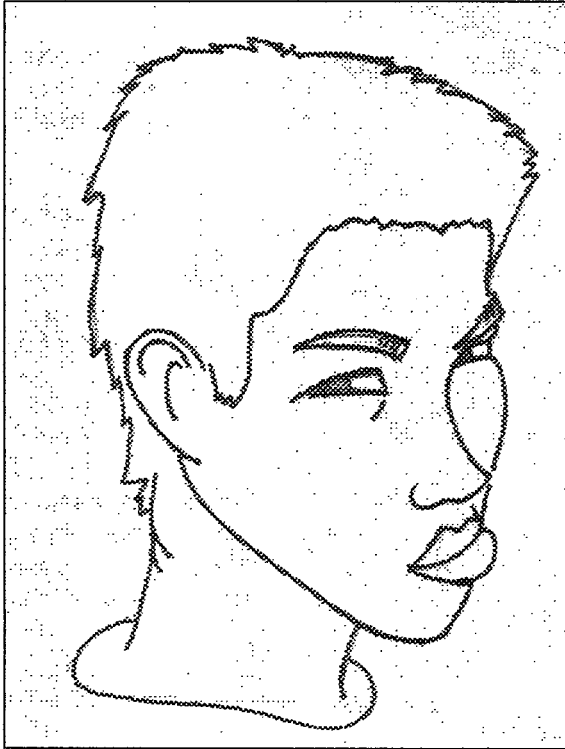
BY JUDY LIANG

submaRINE



FRESHMEN INTERVIEWS

CLASS OF 2010



Me: What was (were) your first impression(s) of Cornell?

Alex: First off, it's in the middle of nowhere, but it doesn't bother me too much. First time I came was for summer school, and I liked everything but the walk (I lived in Becker).

Me: What do you like and hate about Cornell?

Alex: Like? Nothing. Just kidding. The environment is very different from home, but I think I also see how everyone, while focused on academics, has the time to do different things. Everyone's so unique. Hate? The fact that we have to take the footbridge for two months! That's pretty much it. Academics are good so far, but things will get crazy next semester.

Me: If you could do one thing before you graduate, what would you do?

Alex: Some kind of amazing prank that will be remembered for years to come. Like the pumpkin on the clocktower.

Me: What has God shown/taught you so far?

Alex: Biggest thing is being open to other people, getting to know others not for what they do, but for who they are.

Me: How has your experience here in CBS been different from your experience(s) at home (in church, youth group, etc)?

Alex: We actually get to see each other everyday, so we have the chance to get to know each other better and faster. At home you only get to see each other every week. I like the sharing aspect; it's completely different from home.

Platypus: Peter Chin

Socks: Peter's dirty room

Opera: Peter singing

Be: God

Toilet paper: Edgar and his charades

Doorknob: fart

Ace: pretending to hang out while loitering

Me: What superpower/mutation (in manner of X-Men, etc) would you want to have?

Alex: Time travel. Because Hiro is cool.

“We actually get to see each other everyday, so we have the chance to get to know each other better and faster.”

Me: Which cartoon character would you be, if you could be a cartoon?

Alex [After a minute of intense thought]: I'd be the roadrunner, because every time coyote tries to run him down, roadrunner owns him!

Me: If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

Alex: Anywhere but Canada.

Me: Funny. Seriously, where would you go?

Alex: Japan. Because Hiro is cool.

Me: What is your favorite picture book (from childhood or current)? (Note: picture book = children's illustrated book, NOT photo album)

Alex: What's a book? Haha... But No Elephants. I don't remember any of it, but my dad keeps telling me it's my favorite book.

Me: What do you like to draw? (If you draw)

Alex: Draw something NOW?! Interactive...activity. [Grabs paper.] Sweet. I drew this last night.

Bonny's first impression of Cornell: "I thought it looked kinda cold, actually... since it was big and all." No wonder, with Ithaca's ever-capricious weather and changing climes (Is it too much to hope that we skipped winter this year? Probably.) Although she thinks the campus is nice, it's a little far from home for her and the milling (and stressed) students can be overwhelming.

Before Bonny graduates from Cornell, this courageous girl would like to participate in the "quintessential" Ithacan activity: gorge jumping.

Thus far in her college career, God has taught her that "[she] can't really do anything by [herself]" and that she sometimes needs to rely on others. We can all be thankful to have brothers and sisters to lift us up, as Bonny described, CBS is "more like family."

If Bonny could have any superpower or mutation in the manner of X-Men, she would like to be one of Professor X and Jean Grey's kind: having the ability to read minds and telekinesis. If she could be a cartoon character, she would be Mulan, famous Disney female and one of our heroines from the Motherland. Bonny's favorite children's book is Encyclopedia Brown (the Boy Detective!), and if she could be anywhere right now, she would want to be at home.

Before Bonny graduates from Cornell, this courageous girl would like to ... gorge jump.

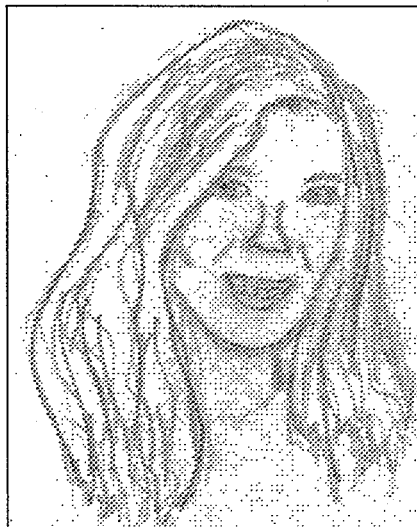
If Bonny could have any superpower she would like the ability to read minds and telekinesis.

Bonny might be a budding portraitist, because she likes to draw "real people." I had a great time interviewing Ms. Bonny Lee, and I will conclude with these last thoughts:

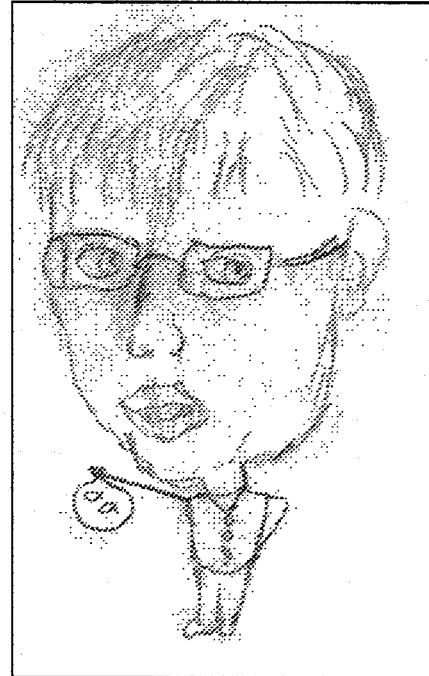
This cool freshman gal,
Charming and lovely is she,
Get to know her now!

Word Association:

Orange: "orange"
Platypus: "bill"
Socks: "unmatched?"
Opera: "screech"
Eggs: "yolk"
Be: "real"
Toilet paper: "white"
Doorknob: "old"
Ace: "poker"
Green: "Janice"



Brian Lee is a freshman from Hicksville, NY. At first I thought that was upstate, but apparently it's in Long Island, so Brian is in good company here at Cornell and at CBS. When he first came to Cornell, he thought it was really big. He still does, but he's glad to find a strong sense of community here. He's also appreciative of the fact that he can take classes in any of the colleges at Cornell, which certainly comes in handy when it comes to exploring curious majors. He's not quite sure about what he wants to study yet, but his facebook says, "Chemistry and Chemical Biology," which is a pretty cool major. He's not a big fan of Ithaca though, weather mainly, and he kinda misses city life. He says that if there were any place he could go to, it'd be California. But soon enough, Brian, you'll learn to love this place...



I think I've had a really strong sense of community here which is a great feeling for me.

Brian is thankful that he's had a smooth semester and thanks God for his grace in all of it. He's been learning that God is faithful to us in our need and that "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1Cor13:7)." He's also thankful for the strong support that he's found here from brothers and sisters and for discovering that we pick each other up and encourage one another in our faith in God. He says, "I think that I've had a really strong sense of community here

which is a great feeling for me. I usually went to church with my family at home so this is a different sort of experience."

Word Associations!!

1. Orange – ice cream!
2. Platypus – mammals? Bit is?
3. Socks – pairs (really annoying when they're not!
4. Opera – Italian
5. Eggs – scrambled
6. Toilet paper – on trees? (sounds mischievous
7. Doorknob – static electricity hurts (static builds up to many megavolts!!
8. Green - grass

So that's Brian in short: a great guy all around. With that, *Goodnight room. Goodnight moon. Goodnight cow jumping over the moon. Goodnight light, and the red balloon, Goodnight Brian!*

Klub can be summed up in one word: azn. When Caleb isn't busy being azn, you can find him at Phillips 101 liking CBS, or walking around enjoying the Cornell campus. On a bad day, you'll find Klub disliking the rain and the institution's infamous academic workload.

As the only student of the oft-overlooked "8th college," the School of Biology and Society, Caleb has ambitious plans and carefully-planned ambitions—becoming very good at Halo, for instance. Caleb's roommate, an Xbox 360 owner, sponsors this undertaking. Caleb also hopes to develop his teleportation skills, so that he can go to the set of *Lost*, beat up the screenwriters, and find out everything.

Caleb, brother of Faith, has found his first semester of greater independence to be faith-grounding. In contrast to his high school days, he now attends a Christian fellowship out of his own free will. (His parents' involvement in his home youth group made him feel a little pressured at times.)

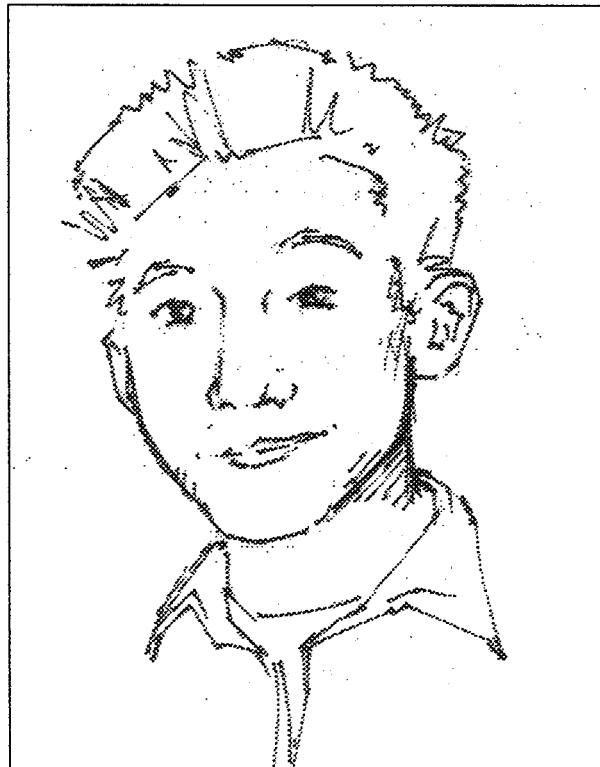
[*Can you find the ten word associations?*] If you jump in front of Caleb while waving your hands over his head and chanting the word "orange," Caleb would immediately think, "fruit." If you hold up a sign with "platypus" scrawled on it for Caleb to see, Caleb would scream back, "bill!" If you wore socks and pointed them out to Caleb, he would point out something white and baseball-team-related. If you tied Caleb to a chair and made him listen to opera for 24 hours straight, he would probably fall asleep and dream of large opera singers. If you served Caleb some eggs, he would ask you to throw in a side of platypus (a live one, to pet). When Alex and Matt introduced this year's CBS theme, "be," Caleb was pondering "not to be." If you toilet-papered a tree outside Caleb's window, he'd wake up and lob corn at the branches. If you happened to say "doorknob" within earshot, Caleb would likely run to the nearest doorknob to avoid being punched (if he happened to be battling an onslaught of flatulence). If you wrote "ace" on a piece of paper, Caleb

might fold it into a plane and launch it from the top of McGraw Tower. Finally, if you happened to be born with green skin, Caleb would wonder about your planet of origin.

Like all azns, the Great Klub has a superpower. The POWER to BEND THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM! ::rumble rumble:: With that super-powerful power that powers all that he does (powerfully), Caleb can extend his powers of procrastination to unheard-of extremes. By procrastinating until the last minute and then stopping time, Caleb can fulfill his responsibilities of procrastination while completing entire volumes of [biological and societal] literary masterpieces in an instant!

Although the Great Klub is great, he's a pretty down-to-earth guy. Adoring fans may be shocked to learn that there is a softer side to the space-time-continuum-bending- dude also known as Caleb, one that enjoys reading the *Berenstain Bears*.

As this glimpse into Caleb's soul draws to a close, take a moment to look around and see if he's nearby. If he is, put this down, get up, and run to him with open arms. Or just say "hey" and get to know him (if you are currently unacquainted). And remember, despite his superpowers, he's one of us.



Name:

Cathy You

Nickname:

Cathy You

Major/School:

Undecided

Hometown:

Salt Lake City, Utah

Favorite bubble tea

Taro milk black, honeymelon milk black

Favorite quote:

Can't think of one on the top of my head actually

Favorite bible verse:

Not really familiar with any (not Christian, but wants to know more)

Favorite worship song:

"Marvelous Light"

One word that best describes you:

Sporadic

If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

Anywhere....my own bedroom instead of this dorm room

Most memorable freshman year memory:

Definitely tonight, 3 of us cooking microwavable macaroni and cheese at 2 am in the morning, because of our project.

Like the most and least about Cornell:*Most:* people, bubble tea, and libraries*Least:* weather**What was your first impression of CBS? And how has it change throughout this past semester?**

Very friendly and welcoming; throughout this semester, I see a lot more personality in CBS than in the beginning. I like the different things you guys plan every week

Word Association

Orange: fruit

Platypus: plate

Socks: dirty

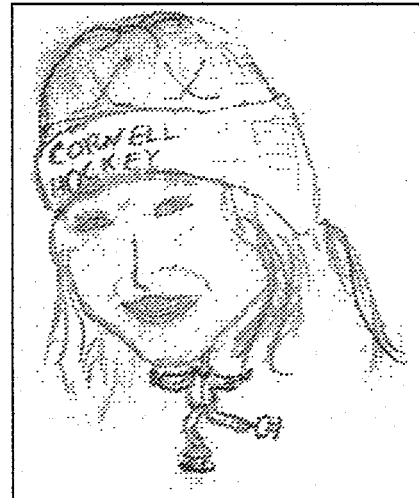
Opera: weird

Eggs: slimy

Be: existence

Toilet paper: soft

Doorknob: cold



Throughout this semester, I see a lot more personality in CBS than in the beginning.

The first thing that sticks out when you meet Dave is that he's tall—6'3" without shoes to be exact. The second thing you learn within ten seconds of meeting him is that he's from Ohio. How could you forget with him proudly sporting his OSU Buckeyes beanie around Cornell's campus?

His first impression when he came to Cornell was that there were so many hills. Compared to his hometown, Ithaca was mountainous terrain, which made going to class annoying. But even though he dislikes the hills and his freshman writing seminar in which his class reads "weird books," Dave doesn't regret his decision to come here. As a person who loves people, he's beginning to find a home away from home.

It all started when Dave first discovered Okenshield's, where he had lunch and randomly found a seat next to Xi. To his surprise, Xi struck up a conversation and invited Dave to come out to CBS. Even though Dave thought Xi's invitation was a little weird, he decided to give it a shot.

It's pretty awesome how everything worked out so well because Dave was learning at the same time that he was taking things for granted. Having been raised a Christian, he didn't realize how blessed he was back home where he had his family and church. He and his youth group were really close, hanging out frequently at China buffet, the movie theater, Wendy's, and people's houses. Most of the kids in his youth group were younger than he was, so he was more like an older brother to them.

...outgoing, insightful,
and "dorkus."

After coming to Cornell, everything seemed to be different.

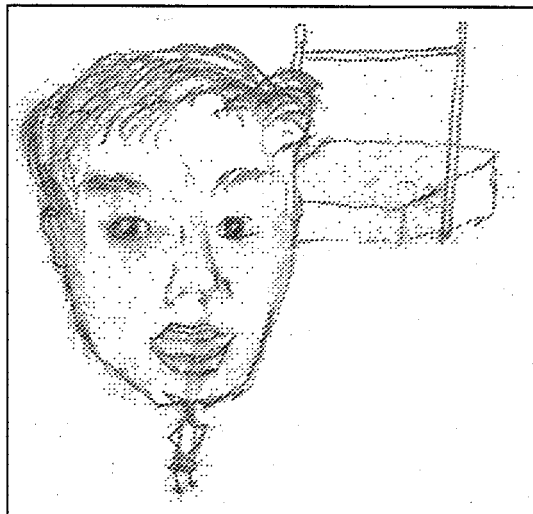
One thing Dave's been coming to understand, however, is that God is the same—it's just that He's seen and experienced in different ways. And although he thinks Asian people are weird, he's been finding that they're nice once you get to know them. He's even beginning to have that sense of family in CBS, where people

look out for each other. One night after a Wednesday night dinner, he was really touched that a group of CBSers came to visit him at his dorm.

As Dave's becoming more comfortable at Cornell, he's finding himself opening up more. He'll even tell you what his favorite superpower is—flying because he'd love to get to places faster. This isn't to say that Dave is slow because he's not; actually, Dave can run a sub-six minute mile, so all you runners should drag Dave to go running with you. He needs it because he's been lazy this semester—so lazy that the only place he'd rather be right now is his bed.

Unfortunately, his laziness has carried over to his schoolwork, and the only thing he wants to do in the next three years is to get through finals week this year. It's a good thing Dave loves the people at Cornell because they're what have gotten him through his first semester. Hanging out with them—just being with them—is what drives Dave. I think his friends must feel the same way about him. Always smiling, Dave can't help but energize those around him. One of his friends described Dave as outgoing, insightful, and "dorkus." After meeting with him, I think that's about right.

I was glad we got to talk beyond the standard interview questions because then I wouldn't have learned that he's allergic to grass, that he's the oldest of three children, or that his father and mother are in full-time ministry.





Eric may be quiet, but he's actually a man of many dimensions, so let's take a quick look at this cool freshman from San Jose.

An independent spirit at heart, Eric came to Cornell hoping to meet new people. But he soon realized that he could not click with Cornell people as well as with people back home. Nonetheless, he has already made many promising relationships with people in CBS and looks forward to developing them next semester. As for his impressions of Ithaca weather, he loves it and hates it – a pretty appropriate response for Ithaca's random weather. Looking ahead, he hopes to go skydiving and to take a cross country road trip from California to New York before he graduates. Soon he will conquer both sky and land. See, Eric is three-dimensional!

So let's get serious. Eric learned this semester that God has a specific purpose for him, that He has a set place for Eric to go in life. At home, Eric was both a leader and a teacher at his fellowship. Here in CBS, however, Eric has been humble enough to allow us to teach him and feed him our wisdom. It's comforting to know that we have not only fun, but godly freshman like Eric.

Now let's have some fun. Eric is actually a pretty goofy kid, just like his favorite cartoon character, Naruto. In fact, he once

He loves and hates Ithaca's weather - a pretty appropriate response its randomness.

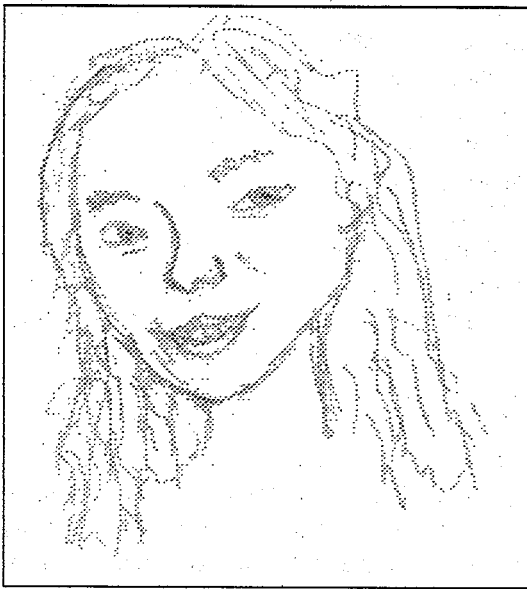
styled his hair to be spiky and wild like Naruto's. As for his dream superpower, Naruto, er, I mean Eric, wishes to have time-freezing abilities, to be able to stop time whenever he wants. This ability, he reasons, defeats all other superpowers because no one can beat you if you can control time. How smart! Eric also wants to go to New Zealand. "Why New Zealand?" I ask. So Eric answers, "Cuz there's a lot of sheep there, and I wanna see a lot of sheep. Yeah, that's why."

Interesting.

Anyway, our brief tour of Eric is over. He's pretty cool, wouldn't you agree? He's at CBS pretty much every week, so if you haven't, get around to talking to him. You will be inspired.

Word associations:

Orange: peel
 Platypus: duck
 Socks: stinky
 Opera: annoying
 Eggs: on my window (long story, those mischievous pranksters!)
 Toilet paper: good stuff
 Doorknob: safety
 Ace: cards
 Green: happy (the color reminds him of beautiful scenery, which he loves to draw)



Me: What was (were) your first impression(s) of Cornell?

Esther: A lot of green spaces and grass. I really enjoyed the scenery, the building architecture, and the people are very nice.

Me: What do you like and hate (dislike...?) about Cornell?

Esther: I like the food, especially Appel Commons. I like that the people aren't too "preppy", in terms of their style and dress, and attitude; more laid-back and not always sporting A+F. I like my major (CRP) and College (AAP) because it's centralized and not too large, so that you get to know your department – the faculty and students, intimately. I also like my dorm, HILC (Holland International Living Center). There are so many activities and things to do, and lots of opportunities to get to know people. I dislike the weather – it's too cold. I also don't like the expense of Cornell – tuition, food, etc.

Me: If you could do one thing (anything!) before you graduate (...in three years), what would you do?

Esther: I would definitely like to study abroad through the Rome Program!

Me: What has God shown/taught you this year (so far)?

Esther: God has been showing me that there is only comfort in and through Him. I've been learning a lot through my past, in those struggles and hardships, and the pain that

I've experienced in that. I am learning to depend more on God in all things. I also believe that God wants me to be a witness to the people in my dorm.

Me: How has your experience here in CBS been different from your experience(s) at home (in church, youth group, etc)?

Esther: Fellowship is a new concept to me. I never experienced it before back at my home church. I have attended the Christian Club at my school, and joined choir at my church, but CBS is much different. I think that CBS is very well-organized for a student-run organization. I am also seeing the differences through CBS in being an individual and being in a family.

WORD ASSOCIATION, YEAH!

Orange: Sweater

Platypus: Australia – I've seen them in person!

Socks: Snow

Opera: Phantom of the Opera

Eggs: Scrambled

Be: Myself

Toilet paper: For crying

Doorknob: Locked

Ace: Rarely Attend

Green: Beautiful Color

Me: What superpower/mutation (in manner of X-Men, etc) would you want to have?

Esther: I would have temperature powers – heating and freezing, probably to use to keep myself warm.

Me: Which cartoon character would you be, if you could be a cartoon?

Esther: Either Bugs Bunny or Dot, from Animaniacs.

Me: If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

Esther: I would go back in time. I want to go back to the Tang Dynasty, visit ancient China to see the culture, and the Tang Dynasty because of the literary enlightenment, and to see the great poems since many of them are gone now because time has deteriorated them. I would also like to visit ancient Greece to see their city planning.

On the last day of classes I got a chance to have lunch with Eugene Cha. Eugene's a pretty chill guy. It's probably because he used to live in California, although he was born in Oklahoma and has spent time in Korea too. He likes to listen to rap and break dance (not hip-hop, get it straight folks). Listening to Eugene talk about his activities on-campus, it sounded like he was having a blast here. But this being an interview, I had to ask him for the juicy details.

Me: Why did you choose to come to Cornell?

Eugene: I don't really know. It was either UCSD or Cornell. I didn't want to stay in the west coast and wanted to see the east coast. Cornell is also academically diverse. I really wanted to be part of it. There's a lot of research here for students to participate in. When I first came, I also thought it was really beautiful. San Diego is a city, and not as secluded as Cornell.

Me: What do you like or hate about Cornell?

Eugene: I don't like the bleak and cloudy weather. But the rainbow last week was so amazing! After that, I thought, Cornell is really cool. I guess Cornell is also really academically rigorous, and there are a lot of people who are interested in what you are interested in too. Oh, and APPLE CIDER. I have never tasted apple cider like this anywhere before.

Me: What has God shown or taught you so far here at Cornell?

Eugene: Last Sunday at church, we talked about what we were thankful for. God has taught me about unexpected blessings. I didn't think that coming to Cornell or going to SD would be distinguishable, but God has really blessed me here. I feel that God has led me here for a purpose.

Me: Hey, have you ever heard of word association?

Eugene: Yea, it's like when you say a word and I think of another word.

Me: Yes, exactly. You ready? (*starts to grin*)

Platypus: What's a platypus??

Socks: Rocks (*OH! and platypus!)

Opera: Fat

Be: Is it 'be' as in the letter 'b'? (**Me:** Just answer as is man!) uhh Bum.

Toilet Paper: Three fold

Doorknob: Stalker

Me: If you could have any power or mutation, what would it be?

Eugene: Aww... That's so hard... Oh! I would have teleportation. I could go back to California whenever I want and I would not have to run to class everyday.

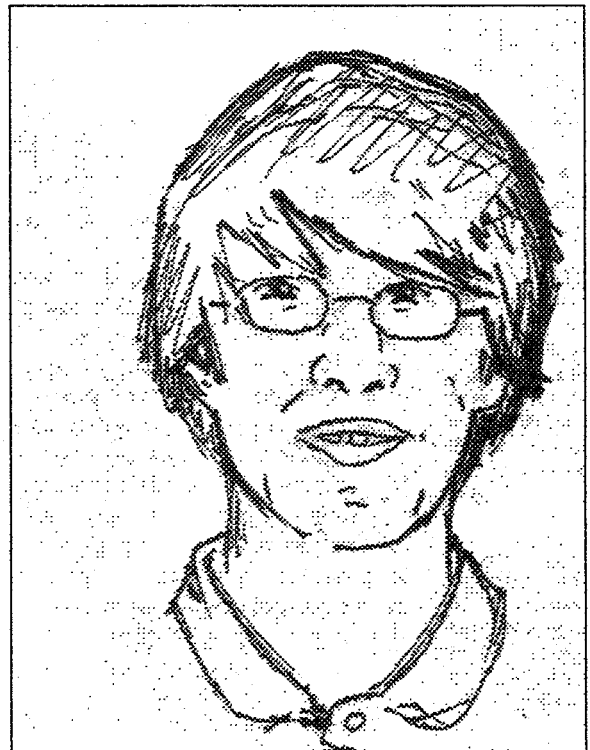
Me: If you could go anywhere, whether real or fictional, where would it be?

Eugene: I'd go to *Verde*. It's a café in Mountain View, California. It has the best pearl milk tea ever! It's better than *TapEx* (which stands for *Tapioca Express*).

Me: Do you have any favorite picture books?

Eugene: There's so many! Oh! The Giving Tree! I like Shel Silverstein. After reading it, I felt like everyone can give even though you don't think you have anything to give. There's always something you can do for other people.

Ain't that the truth? Just listening to our brother say that reminded me of how we need to serve each other and be there for one another, especially when things get tough. Don't miss getting to know Eugene. I know I was blessed after talking to him, and I know you guys will be too. =)



Wednesday afternoon. Grace has just come from a bio tutoring session of some sort... When did the freshmen become so studious? After some teasing of her uber responsible work habits*, we get to the important questions.

What do you like about Cornell?

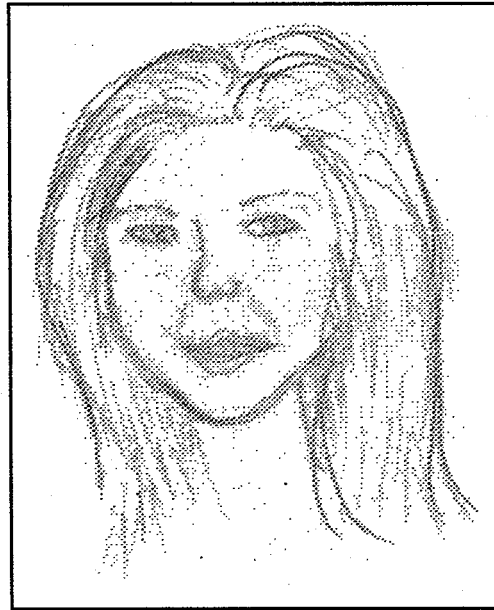
Grace is quick to smile as she responds: "People of CBS =)" (but we'll get into that later). With regards to classes, she explains that "Classes are challenging, but I feel like Cornell is really pushing me to learn a lot. I find it refreshing." She's close to admitting that she didn't learn much in high school before she catches herself and says, "I'm just learning to study better here."

If you could do one thing (anything!) before you graduate, what would you do?

There's a whole list of things, starting now: study abroad, research, branching out into her artistic and gothic side. She loves writing, and wants to do as much of it as possible at Cornell. Her goal is to write a play or short story about a gothic girl – a side of her we've never seen before. ("There's an inner side of me that's dark and emo," she says. Who knew?) May I also add: She writes poems about monks too.

What has God shown or taught you this year?

"Oh gosh, so much!" First, God's been teaching Grace the importance of fellowship and family. "CBS was amazingly caring and loving the moment I got here. I've been more inspired to seek my spiritual side and read my bible more." She attributes the change to being surrounded by more people who motivate her to seek God out. Second, she's been learning to practice Christ-like love and patience. Take it from her: "Just pray and ask God to fill you with His grace and hopefully [it] will come out. Sometimes it's just actions verses words. Sometimes you just have to ask even if it seems more against your will to be kinder. Hopefully your mindset will change following that."



So how did your nickname "Megaman" come about?

"So I was at a CBS dinner and Spock asked me what my middle name was. I replied 'Megumi'. He thought he heard 'Megaman'. And that's how it all began..I actually had to Google him to find how he was a real thing. "I love it." [Why?] "Because it's so.. MANLY. No I'm kidding. I just like it because it makes me happy. Like a kid again."

*When I ask her if she *really* studies 2 weeks in advance, she excitedly replies, "At least!"

The Words (in this order)

Orange: Juice
Platypus: gray
Socks: knitting
Opera: fat lady
 (original answer: fat person)
Eggs: chickens
Toilet paper: soft
Doorknob: metal
Green: recycling

On a relaxing afternoon back from Thanksgiving break, I had the privilege to meet up with Janice over a hearty pasta meal at MACs. With the world news scrolling on the TVs and the sun shining through the windows, it was a pretty chill atmosphere: perfect for getting to know a pretty chill Janice. Her first impression of Cornell was that it is a really dreary place. When she visited for Cornell Days in the spring, the trees were dead and the typical Ithaca rain was pouring down hard. However, she was impressed with Balch Hall; she heard that there were fireplaces inside, and so she envisioned it being mansion-like. This was enough to convince her to request for residence there and she now lives happily on the fifth floor! If she could do one thing in the next three years, it would have to be multiple things: gorge jump, milk cows, live in Statler, and play the chimes.

God has already taught her abundantly: one thing she's learned is that we can only go so far in understanding the Bible without input from others. Through her fellowship attendance, Bible study, and church, God has helped her to see and learn at a much faster pace than before, and has convicted her. Janice has learned that academics can so easily become an idol. God has called us to glorify Him through the gifts He has freely given us and one of them is academia, common to Cornellians. Janice has been learning that there is danger in this because academics can become so high on our priority list that it becomes an idol.

Orange: morning (...or Jenn Su)

Platypus: mammal

Socks: mismatch

Opera: Beijing opera

Eggs: humpty dumpty

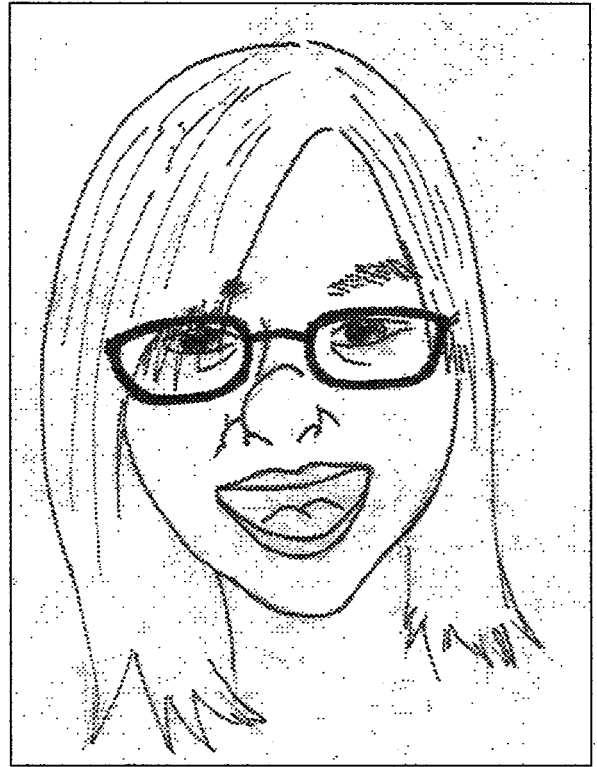
Be: CBS

Toilet paper: Balch (explanation: there are articles that she does not like to read, but that are in their stalls)

Doorknob: bacteria

Ace: Mafia (which she requests to play the next game there is)

Green: her favorite color (the color of her room at home)



She heard that there were fireplaces inside Balch, and so she envisioned it being mansion-like.

If she could go anywhere right now, she would like to go to Rivendell, the place in *Lord of the Rings* where the elves live. She likes to draw dogs. One thing she came up with while doodling as a fifth grader (which I think is pretty cool):

Luckily, the day before we headed home for Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to sit down with Jefferson to talk about how things are going. He is currently majoring in Biological and Environmental Engineering, possibly minoring in Biomedical Engineering. He comes to us from Kansas City, Missouri. Now, his new home is Clara Dickson Hall, and he welcomes all visitors.

His first impressions of Cornell, like many of our own, were that it was really big and open and that students had a lot of independence. He also noticed that there are a lot of Asians, but he feels everyone is smarter than him. He enjoys the numerous fellowships and churches around Cornell; people are fun-loving and he is taller than most of the upperclassmen. This year, Jefferson feels that God has taught and showed him that He can use people, especially upperclassmen, to serve Him in a variety of ways. Thinking back on his past experiences, CBS has many more things to do and everything is much closer and more available for him to take part in.

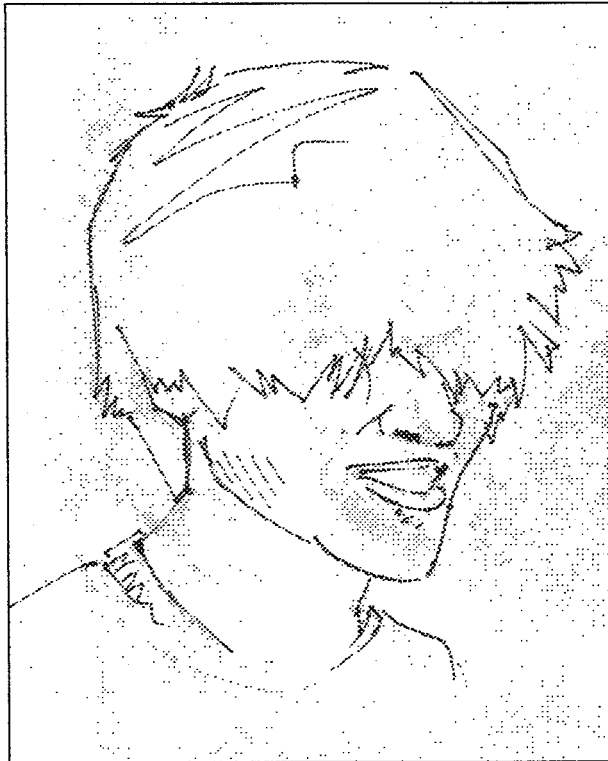
When the following words are mentioned, he thinks of these things. Eggs: "Tasty"; Toilet Paper: "Be a man, use your hand"; Orange: "The color his oranges should have been at lunch"; Platypus: "Peter Chin". Very unusual responses. He also believes that he doesn't need a superpower because he believes he is amazing enough without one. His favorite picture book from his childhood was "Captain Underpants" because Captain Underpants was a hero who wasn't afraid

to wear some tighty-whities to battle against the evil villains in school.

If Jefferson had the opportunity to go to anywhere he'd like, real or fictional, he'd want to go to his fridge because all his food is in there, and thus, he would be able to gorge himself.

The final question I asked was about his most embarrassing moment. It happened this summer while working at his aunt's restaurant. He was trying to serve drinks to customers at a table and accidentally spilled them. He then tried to serve them new drinks, but once again he lost his balance and spilled the drinks.

It was a pleasure talking to Jefferson and I hope he enjoys the rest of his four years at Cornell!



Captain Underpants was a hero who wasn't afraid to wear some tighty-whities to battle against the evil villains in school.

This reporter was given the task of tracking down and interviewing the freshman commonly known as "Judy." In order to accommodate a hectic schedule and looming deadline, the following interview was interspersed with Nutrition note-taking.

Me: You're looking at facebook instead of taking notes. How addicted are you?

Judy: I'm not addicted!

Me: LIES! Let's check facebook and see when you last updated.

Judy: Fine you do it.

Me: Okay, let's ask a real question. What was your first impression of Cornell?

Judy: Very high-pressured. Everyone's premed or engineer. People don't sleep before 12.

Me: What keen observations. How is CBS different from other Christian groups?

Judy: At my youth group, we always break into small groups to discuss a passage or discuss highs/lows for the week. At CBS, we have speakers, which I think makes the group more mature because discussion comes in during Bible study and prayer meeting.

Me: What would you say God's taught or shown you this year so far?

Judy: God has shown me how Christians from all over the country can interact and become a family despite the different cultures and ways we were brought up and how to depend on Him despite how far I am from home and problems that exist at home.

Me: CBSers have a tendency to give its members nicknames. What are some of the endearing names you have been given? Do you like them?

Judy: This one girl calls me Kenny. I don't know if it's endearing, considering he gets killed often. My friends at home call me "Jude" or "Judes" like *joods*.

Me: Would you like to be called that?

Judy: Sure.

Me: Aren't you also known as 'little lamb' (in Mandarin)?

Judy: Oh yes! The first one I was given by Alex Lee and Joe Chang.

Me: Let's play word association. Tell me the first thing that comes to mind.

Platypus: Bill

Socks: Cat

Eggs: and ham

Be: happy

Toilet paper: needed

Doorknob: Kissing Doorknobs

Me: If you could go anywhere right now, real or fiction, where would you go?

Judy: I'm reading a book called The Eyre Affair set in the 1800s in England with futuristic inventions, so I'd like to go to that time to check them out. There's a car that blends into its surroundings and worms that gives synonyms to word that you tell them.

Judy returns to taking her notes. Never mind, she's on AIM, but she'd like me to note that she's taking more notes than Jovi and myself combined.

My friends at home call me "Jude" or "Judes" like *joods*.



You wouldn't be able to tell, but at one point, Kathleen Chang didn't like Cornell. In fact she didn't like it so much that if Cornell were a person, she would, "Drop-kick him right in his teeth." Also, for her first 5 prelims, Kathleen loathed Cornell so much that instead of filling out her name on her Scantron, she'd just bubble in 'School Sucks'.

Actually those last two sentences were complete lies, but it is true that Kathleen did have a difficult time getting adjusted to the bizarre town of Ithaca, NY. Having heavily considered many other schools that all had great reputations and experiences to offer, it's rather odd that Kathleen ended up at Cornell: a school that failed to make any sort of impression on her despite her having a sister who was an alumna. Despite having a tough time leaving her friends and sunny California, she eventually decided that Cornell might be the best school for her to grow and be challenged at, especially in trusting God at times when she's not too sure what's going to happen.

After being here for a full semester, Kathleen's experienced some upsides. One thing she appreciates is the size of Cornell's student body. At smaller schools, she mentions that there are inevitable restrictions on who you interact with, while at Cornell you get to interact with a variety of people: from the normal to the freaks, to the normally freaky CBSers, all adding spice to her life. On the flipside, she definitely wasn't expecting to study so much, though she does eventually want to plan a sleepover at a library sometime before she graduates. No books though; just hair curlers, back issues of *Seventeen*, and stories about boys! Just kidding.

Kathleen has a plethora of refreshing quirks as well: the superpower she'd like to have is the ability to eat and not get full. An interesting choice; since last I heard, Really Hungry Guy still wasn't one of the X-men. When pushed to explain why she'd choose such an obscure "superpower", Kathleen mentions that with great power comes great responsibility, and well... she's a Chem. major, and she ain't no

superhero, so a not-so-"great" superpower suits her plenty fine.

So despite a bit of a rough start, Kathleen is getting adjusted to Cornell, settling in a bit and even actually enjoying it. When asked if she regrets her decision, she says she doesn't, despite that she still understandably misses home. After a semester's worth of time, she's met some great people and made some great friends, and she's been learning to trust God with some big decisions in her life. Overall, Kathleen seems to have acclimated herself well to the college life, and these next three and a half years are certain to be filled with lessons to be learned and memories to be made.

Word Association

Orange: Orange - "Oranges are orange..."

Platypus: Duck

Socks: Smelly

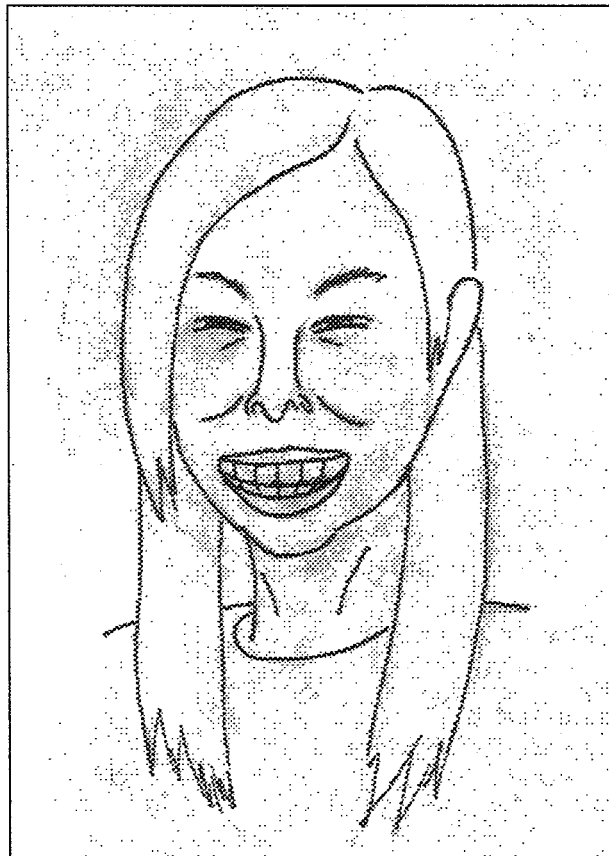
Opera: Kathleen Battle

Toilet Paper: Poo

Doorknob: Safety

Random Questions

Which cartoon character would you like to be? – Kakashi, of Naruto fame.



Cathy: What was your first impression of Cornell?

Kathy: Cornell seemed very busy and noisy (Really? I thought Ithaca was slow, hee hee). Everyone was kind of doing his or her own thing and was running around a lot. I saw movement everywhere, rushing to different places.

C: What do you like and dislike about Cornell?

K: I like the little corners where I can write or listen to music. Like the library or somewhere outside. Even though there are so many people, I can find my own area to relax. I dislike having to climb up so many stairs. Down hills are deceptive because you have to go uphill eventually

C: If you could do one thing before you graduate, what would you do?

K: I would start a local kids' music group, like a music studio for kids to learn about music. (I hear Kathy's pretty smooth on the piano and that her beats will make you want to groove).

C: What has God taught you this year so far?

K: God has taught me a lot about patience, especially during times when school work gets rough. I'm learning to not get ahead of myself and not psyching myself out either, especially with circumstances at home. I'm learning to trust in Him.

C: How has your experience here in CBS been different from your experience at home?

K: My home church was very lively and loud. CBS is more toned down, less loud. It's also different not having a youth director or youth pastor and having it mostly run by students. I like how CBS is structured because it gives us the chance to step up and organize; it includes everyone.

C: Okay. It's word association time. I'm going to spit out a word, and you spit one back at me. Okay... GO!

Orange: Juice

Platypus: Ugly

Opera: Phantom

Eggs: Smelly

Be: Lively

Toilet paper: Soft

Doorknob: Fart (Eee hee hee, fart...Whoops...)

Green: Eileen

Cathy Lii: Piercings

C: Great. Super. Now...What superpower would you want to have?

K: Invisibility. I want to be able to listen to other people's conversations. And I have to go to class and I get bored, I can leave without anybody noticing.

C: Which cartoon character would you be, if you could be a cartoon?

K: Miss Frizzle because she can do all these crazy things. I loved that show as a kid. (What do you know? Me too! Cathy and Kathy have so much in common!)

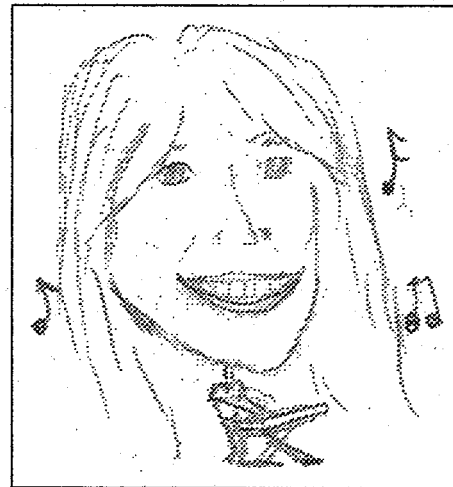
C: If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

K: I'd visit Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. I'd check out the invention room and see what Willy Wonka was up to.

C: What is your favorite picture book?

K: Officer Buckle and Gloria. (Has anybody heard of this? I don't know what it is.)

And so that concludes a special interview with kool Kathy. Get to know her! She's kool!
:D



Name:

Lydia Ma

Nickname:

Lydia Ma

Major/School:

PAM (Policy Analysis and Management)/Human Ecology

Hometown:

Toronto

Favorite bubble tea:

Honey Green Tea

Favorite quote:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Favorite bible verse:

1 Corinthians 10:13

Favorite worship song:

"Always" - Hillsong

Random fact:

I REALLY like cheese

One word that best describes you:

distracted

If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

Panama...to wait for Michael Scofield/Wentworth Miller

Most memorable freshman year memory:

CBS-ers surprising me with the HUGEST cookie I've ever seen in my life on my birthday

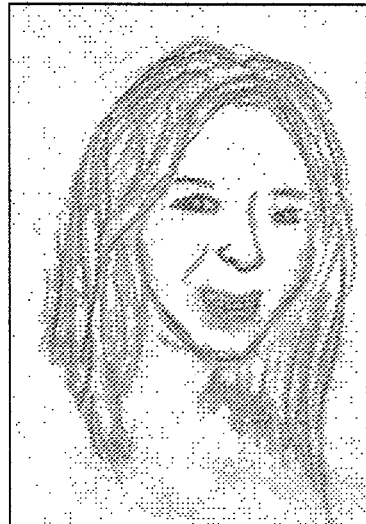
Like the most and least about Cornell:

Like: Seattle's Best Coffee

Don't like: rain

What was your first impression of CBS? And how has it change throughout this past semester?

You guys are awesome...and you're still awesome



"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Cor 10:13

Orange: orange

Platypus: Australia

Socks: shoes

Opera: phantom

Eggs: scrambled

Be: yourself

Toilet paper: washrooms

Doorknob: door

Ace: four square

Green: light



Reports of Cloning at Cornell Debunked

Lately, rumor has it that researchers at Cornell have successfully cloned a human. You might have even seen what appears to be two Terence Moys on campus. Let me assure you that cloning has NOT yet been perfected. That extra Terence around Cornell is actually Treyton Moy. Although Treyton may not be Terence's clone, it turns out that the two of them are brothers (which explains the amazing resemblance!). According to Treyton, it's not uncommon for people—even those that have known them for a long time—to mistake one for the other.

Treyton has enjoyed his time here; he laments: "it's definitely gone by too quickly." One major reason why Treyton has had such a positive experience here is the people: "[There's] just so many different people to meet...and how friendly everyone has been, especially upperclassmen. It's been fun getting used to everything...being on your own...hanging out with different people...and just growing as a person."

As far as goals, this Applied Economics and Management (AEM) major is interested in something related to business management or finance. Going to the top of McGraw tower, gorge jumping, and traying down Libe are some of his other non-academic goals. Seeing as how he still has seven semesters here to complete

his goals (and formulate newer and crazier goals...i.e. staying up 78 hours straight then going night running on a frozen Beebe lake), it's safe to say that he's going to have an insane time here.

Despite the fact that he's only been here for one semester, Treyton has definitely grown and learned a lot—spiritually at least:

"[I've learned] a lot of different things...definitely patience...like, realizing that things do not come by my own terms or what I want...I'm learning to rely more on Him and give up my own pride and put my trust more in Him. Also just the importance of spending time with Him—especially at college when really the choices are up to you, like if you love God and want to have a relationship you would talk to Him and obey His Word."

Word Associations

Socks: toilet paper

Be: I am

Toilet paper: socks

Ace: Jim Carrey

Green: Irish

Superpowers he wants: super speed and flight because "well it would just be so cool to be able to go anywhere anytime with no wait...and flying what's not cool about that...plus, one of my nicknames back home was Superman." And, if he does get super speed and flight, the first place he'd go to would be Disneyland. Overall, Treyton's fun-loving and hard-working ways combined with his sense of humor and more serious side makes him a very interesting freshman. We're very lucky to have him with us. And maybe, just maybe, people would stop mistaking him for his brother.

Walking to interview Victor at his room in Hi-Rise, I realized I haven't been there in 3 years. When I got there though, things didn't seem to change much. Sure the people are different, but the rooms are still messy, and there's still the same smell since my freshman year. I wasn't sure what to expect from the mild-mannered, NYC native. But after he started busting out grooves on my bass, I started thing there's more to him than meets the eye.

Me: So what do you hate/like about Cornell?

Victor: Oh I can give you the usual answers, like the weather. But man, the weather has been amazing lately. The work is what I expected, but I hate walking.

Me: If there's anything that you want to do before you leave Cornell, what would it be?

Victor: Hmm... I'm not sure. Does it have to be Cornell specific? What would you do?

Learn to cook, take Wines, maybe join the break-dancing club.

Me: Umm. I haven't done much here. I guess you could go to the Dairy Bar.

Victor: Well, I've done the usual stuff. I've climbed the clock tower, gone gorge jumping. Oh... If there was one thing though, I'd bring my car, go to an empty parking lot, and go drifting. But that's not really Cornell specific. I'd also join the ballroom club. It's pretty cool. Learn to juggle like Jefferson. Yea, just learn to cook, take Wines, maybe join the break-dancing club?

Me: I know there's a fellowship at Stuy. But what has God taught you about family at Cornell?

Victor: I really like the theme. You come here and the community up here is crazy. So many churches and fellowships, so family is fitting. I kind of experienced this in high school, but living with each other beyond fellowship in large group, hanging out, getting to know each other.

Me: It's time for word association!

Victor: Oh I did this for a psych experiment. I hope this is more meaningful and not like "ha let's laugh at silly freshman".

Platypus: Seal

Opera: Fat

Be: CBS

Doorknob: Fart

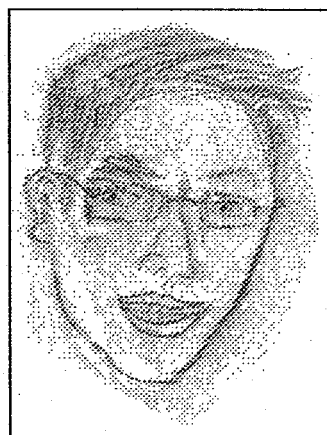
Me: Well that's it for that, if you had a superpower, what would it be?

Victor: Time travel, obviously! It beats everything. If superman tries to kill you, stop time and kill him as baby. And it's like that TV show "Heroes."

Me: If you could be anywhere, either real or fictional, where would you be?

Victor: I wouldn't want to go home yet. That would be boring. I probably go take tour of Europe to go skiing or jet skiing some place without work. I wanted to go, but I ended up going to Japan. It's such a different culture in Europe. They have public urinals in Sweden that pop out of the ground at night for drunks so they don't pee everywhere.

And there you have it folks. Victor, the doodling, bass playing time-traveler. Don't mess with him or he'll turn back time and make you take your prelims again. =)



Alex S. Lee: What was (were) your first impression(s) of Cornell?

Yvette: When I visited, it was really rainy so I didn't wanna come because I hate rain. My first impression when I actually got here, it was kind of small and the weather wasn't really that bad. But it was in the summer. There were a ton of international students, and the sunsets were really nice.

ASL: Ahh, Canadians. What do you like and dislike about Cornell?

Yvette: I like the people and professors. I like how it's on a hill. I like how there are a lot of fellowships. I like the squirrels and how they're everywhere. Oh, I like a bus that brings me to church! I like the *free* bus pass.

ASL: How about those black squirrels we have back in Toronto?

Yvette: They look weird now.

Yvette: I hate the weather after summer. I don't like how after a month nobody's friendly, I don't like my math homework. I don't like how they say "bathroom" instead of "washroom" here!

ASL: Amen, amen.

Yvette: One time at Risley I asked them where the washroom was and they brought me to the laundry. I thought they were being artsy. When I asked them again and they brought me to the same place, it clicked.

ASL: If you could do one thing (anything!) before you graduate (...in three years), what would you do?

Yvette: I dunno...get a crazy high GPA. [AWL, in the background: "Oh gosh."] Or attend all the lectures with really cool professors.

ASL: What has God shown/taught you this year (so far)?

Yvette: I learned to trust a lot more. That He answers prayer. Oh, and that my parents love me a lot. And that He prepares stuff in advance, like people that I live with and in my classes.

ASL: How has your experience here in CBS been different from your experience(s) at home (in church, youth group, etc)?

Yvette: CBS is a lot smaller. I like how it's smaller. It's much more personal. And there's sharing time, which I think is cool. The fact that it's like...allowed. Like how the university recognizes it as a club. Cuz in my old high school it wasn't allowed.

WORD ASSOCIATION, YEAH!

Platypus: - feet

Be: still

Toilet paper: I can't think of anything... but you can write yellow.

Doorknob: brown

Ace: hearts...oh wait, was that supposed to be like "After CBS Event"?

ASL: What superpower/mutation (in manner of X-Men, etc) would you want to have?

Yvette: To be like Princess Peach because she can take out anything she wants.

ASL: Wait, like in Super Mario?

AWL: Like what? Carrots?

Yvette: No, like frying pans and stuff. Haven't you played Super Smash Brothers??

AWL: What's the name of that vegetable?

Yvette: Turnips.

AWL: Yeah, I meant turnips.

Yvette: Just stop talking.

ASL: Which cartoon character would you be, if you could be a cartoon?

Yvette: I dunno...like, a Heffalump?

ASL: If you could go anywhere right now, real or fictional, where would you go?

Yvette: Hawaii.

ASL: What is your favorite picture book (from childhood or current)?

Yvette: Wind in the Willows... Does that count?



CENTRAL CAMPUS PRAYER MEETING

By Richard Yan

One of the coolest things you get to see when you go to prayer meetings is seeing how God answers prayer. I know that may seem obvious, but its one of the things that I know I tend to forget because unless the prayer is about me, then I struggle to remember to keep praying for it. This year, CCPMers have been praying a lot for God's direction and will for their lives. During the beginning of the year, a lot of the prayers were being focused on what God has in store for our lives this semester, how will some of us find jobs/internships, what is the vision for the semester both for our lives and for the fellowship. As the semester progressed, God was SO good. He gave peace to those who needed discernment about the vision for our fellowship. Brothers and sisters were able to find jobs or were learning to lift up the uncertainty of the future to God.

Looking back, I also saw God working in our hearts too. We began to move away from just praying for ourselves, and started praying more for a heart for how to take care and encourage other brothers and sisters. We started praying for those we were struggling to learn more about God, and those were just struggling spiritually. And again, God has blessed us. People have shared about opportunities where brothers and sisters had good conversations with struggling Christians and non-Christians. We also have a new sister in Christ! There's not much that can be more exciting than that =).

I guess through all the excitement, the end of the semester snuck up on us fast. But just because its nearing the end of our time here doesn't mean that we should stop praying. On the contrary! Keep praying! Even though we don't know how things will be, God will answer our prayers, maybe not in the way we expected, but don't ever doubt that it is not out of the goodness of God's love for us.

EARLY BIRD PRAYER MEETING

By Alice Hsu

"Praying at 8AM on Mondays and Fridays starts my week on the right perspective, reminding me that, 'hey, everything is going to be ok.' He's brought me through it all before, and He will be faithful once more. A lesson that I relearn each morning."

"I feel really blessed to have the privilege to pray with brothers and sisters — it has been a refreshing and encouraging time to go to prayer meetings in the morning!"

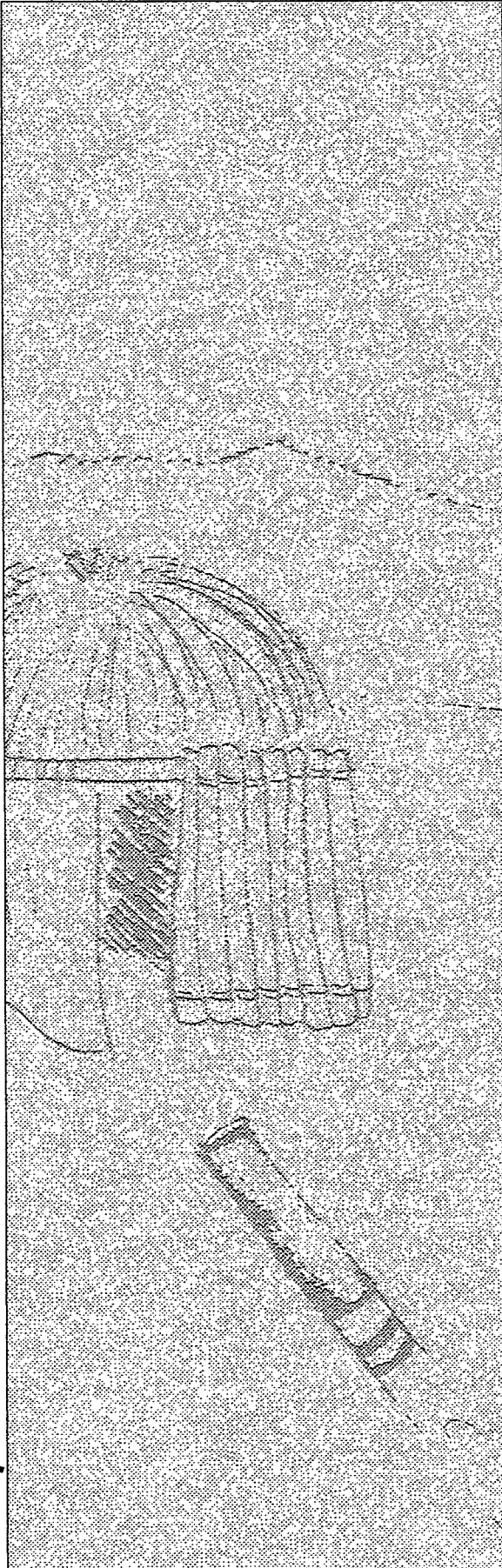
"Mornings are really tough for me since I don't look forward to going to morning classes, but EBPM has helped me look forward to early mornings. It's been a blessing to share prayer requests and praises."

COLLEGETOWN PRAYER MEETING

By Jason Kwong

I must say that this has been quite a challenge in my heart this semester, as Richard suddenly handed this off to me in the beginning of the year. It was neither something I expected nor something that I was experienced with, but I am glad that God has shown me so much grace in the process. Therefore, I am thankful for the few brothers and sisters that came out on Saturday mornings to encourage and refresh me after each week, and this is something I am sure that each person in the group can empathize with. Together we struggled, together we prayed, and together we worshipped God in the quietness of every Saturday morning, in hopes that He would strengthen each of us.

PRAYER BURBS



NORTH CAMPUS pRayer MEETING

By Sandy Zhao

For many eons...okay, weeks...there were consistently only four girls that attended North Campus Prayer Meeting, fondly known as NCPM (say it like it's spelled!). As for the guys, a regular group ranging from 7, to oh, about 10 graced us with their presence week after week. Needless to say, something had to be done. One by one, and maybe sometimes two by two, the girls trickled in. This past week, the score was settled. Girls: 10. And the total? About 20.

The spiritual growth experienced by NCPM attendees is even more amazing than the awesome numerical growth. God has brought us through interviews, rejections, failed prelims, heartache, and the challenges of stepping into the unknown. It has been a grueling process, but also edifying in that it has been shared. Praise the Lord for His wonderful ways of reminding us that we're not alone.

Even with a little friendly competition on the side, the most important thing is that however many girls or guys there are at NCPM, we can always count on God to be present...and that makes all the difference. Here's to more girls (and guys) to pray and encourage one another more in the future, at NCPM or elsewhere, always in obedience and the joy of serving our God as a family.

```
// The Gospel Code by Henry Wen

public final class God extends Nothing{

    Sin sin= null;
    Person i= new Person();
    int righteousness= Integer.MAX_VALUE+1;

    public
        boolean giveOnlySon(Sin mySin, int myRighteousness){
            if (i.believeInChrist()){
                this.sin= mySin;
                mySin.close();
                myRighteousness= this.righteousness;
                return true;
            }
            else
                return false;
        }
}

while(i.breathe && !i.believeInChrist()){
    if ((System.in).equals("Yes"))
        believeInChrist= true;
    for (;God_So_Loved_The_World;)
        boolean myLife= God.giveOnlySon(mySin, myRighteousness);
}
```

CREATIVE SUBMISSIONS

HENRY WEN
ANONYMOUS
GRACE CHEN
ERIC YEH

dRIVING it HOME

BY ANONYMOUS

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Do you believe that every soul is precious? Is every person, no matter how saintly or wretched, worth Christ's sacrifice? The answer, of course, is yes. But for some reason, when we get behind the wheel, we forget the worth of every life. We ignore the possible consequence of our actions, and drive like we're speeding through a video game.

There's just something about driving that seems to awaken an otherwise-latent fury in the driver-licensed public. In a rush to get somewhere, or in a state of driver's self-righteousness, we tend to rush the decisions that can determine the future of everyone around us. Cutting a corner here, rolling through a stop sign there, and pushing the speed limit may get you to your destination a couple minutes sooner, but they could very well result in damage to property and lives—God's property. Shooting a dirty look at a sluggish predecessor, shaking your head at another driver's mistake, or cursing at a particularly assertive person at a four-way-stop may boost your conviction that you drive better than most people, but we're fooling ourselves. There is only one true Judge.

What about the law enforcement personnel who look out for our safety every day? Do they deserve our boiling wrath when they drop a hefty fine on us for crossing the margins of safety? Or do they deserve our respect for doing their job, and ensuring a safe and peaceful community? The laws that the police enforce are there because we, a democratically governed people, put them there. Not only that, but God *commands* us to follow the government so long as it does not go against His word. Romans 13:1 states, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

But, in the end, how you drive is a measure of your value of human life. God has created each and every one of us in His image. He gave His one and only Son, so that we might return to Him and guide others to the living water as well. Why should we show any less concern for God's children on the road or in uniform?

SEEKING PURPOSE IN COLLEGE

BY GRACE CHEN

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One evening last summer, my high school friends and I realized that the days of being together were quickly coming to an end. In a mere matter of days, we would begin our foray into life as college students. As we discussed our future and our friendships, I happened to see Pastor Rick Warren's, *The Purpose Driven Life*, on a friend's bookshelf. I asked my friend, Jane, about her experience with the book, but she said that the book had merely been sitting on her shelf. An idea began to formulate in my mind. A local church in town had recently held a church-wide *The Purpose Driven Life* reading, in which members of the church gathered in groups to discuss the 40-day devotional readings of Warren's book. Knowing that many Christian students stop living a Christ-centered life during the college years, I suggested to my friend that we read through Warren's book during our first 40 days of college together and maintain accountability through the challenging transition to college.

On that summer evening, my friend—now at UC Berkeley—agreed to “meet” weekly through instant messenger, and hopefully grow, if even just a little, spiritually by the end of 40 days.

As of now, we're halfway through (yes, some procrastination was involved!) and we have made discoveries about how to structure a partnered devotion, and how to focus our relationship on Christ.

Week 1: What on Earth am I Here for?

At the close of the first week, Jane, and I found Warren's book refreshing and thought-provoking. We opened with an awkward opening prayer over instant messenger, but slowly we began to hit some deep questions as we considered the opening verse: “For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.”¹ Oftentimes, Jane and I find ourselves wanting to take control over all aspects of their lives, particularly in college. We try to find the “true meaning of life” by seeking achievement and success instead of remembering that God is in control. The first

chapter opened our eyes to an important reminder: “You cannot arrive at your life's purpose by starting with a focus on yourself. You must begin with God.” We discussed ways in which to remember our powerlessness in the face of God's hands, and the fact that He truly does know what's best for us.

Warren ends all his chapters with questions to ponder, and Jane and I began sharing our responses to: “How can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?” Somehow, our discussion led to the question: “Is it possible to forgive someone who has not apologized?” The question led to a foundation for giving ourselves assignments, in addition to the devotions. We made a plan to find an answer by asking around our respective campuses, and share with one another the following week.

In our devotions, we were reminded that God created us for His plan and purpose, and we must seek to glorify Him in all facets of our lives—even in daily routines.

Week 2: Purpose #1—You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

After smoothing out how we wanted to do our long-distance devotions together during the previous week, we found a chance to dig deeper not only into Warren's book, but into the Bible. While *Purpose* provided messages in clear, simple terms, Jane and I took to heart some of the criticisms of Warren's book and made an effort to remember to search the Bible for more complete words of wisdom.

One of the verses we came across was “the Lord will fulfill his purpose for me”². Like many young adults, we struggled with accepting aspects of ourselves. But we realized that every aspect of ourselves, be it our talents, physical features, or even our families are part of God's master plan. Rejecting what He has given us would distance us from Him. The inability to forgive others' transgressions would also impact our relationship with God. As a follow-up from the previous week, Jane and I shared the responses we received to our question: “Is it possible to forgive someone who does not apologize?” Her

SEEKING PURPOSE IN COLLEGE

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small group leaders had answered, "Ultimately it takes both parties to come together in agreement before forgiveness can occur." According to human nature, the ability to forgive those who have inflicted pain upon us (without an apology) is impossible. Yet as my bible study leader pointed out, all things through Christ are possible. Jesus' death has compensated for all transgressions, and therefore, through God, we can forgive. As Jane observed, however, how do we go about forgiving? We decided to search for answers in the following weeks by asking our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We ended our devotion with a prayer and plan to go through each day of the week conscious of God and look for opportunities to glorify him.

Week 3: Purpose #2—You Were Formed for God's Family

As Jane and I delved into the third week, we both felt that we had found a rhythm to devotions. We opened with a prayer thanking God for the blessings of good weather in the past week. She was grateful for the abundant sunshine at her Berkeley campus, while I was grateful for the beautiful fall weather (without rain!) here at Cornell.

I started the discussion by sharing what I had learned at CBS, when a pastor came to visit. The pastor had spoken about the importance of being honest *and* specific in our relationships with other Christians. Furthermore, he challenged us to confess our sins and struggles with our fellow brothers and sisters and "carry each other's burdens."³ Interestingly, Warren touched on many facets of the pastor's message in that week's reading. For Day 16, Warren stressed the importance of learning to love others in God's family. He wrote about how the first step to restoring relationships involves "admitting your mistakes or sin." Love, Warren said, also means taking the time to give ourselves to others. Similar to the pastor's message on how we need to stop committing "academic idolatry" and focus on building relationships, Warren encouraged us to shift our priorities to focus on sincerely building

...CONTINUED

a sense of community and family among fellow Christians. After the first commandment on loving the Lord with all your heart, Warren emphasized that, "learning to love others is the second purpose of your life."

Later in our discussion, Jane and I spoke of the times when we felt distanced from God. Day 14 addressed how God sometimes allows us to feel distanced from him in order to develop our faith. Warren used the story of Job to illustrate how we could still praise God, even when we did not understand challenging situations. A particular verse from the reading struck Jane. Job still managed to praise God, despite losing everything. "He fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.'⁴ Jane related the verse to her life, as she shared how the verse reminded her of how quickly God can take away things from our lives. Ms. Crandall, an art teacher from our high school, had died suddenly during our senior year. As a sophomore, however, Jane had been able to develop a friendship with her. While Jane was grateful to have known Ms. Crandall, her death—and the Bible verse—reminded her about how many things in our lives are transitory.

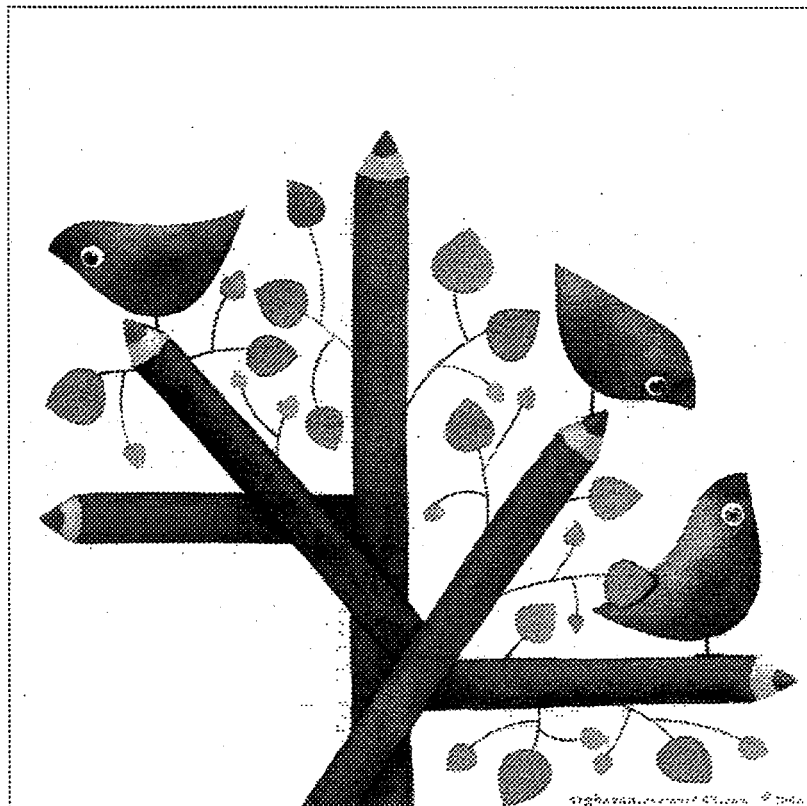
Despite the distance we sometimes feel between ourselves and God, Warren reminded us to continually remember God's presence every moment of our lives. In Day 11, Warren brings up the verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 about "praying without ceasing." We were instructed to meditate on God's word every chance we had, instead of wasting our thoughts on worries. Jane and I discussed methods of remembering God's presence and changing our attitudes about devotion time being an "appointment in our schedule." Jane, for instance, has started posting short verses on her dorm wall. During my walks to class, I had been consciously praising God in my mind as I admired the beautiful tableau He has created on Cornell's campus.

Even in our "amateur" beginnings of working through devotions together, God gave us an

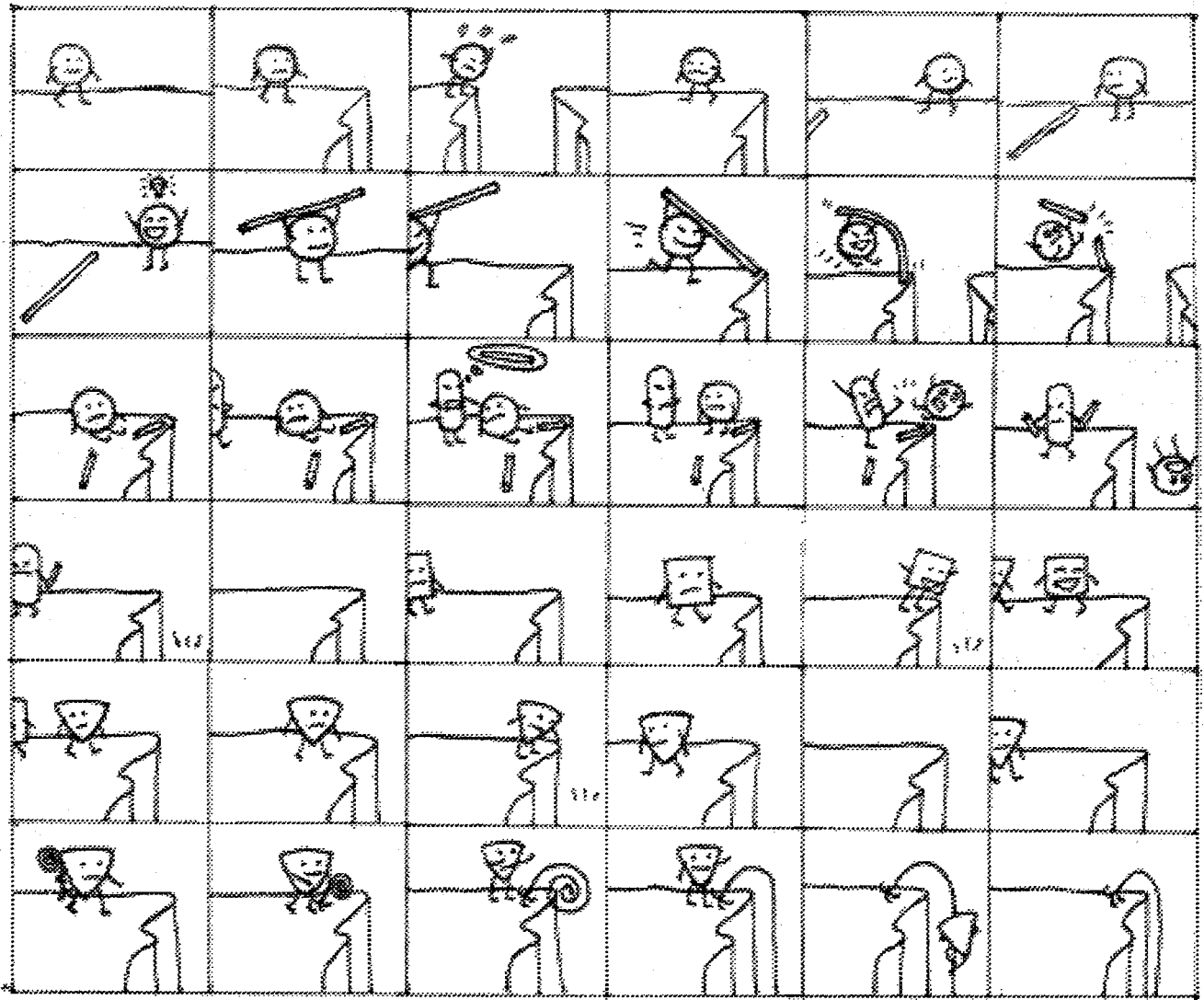
amazing opportunity to grow spiritually. As Jane and I closed the third week together, we reflected on how God had still strengthened our relationship despite the 3,000 miles separating us. As I reach the last half of *Purpose*, I look forward to seeing how God's word will shape our hearts. I also think of all the opportunities we have to read God's Word with brothers and sisters, not 3,000 miles away, but right here at Cornell.

Endnotes

1. Colossians 1:16 (MSG)
2. Psalm 138:8 (NIV)
3. Galatians 6:2 (NIV)
4. Job 1:20-21 (NIV)

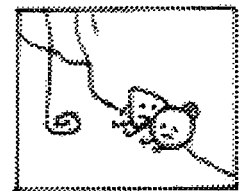


Permission given: artist, Christina Fabo



"Here we see what compassion means. It is not a bending toward the underprivileged from a privileged position; it is not a reaching out from on high to those who are less fortunate below; it is not a gesture of sympathy or pity for those who fail to make it in the upward pull. On the contrary, compassion means going directly to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there. God's compassion is total, absolute, unconditional, without reservation. It is the compassion of the one who keeps going to the most forgotten corners of the world, and who cannot rest as long as there are still human beings with tears in their eyes. It is the compassion of a God who does not merely act as a servant, but who expresses the divinity of God through servanthood."

-Henry Nouwen, Compassion



Yon-ting Eric Kuo 2/1/06