

UCSD INTERVARSITY

Spring Quarter 2009

Students and me at our Spring Break camp. We spent 9 hours a day studying either the book of Mark or Genesis.



Stories of Transformation

One thing I love about the work God has called me to is that I am constantly reminded that His Kingdom is one of transformation. In the past quarter I've watched freshmen become leaders, perceptions of sexuality restored, and skeptics become Christ followers. It is a constant testimony that God is alive and still moving today!

Last month we finished our Sex and Dating series, Sex God. For 5 weeks we looked at what the bible has to say about our sexuality and what kind of advice it has to offer about dating. Relationships and sexuality are two of the biggest things our students wrestle with. And as the church often struggles to present a relevant view beyond the whole "just don't do it before marriage" statement, it is so vital to have honest talks with our students about a biblical view of sex.

Many students have been challenged by the series and now see a fuller picture of what sexuality and marriage in the Kingdom look like. After a talk about the biblical view of sex, a non-Christian who

was visiting even exclaimed that she had never heard a Christian talk about sex in that way and that it was refreshing! I saw her come back for the rest of the series. Many of our students felt challenged to flee from their sexual sin, find healing from their sexual brokenness, and date in ways that honor God and their boyfriend/girlfriend.

During Spring Break we took our students to our annual spring retreat up in the Palomar Mountains. During the week I led a class of students through an intensive study of the first half of Mark. On the first day of study, we studied the story of the leper and talked about old names and identities students were bringing into the camp. I had them write them on a name tag and wear it around for the day. Students wrote things such as "lonely," "clumsy," and "addict." At the end of the day I had them give up their old names and post them up. I told them that Jesus wanted to give them a new identity during the week and by the end of the week the whole class wore a new identity off the mountain! Students had new names such as "beloved," "fearless," "never alone." For many of the students in my class this transformation was powerful and even miraculous. They truly came one way and left transformed by the love of Jesus.

The rest of this newsletter is going to be two student testimonies from camp. Please be praying for these students as Jesus continues to work in their lives, and thank you for your continued prayer and support. These stories are the fruit of your labor of love, so THANK YOU!

Old identities that the students in my class gave to Jesus during Spring Camp.





“One truth that I realized is that He will always fulfill all the plans He has for me, all the works that He has started in me, He will make complete.”

-Phil Chen



Mark Camp Testimonies: Natalie Favorite

Check out these Spring Camp testimonies from Natalie and Phil:

“Going into Spring Retreat I wasn’t sure what to expect. I had heard that it was an intensive Bible study of the first half of Mark. I was excited, but not sure of what I was going to get out of it.

In five days, I encountered God in ways that I had never imagined I could. I saw God working through people and it inspired me to pursue Him harder... God showed me firsthand that as we draw near to each other in studying scripture, we encounter God. I now have a new family after we encountered Him together through His Scripture. I discovered that the Word is deeper than I had ever imagined, that God is so intentional, and that His Spirit shines throughout His Word.

Joe was an amazing leader who guided us through the manuscripts to really see who Jesus is... [And through this study] I have a new heart and new passion to pursue God with everything I have. He gave me the tools to be His warrior and His beloved child. And I see that if give my life and all that is in it to God, He will give me back so much more.

My relationship with God and my peers was greatly strengthened at Spring Retreat. And I now see people through new eyes and pursue God with a new heart...”

Phil Chen

Phil felt a really strong calling into the mission field during his week at camp. This is his story:

Mark 1 has been such a blessing!... I think God reiterated several themes to me through Mark 1. For one, God reminded me that He is faithful. It is so easy to forget that God is with me and for me every step of my life. But through studying the promises and prophecies He fulfilled in scripture reminded me of God’s continual faithfulness... He reminded me that He has plans to prosper me, plans to give me a great future and hope. On the last day, I got an image of a sheep on a trail, walking near the shepherd, constantly being distracted away from the path, but the shepherd always guides it back with his staff. One truth that I realized is that He will always fulfill all the plans He has for me, all the works that He has started in me, He will make complete.

Another theme Mark 1 has brought to my attention is pressing forward for the new and leaving the old behind. Mark 1 was a good time of reflection and trying to weed out the old “wineskins” in my life, giving everything, good and bad to God so that He could restore and bless me with more. Shortly after retreat, God gave me this cool one-liner for my journal. “Following Jesus is not living a life of continual sacrifice; it’s a lifestyle of continually being freed.”...

Last but not least, God dared me to step into my calling. The whole old identity and new identity thing was pretty powerful for me and I realized that I’m done with excuses; I am in fact ready and able. While the details of my calling are still being discerned, I think I know for sure that one day I want to do full-time ministry. [When I first shared with my parents] my mom was somewhat resistant to this idea and I prayed hard that God would soften her heart and prepare her for my future. A week later she told me that every time she prayed for me she felt very touched by the Holy Spirit, but she didn’t know why. Exciting! Also, my best friend affirmed my passion for the mission field. He said that he was skeptical at first, but he “realized that I would be unhappy anywhere else but the mission field.”



Financial Update

Praise God that I’m at 91% of my budget! God is so faithful! I’m so close to the goal! **But I still HAVE to raise \$5251 by the end of June.** Would you consider giving an end the year gift to meet this shortfall or have any networks opportunities for me? Thank You!

Intercessor’s Corner

Thank you for your continued prayer and partnership. Here are a few things to keep in payer as the year ends:

- 1. New Student Leaders-** We just finished our leadership selection process. We have about 130 new leaders for next year. Please pray for protection and wisdom over their lives this summer as they step into a place of authority. Please pray that they would live next year as selfless witnesses to the campus!
- 2. Campus Evangelism-** The end of the year typically slumps in terms of people coming to faith. However, this year I’m really praying that God brings an increase of people coming to know him! The harvest is still

plentiful! Please pray that our witness on campus would increase and that we can continue to see people coming to faith through the end of the quarter.

- 3. Funding-** The end of my fiscal year is coming up June 30th. I need to raise my complete budget at this point. Although I’m close, this still adds up to about \$5000. Please pray that God would provide this. He has been so good to me through this tough economic season and I know He will continue to be faithful!

Thank you again for your continued prayer. I can’t even begin to express how thankful I am toward God for each of you. Please email me your prayer requests as I continue to pray for each of you on Thursdays. Thank you!