

# UCSD INTERVARSITY

Winter Newsletter 2008

The Students of Color Ministry meets weekly. This picture was taken at the last study of Winter quarter.



## It's a new season!

Greetings from UCSD! I know this update is long overdue, but I am still here, and God is good! These last few months have been full of challenges, changes, and a lot of work; but, God has been faithful through it all, as I am daily reminded of God's purposes for me and why I do what I do. Here are some new things from this past quarter.

Winter quarter started differently for me as I began supervising the Students of Color Ministry (SOC) in our fellowship. This community reaches out to underrepresented ethnic groups on campus, particularly Latino, Black, and Filipino students. The UCSD experience for many of these students can feel like being exiles from their homes as they are thrown in a predominantly East Asian/White campus. This difficult experience can cause many of these students to never find roots on the campus or all together leave school. In response to this, my vision for SOC stems out of Jeremiah 29:7 that this community would be like the "shalom" or peace of the campus and become a home for these students.

Personally, working with this ministry has been extremely challenging as there is a high cross cultural learning curve. I constantly have to remind myself to enter the group in a posture of learning and seeking to understand these students. I daily find my heart growing for these students and have a growing passion for more outreach to these students on campus. **Please pray** for me as I continue to work with SOC that God would really give me more wisdom and love, as well as empower these students to be a blessing on this campus.

## It's a new day!

My time with the worship team has been equally challenging as God has been stretching my perception of the role of the worship leader. In recent months, I've begun to ask the question of how raise up worship leaders who not only lead experientially, but who lead evangelistically (inviting non-Christians into God's presence) and multi-ethnically (inviting diverse groups into God's presence together). I've also grown to see the huge role the worship leader plays in teaching people about God. (Think about how many worship songs you can recite from memory compared to scripture passages). With that I've been convicted to continue to develop worship leaders as articulate speakers and teachers. **Please pray** as we begin pushing forward in growing in these areas. I am excited because I truly believe some of the vision God has been giving me for this ministry has the potential to truly bless the Church in the future.

Finally, we've just finished our leadership selection process for next year. We have over 130 leaders next year! It is amazing to see how God continues to bless our ministry and increase our capacity to minister to this campus. One huge praise is the 9 new SOC leaders God has brought up for next year (this is up from 2 leaders at the start of this year). I am super excited to begin working with these leaders in pushing forward with some of the hopes and vision God has given me for this ministry. **Please pray** for these leaders as they prepare for leadership and for protection as they go home this summer.

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile."  
Jeremiah 29

## Campus by the Sea Spring Break Retreat

Over spring break we brought about 90 students to spend a week doing inductive bible study on the book of Mark. We gave our students a blank manuscript (double spaced scripture with chapter, verses, paragraphs removed) and we spent a week together in class going through the scripture verse by verse. It was a powerful week of studying scripture together and allowing Jesus to change our hearts.

This was the first time I got to teach manuscript style bible study to students. It was such a joy to teach as God has been sparking in me a greater love for teaching his word. There is something life changing about studying scripture in its entirety, looking for major themes and really letting it inform and challenge our lives.

One of my favorite testimonies given at the end of the week was from a student who had been secretly struggling through months of suicidal depression. Through the week she felt like the Lord broke through the darkness and is still feeling free from that burden even weeks later.

**Praise God!** What a joy it is to share in His work of healing the broken.

## AALC: Asian American Leadership Conference

On April 4-5th InterVarsity co-hosted the San Diego Asian American Leadership Conference with local San



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**Student at AALC**



Diego Asian pastors and churches. It was encouraging to partner with the churches to put on this event. Speakers Dave Gibbons, Peter Cha, and Ken Fong exhorted the San Diego Asian American community to dream Godly dreams, to use our resources to advance God's Kingdom, to take risks in pursuing change in our churches and communities, and to live sacrificially for the Kingdom.

DJ Chuang, director of Asian American Church Research for L2 Foundation, comments on AALC:

*“Asian American collegians are seeking ways to live out the Gospel holistically, fighting injustices, and seriously exploring what to do with their lives to make a difference—dreaming big, not brainlessly opting-in to the default*

*career/family/suburban narrative. Very, very exciting to see! College years are the biggest window of opportunity to make a lifetime of difference, and they're about doing it! “*

Another conference attendee expressed, “I feel like something inside of me has reawakened. I actually feel like I care about stuff and I'm excited about the possibility of future callings.”

It was a vibrant atmosphere to be a part of as God mobilized this part of his church to yearn and live for more.

**Praise God** for the things he did in our hearts at AALC and for the partnership with local churches.

For audio recordings of the talks check out the AALC website at: <http://www.sdaalc.org>



### Financial Update

The fiscal year is coming to an end this June. This means I need to raise about \$7000 to cover the rest of my budget for this year. Would you consider a possible end of the school year gift to cover this shortfall. I would also appreciate any potential networks you may have to offer.

## Personal Update

This year has been a continual year of challenge and growth. Toward the end of last quarter I was seriously wondering why I chose to go down this path; however, the more and more I work with college students the more grateful I am to God for bringing me here. It's so exciting to think that from the students that come through our ministry will arise future world leaders. I am so grateful for all the things I have been learning on staff, and for the ways staff is preparing me for greater ministry in the future.

**Please pray** that I will continue to learn much and grow as a leader.

In April I celebrated my 23rd birthday. It was such a blessing to be honored and celebrated by my friends

here in San Diego. God never ceases to remind me of the amazing community I have down here. **Praise God!**

Finally, one of the things that has been worrying me more lately about staying on staff has been my fundraising. As my fiscal year ends I need to raise the shortfall to avoid going into next year with a deficit. It is so frustrating being underfunded, because it limits my hours I can spend doing ministry on campus with students. **Please pray** for my fundraising that God would truly provide a breakthrough in my funding before the end of June.

Once again, thank you all for your continued partnership, and I look forward to connecting with many of you this summer. **Blessings!**