

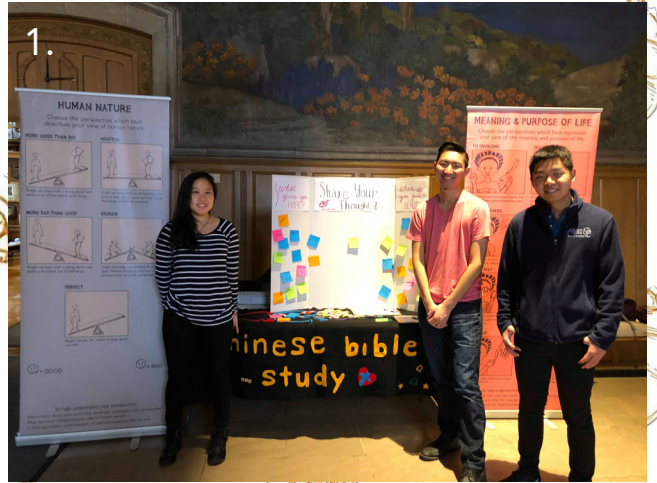


Bread of Life

CBS Fall 2018

Outreach

1. Mel Lim '19, David Wu '19 and Kevin Hu '21 table in Willard Straight Hall in mid-November.



2. Felicia Setiono '16, Jeff Huang '19 and Stephanie Deng '21 chalk in front of Willard Straight Hall.

3. Jeff Huang '19, Chris Qian '20, David Tse '21 and Aaron Hui '15 hold an open air worship session in Ho Plaza.



4. Attilus Leung '22, Emily Kam '22, Emily Jacobsson '22, Alex Xu '22, Jasper Liang '22 and Victor Chen '22 pose for the camera during Fall Felly Dinner.

5. Mel Lim '19 and Evelyn Shan '19 have fun with the elephant paper mache during the annual freshman newspaper dress up ACE (After CBS Event).



Inreach

staff

interviewers

Alice Zhao
David Wu
Kevin Hu
Lauren Kam
Lucy Lu
Melanie Lim
Raymond Zhang
Ray Zeng

editors

Alice Zhao
Darren Chang
Ji-Won Choi
Kathy Lin
Kevin Hu
Lucy Lu
Melanie Lim
Raymond Zhang

photographers

Ji-Won Choi
Lauren Kam
Stephanie Deng

designers

Emily Kam
Joy Thean
Jamie Wong

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vision verse

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

Chinese Bible Study (CBS) is a student-run Christian fellowship at Cornell University. We seek to **know Christ and make Him known**. There are five ministries within CBS, and two coordinators who help oversee the ministries and provide guidance for the year. You can also find out more about us at **cbscornell.com**.

editor letter

Hi CBS!

This semester was really weird for me. This semester was one of being simultaneously busy and non-busy because I had no formal commitments outside of classes, besides CBS, and yet I felt like I was the least present in so many aspects of my life. Somehow, time always gets away from me, but I've definitely have a few reflections I'd like to share with you all.

Though it's my last year here at school, there were so many "firsts" that I surprised myself with. I missed many large groups this semester, which is very, very strange for me since I had hardly missed a large group the first three years here at Cornell. I started co-leading a bible study for a few of my friends, but I've never had the confidence to lead a bible study before. And I got to see my parents multiple times throughout the semester, which made me and them very happy and grateful for those opportunities. Coming into senior year, I had this picture that my last year would be the most easy-going, fun-filled, and action-packed. Though there has been lots of that, I've also spent a lot of time on planes and being alone. I didn't realize it in the beginning, but I'm actually grateful for that

time because it gave me the space to reflect and do internal reflection. I realized that I sometimes go through life without thinking, but we all need to take the time to process and work through thoughts we're struggling with. Maybe to some of you this is obvious, but for me, it was a necessary lesson to learn.

At the same time, missing all those large groups while also leading a bible study taught me that community is so, so important. I'm not going to have CBS next year, unfortunately :(, so it's important for me to plug into a community and be spiritually fed when I start working. I think by having all that alone time, it helped me realize that balance is really important! I need to have the space to rest, while also having time spent in community.

This really has nothing to do with being the editor of Bread of Life. I just thought I would share some of my thoughts and reflections from this past semester! This wasn't really complete in any way and I'm not really done learning everything, but I'm excited for what my LAST SEMESTER OF COLLEGE will bring. Happy holidays everyone!

In Him,
Anna Tedijanto '19

coordinator letter

Dear CBS,

Reflecting on this jumble of a semester, I keep coming back to this idea of dwelling, abiding, remaining. When I think about what I've been learning—to submit to Him or seek restoration—I am reminded that these are only possible *in* God himself. In the same way, coordinatorship has required me to look not to myself, but to Him. At times, I have felt overwhelmed, fearful, and unsure that I can do anything to encourage even one person. There have been moments when I have been fixed on my brokenness and inadequacy, and others when I know I did not love the fellowship as fully as I could have. But, oh, how the Lord restores as we surrender! Slowly, He is teaching me that serving starts and ends on my knees, in awe of a loving Father.

For this year's vision verse, Jeff and I chose Colossians 3:1-4, because we wanted CBS to grow as a body of believers pointed to, satisfied with, restored by, and utterly in love with God. We prayed that He would revive us as a fellowship in pursuit of Him, and though this vision has not changed, I think our view of the fellowship has. As CBS grows a little smaller every year, we have been challenged to seek His discernment for needs now and next steps tomorrow. Even in these changes, this semester has first been defined by His steadfast Word, the gift of your encouragements when they're most needed, and the witnessing of love poured out within CBS.

At the end of the day—whatever shape this fellowship may take—what I hope most is that you may *flourish* in your own walk with God. Consider John 15:4-5:

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

This is important. You are a branch; Jesus is the vine. He is the source of nutrients, water, all the good stuff. You are not your own vine, or forest; we didn't take up our cross to be self-sufficient, but to follow and abide in the Lord. Without him, we literally don't have life! He has called us to *life*, to communion with Him, to true intimacy, to the best relationship ever.

Dear fellowship, are you remaining in the Lord? Is He the root that gives you life? Or is He on the sidelines, a mere footnote? If it's the latter, I exhort you to examine your heart and draw near to God. He is the reason why CBS exists, why our ministry leaders labor, why loving one another even matters. He is the creator and sustainer of your soul. He is the whole point.

So, dear CBS, let's remain in Him together. Some of you may feel like there's no use, like your efforts to love are fruitless, like your days are too short, like it's far easier to live for yourself. And it is hard sometimes, but when those seasons crop up, let us point one another onwards, carry one another, and truly be a community set apart. Lord knows that many times, I need this pointing and carrying, too, but in all circumstances, I pray for me and you:

"to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

-- Eph. 3:18-19

Soli Deo Gloria
Your servant & sister,
Evelyn Shan '19

Coordinator Letter

Hello CBS,

Jesus concluded his Sermon on the Mount with this parable:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand...”

--Matthew 7:24-27

It is not enough to only hear Jesus’s teachings. We must also believe in Jesus and obey him. In doing so, we will be able to weather the storms of life; we will be able to stand unashamed before God in the final judgment. Jesus is the firm foundation on which we build our lives.

Our vision verse for this year, Colossians 3:1-4, also encourages us to keep Jesus Christ at the center of our lives. Verse 4 says that Christ is our life. If we receive Jesus as our savior, we will, in some sense, share in Jesus’s death and resurrection. We will be transformed. Paul writes in Romans 6, “Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God ... offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.” Our status has been drastically changed: once an instrument of wickedness, now an instrument of righteousness.

But it is not like we have already been made 100% holy. As followers of Christ, we are called to serve one another in humility, to wash one another’s feet. Yet I find myself fighting this internal battle against pride, again and again. Even as I seek to serve those around me, I see that I am still guilty of such lack of patience, lack of love for my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am full of weakness and limitations.

Unfortunately, sometimes I also forget the underlying reality entirely! As other things in life compete for attention, I forget that I am in an ongoing struggle against sin. This is why it can be helpful to preach the Gospel to ourselves: we often need reminding about the basic foundation of our faith. Even when I am trying to obey God, every day, I find myself falling short. Thankfully, God’s grace covers over our sins, and God is at work in us, making us more holy. “Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be.”

Ecclesiastes 12:1 – “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come...” I would encourage you to seek God now; it is risky to delay. Make time to communicate with God in prayer, to read the Bible. Take advantage of the resources of our fellowship and of the churches here in Ithaca. Share your encouragements and your doubts with the brothers and sisters around you. For the short time that we are here, let us serve and be served by one another. Lay a sound foundation upon Jesus Christ, so that when the rains fall and the floods come and the winds blow, when we are shaken, we may stand firm.

In Christ,
Jeffrey Huang ‘19

bible study ministry

Dear CBS,

One of my favorite parts of being a second-year Bible study coordinator is the familiarity with the ministry, not only with the logistical details, but also with the fellowship's overall understanding of the Bible. From multiple conversations throughout the previous year, I've continued to observe the need for us to have a more intimate, consistent walk with our Father, and thus I chose these verses from James to be this year's vision:

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

-- James 1:22-25

It's so easy to keep our faith contained within the pages of the Bible - we read, we reflect, we discuss, but then, as we move on to the rest of our days, we forget. James warns us that this is unacceptable because we, as Christians, must be mindful of the principles God has placed before us and must exemplify them in our words and deeds. But what does this mean for CBS and the Bible Study ministry? How can I be encouraging the Bible study leaders and members to intentionally live out the Scripture we study each week? How can I encourage us to meditate on His Word day and night?

To be perfectly honest, I don't know. I'm still thinking about the answers to these questions and pondering what it means to implement this vision for Bible Study Ministry. I am limited as a mere human being, and I can't invest in each member of CBS in such a way to know where everyone stands in his or her relationship with God. Nor would it be right for me to be so presumptuous to think that I could enforce everyone's devotional times - that's ultimately between you and God. But I can encourage you when I meet up with you and pray for each of you. So far, I've been immensely blessed by the opportunity to meet up with each pair of co-leaders over a meal this semester. Hearing about their fruitful discussions with the small group, as well as their personal spiritual growth through their own devotionals and pre-study sessions always encourages me that CBS has a love for the Scriptures. I'm also thankful for my younger prayer partner and the senior girls, seeing the ways God has been speaking to them and challenging them reminds me that even when I don't notice it, CBS is growing and learning about Him. And now that we've heard some of the wisdom and instruction of the New Testament, I'm excited for us to see, in the spring, the way Ruth and David faithfully did the Lord's work in the Old Testament.

CBS, winter break is fast approaching, but I encourage you to continue in fellowship with one another, online or in person, to remind each other to live by and keep in step with the Spirit.

In Christ,
Lauren Kam '19

discipleship ministry

Hello CBS,

This year, Servant Team decided to give Discipleship Ministry two coordinators to better gauge the spiritual pulse of the fellowship. What does spiritual pulse even mean? How can two people monitor where everyone is in their individual walks with God? What would it look like for us to encourage, support, and provide discipleship to CBS in ways that cater to each person's needs? These are just a few of the questions that we've wrestled with and are continuously tackling throughout the semester.

To tie into CBS's overall vision of setting our minds on things above and not on earthly things, we wanted Discipleship to focus on equipping and spurring one another to become fishers of men. One of our biggest concerns going into this year was being unable to support the incoming freshman class with enough upperclassmen as older prayer partners. As the semester progressed, however, and we welcomed a smaller freshman class to our family, it was still easy to be discouraged. With our innate desires to help serve on Reach Team and reaching out to underclassmen throughout Orientation, it was easy to develop a bad habit of expecting and seeking big numbers in terms of class size for incoming CBSers. But we quickly learned that God works in His own timing and really knows how much we can handle as a fellowship. A smaller freshman class gives us

the opportunity to serve and love each other more individually as well as the chance to deepen and grow our relationships -- whether it's between prayer partners or just between people struggling through similar ordeals. We're so thankful for each and every person we've come to know and love over the years and we will be constantly alert, trying to ensure that everyone has opportunities to both be fed and to feed others.

In addition to prayer partner pairings, Men's Time and Women's Time have seen more regular monthly meetings, which have been valuable to many individuals. In the hope that these spaces help foster a culture of older brothers and sisters caring and being cared for by younger brothers and sisters, we have been blessed to see intentionality and vulnerability grow in our community. It's exciting but also very challenging to continuously seek out how to best support and build one another up in faith. Ultimately through these relationships we have with each other, we're striving to better understand our purpose and role in being disciplined and discipling others.

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

-- Matthew 4:18-20

**In Christ,
David Wu '19 and Melanie Lim '19**

praise ministry

Hi CBS!

First of all, leading Praise Team (PT) ministry has been one of the biggest #blessings this semester. Over the summer, I brainstormed and thought a lot about what it means to worship God, to give Him praise. The vision verse of this year set the theme of what I wanted to focus on. Praise is not something that can be fully captured and mastered in one year -- it requires a lifetime of learning. I knew I could only concentrate on a smol aspect, but this is what I eventually decided upon:

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

-- Hebrews 13:15-16

PT kicked off this semester with a morning workshop, where amidst the bagels and coffee, we studied these verses and went over our vision. Our theme can be divided into two main categories:

1. Offering up a *sacrifice* of praise¹

As PT, we humbly acknowledge the musical gifts that God gives us and return them back to him with our worship. Christ has already offered up the greatest sacrifice², the sacrifice we can now give is the sacrifice of acknowledgement. I'm very thankful to have a team that is so humble in serving and willing to sacrifice.

2. Worshipping in *spirit* and in *truth* (John 4:24)

We worship God in **spirit**, even when we don't always feel like it. It's easy to praise God when things go well, but how often do we praise him in the storm? Worship isn't about us, as we often make it out to be.³ We worship God not because we are feeling good, but because he is worthy of all our praise.⁴ We implemented this by learning how to lead worship, and how to act when on set. We also worship God in **truth**. This is done by making sure that the songs that we sing are glorifying to God.⁵ This semester, we spent lots of time with our good friend Jorge (lol) critically analyzing song lyrics and thinking about what entails a worship song, not just a Christian song. We also talked about how worshipping in truth means being genuine with God. We studied the Psalms, where David frequently laments and cries out to God.

I am very thankful that, 1) God is worthy of all our praise and sacrifice and 2) I have a team that is so ready and willing to serve. Many weeks I felt very stressed out about small things, e.g.,

Who's going to be on set?? and bigger things, e.g., What are we going to cover at PT meeting on Sunday?? However, week after week people came through and our meetings were fruitful. PT ministry is such a team effort, and I've really felt that we have all come together to lead praise this semester. We've gone through quite a bit in our meetings, such as how to lead set, how to choose songs, lyrical analysis, looking at the book of Psalms, and open air worship!

Probably one of our biggest moments this semester was planning Night of Worship. Every single member contributed somehow to the night. Special s/o to some of our members who led a set for the first time, and Ray & Angela for being awesome as well.

I've learned so much from this wonderful and goofy team, and I'm so happy for this opportunity to lead others in worshipping God. I want to acknowledge literally everyone but probably don't have the room. Some special shout outs:

- To Josh for sacrificing his hands to play cajon. Cajon brushes soon™
- To Jackie for learning bass over a few days just to be on set
- To the sophomores who always come to Eddygate and sometimes move everything before the upperclassmen even arrive (oops)
- To Jeff who carries me last minute when I need it lol
- To everyone who has brought us food
- To all the drivers: Alice, Amanda, Jeff, Kathy, Liam

Thanks to everyone who made this semester possible. I'm very excited for all that is to come in our second half of the year!

"Oh how good it is, when the family of God, dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.

So with one voice we'll sing to the LORD, and with one heart we'll live out His word. Till the whole earth sees, the Redeemer has come, for He dwells in the presence of His people" - Oh How Good it is

**In Christ and with all my love and thanks,
Shelly Zhang '19**

¹"Here I am, take me, as an offering" - Alabaster Jar

²"Jesus paid it all! All to him I owe" - Jesus Paid it All

³"I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it, when it's all about you" - Heart of Worship

⁴"All of my life, in every season, You are still God, I have a reason to sing, I have a reason to worship" -Desert Song: "I will give you all my worship, I will give you all my praise// You alone I long to worship, you alone, are worthy of my praise" -Jeremy Camp

⁵"May the words of my mouth... be pleasing to you" -May the Words of My Mouth

prayer ministry

Dear CBS,

8 Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

-- James 4:8-10 (NIV)

We came into this semester rather messily. If one were to describe our summer preparations the best word would be...insufficient. For one reason or another, planning was continually pushed back week after week and even our vision verse wasn't chosen until the last few weeks of summer. We both were the sinner who desperately needed to draw near to God, to be humbled and to believe that He would work powerfully in us. So, we ended up choosing a verse that reflected our mental state at the time: broken and a bit frustrated by our lack of discernment. At the same time, we are reminded to never stop seeking to draw near to Him and hold on to His promise that "He will lift you up."

Both of us err on the side of cynicism and self-doubt, but God has proven to us time and time again that He does work through the weak (2 Corinthians 12:9). We have been so blessed and encouraged by your prayers during prayer meeting, large group, prayer wall, and personal prayer times. Even when we feared that a certain anonymous brother would be the only attendee of prayer meeting, other brothers and sisters would always join us. Through the ups and downs, God has encouraged us to come before Him in whatever state we were in. No matter what state we were in, praying to God reminded us that serving Him was to glorify Him, not just another obligation.

God has been merciful in giving us the capacity (time and energy) to serve in our inefficient manner. As we met up two or three times a week to pray and reflect on the prayer needs of CBS, we often distracted ourselves with food, snarky comments, and silly videos. Yet through it all, God still knew that He could use us for the good of His people. God has amazed us by answering in power through other brothers and sisters' words and bringing people near to Him when they most needed Him. Still, we know that God may not answer our prayers immediately and patiently waiting for His answers is challenging, but God tells us to trust and lean on Him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Praying for ourselves, each other, and the world is a blessing we hope everyone experiences with joy, sorrow, and thanksgiving. Coming before our Father in Heaven is incredibly daunting, but God has called us to come as a child would to enter His Kingdom (Matthew 18:3-4). We pray that you all are blessed by the knowledge that God wishes for us to come before Him in our brokenness and ineptitude to be made anew through Jesus Christ.

We've also chosen to focus on the act of confession. From reading Psalm 51 to see David's example to spending time in confession to God in our weekly prayer meetings, we hope we've been able to encourage the fellowship to pray with a contrite and humble heart.

So even as we wrap up this semester, we pray that you will continue to pray. We have been blessed by the time we have shared together in prayer, but in the end, prayer is between you and God. So dear brothers and sisters, continue to pray, pray, pray.

Love,
Ray Zeng '20 and Angela Huang '19

reach ministry

Dearest CBS,

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

— Galatians 5:13-14, ESV

This year's vision verses for both Reach and CBS focused on the life and freedom that we have been granted through Christ and His death on the cross. As a ministry and fellowship we are called to emulate God's love, and a natural way that we should use our new life and freedom is through loving others as God has loved us. We wanted to focus on these attributes of serving and loving others, and especially how they point back to and are first grounded in God's work in us.

Reach ministry reverted back to its old structure this year by splitting Inreach and Outreach ministries. However, both ministries committed themselves to the Reach vision verse, which taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus was radical in teaching his followers to love their neighbors: this encompassed caring for every single person without discrimination. Initially, we thought it would be difficult to pursue ministry work with a small Reach team, but in hindsight God revealed to us that serving does not require a large group of people. God chose to use His weak and imperfect people as ambassadors to reveal the power of Christ and further His Kingdom on this earth. We still have a long ways to go in relying on God's strength, but we delight in the fact that our Lord is pleased to see our faith manifested into tangible love, no matter how big or small. We hope that reflecting on how God used our ministry this semester would express our gratitude to His faithfulness to CBS and motivate us to love those around us more boldly.

When we think of Inreach, we often think of felly dinners, ACEs (After CBS Events) and other events held by the fellowship. But Inreach is more than just the logistics and events — it is encouraging each other to good works, it is showing love to each other, it is showing God's *love to us* to each other, it is building each other up. It is forming and sustaining a community that is rooted in Christ. There is a need for accountability and individual action to building up the fellowship, but Inreach has strived to be an example of relying on God (to be honest we wouldn't have gotten anything done if not for God's grace) and equipping each other to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). It is hard at times — when we try to draw from our own sources of strength or our own love we often find ourselves drained and burned out (this has happened more than we'd

probably like to admit). But at those time, God's grace is the dearest and nearest, and we have learned by crying out to Him at those moments that He is truly faithful, infusing our serving with enthusiasm and joy. God has also brought unexpected joys and encouragement where and when we least expected it. Truly, He works in mysterious ways; if His hand is not in it, it is in vain (Psalms 127:1-2).

CBS has had a difficult time focusing on Outreach ministry in recent years. Honestly, this put a bit of pressure on this semester to bring outreach to the forefront of Reach ministry. Despite feelings of anxiety about Outreach ministry, God allowed for the fellowship to become better equipped for evangelism through several avenues. A few of us volunteered at Loaves and Fishes, which allowed us to connect with people in the community and understand the needs of those who lack many of the privileges we often take for granted. In addition to community outreach, we hosted an evangelism workshop led by Pastor Paul, which introduced what the Bible says about evangelism and how our hearts ought to be oriented toward sharing the gospel. We were able to reflect on why we often feel afraid to share our faith with others as well as brainstorm how to initiate spiritual conversations. By God's grace, we were able to put this knowledge into practice by tabling in Willard Straight and talking to students about their own worldviews versus Christian perspectives. It was interesting to hear people's responses to our questions, as it reminded us how desperately we all long for peace and joy that can only come from our Father. Of course, there is room for outreach to grow in every one of our hearts, but we are thankful that God's sovereignty and wisdom shaped the course of Outreach ministry. No matter how burdensome or challenging it may feel to minister to non-Christians, we must hold each other accountable to live as salt and light in this world.

God certainly blessed CBS this semester not just through Reach events, but also through the nurturing of individual relationships. Whether through caring for brothers and sisters in need or talking to friends about Christianity, God has certainly moved our Spirits to love our neighbors as ourselves. If you feel called to encourage our fellowship through Inreach and Outreach, please consider joining Reach ministry and see how serving others can bring joy! To close, we pray that the works of our fellowship would be driven by our faith in Christ and reflect our Savior's love, as we offer up our own lives as a living sacrifice to our Lord. We pray to continue growing next semester in our trust and faith in God, and our love for both Him and those around us.

Blessings,

Alice Zhao '20, Raymond Zhang '20, and Ji-Won Choi '19

bible studies

MONDAY COLLEGETOWN

Hello CBS,

This semester, we led a co-ed Bible study in Collegetown, hidden deep within the dark, damp recesses of Eddygate, apartment 2E, never to see the light of day until our 1 and 1/2 hours were up. Yep, that's bible study.

For the early half of the semester, we studied the book of James. Some of the main topics and themes we discussed included patient perseverance through trials and temptations, as well as the concept of "faith with works," not to be confused as "faith by works," but rather that faith without works is essentially dead, and that James encourages us to live out the things that we believe in the Bible as true. We also went through an in-depth review of the historical background and context, and how to apply the teachings of James to our own lives in the present day.

In the later half of the semester, we studied Galatians. Similar to our study of James, we took a slightly more academic approach, going into the story of Paul before his conversion, his work during his early mission trips, and his contributions to the new wave of Christian thinking, which removed the need to adhere to the old Mosaic laws in order to have salvation. We also talked about key points that Galatians brings up, such as loving our neighbours, how to embody the different Fruits of the Spirit, and to follow no other Gospel but the one presented in the Bible, just to name a few.

It has truly been a blessing to meet with this strange yet fun group of people every week. There have been many dumb jokes and laughs during our Bible studies, but we were still able to have good, productive conversations about faith, about God, as well as the passages. Thank you God for letting us enjoy our time together, share about our lives with each other, and grow together in love and knowledge for God and His Word.

In Christ,
Kevin Gao '19 and Amanda Ajim '21

MONDAY COLLEGETOWN MEMBERS

Dear CBS,

I had no intention of being in the Collegetown Bible Study this semester. As a matter of fact, I was a regular at Felicia and Felix's Bible Study for a while and had also loitered around Darren and Ji-Won's once or twice. But eventually, after two time changes and some logistical shenanigans, I ended up back in my own apartment for a wonderful time led by Kevin (Gao) and Amanda. Turns out God had a different plan for me this semester and what a blessing it was! (Not to say that the others would not have been).

As a resident of Eddygate 2E, I also had the added privilege of directly witnessing the time and heart that was put into the preparations for each week's study. One small touch that really showed this dedication was Kevin's super-duper CliffNotes that he would write on a whiteboard. From historical background on the writers and the context each book was written in to the big ideas we wanted to cover, these outlines were a good visual reminder to help us stay on track while we studied James and Galatians.

In James, we really dived into understanding what it means to live as a Christian. We focused on understanding what faith is and how it naturally manifests itself in how we live. In our discussions, we tackled real and practical problems, like how we deal with prejudice, watch our speech, and interact with money and earthly wealth. While none of these issues were groundbreaking for us, we were all definitely reminded by Paul's words and we learned so much from each other's personal perspectives and interpretations. In between Shelly's endless repertoire of psychology examples and my bad attempts at analogies, we got to hear God speak truth. So even when we didn't find a complete answer to some of the questions we had, there was much fruit in the discourse.

Moving into Galatians, we were only on track to finish about half of the book from the various delays that had occurred, but there's that saying about quality over quantity, right? Anyhow, during the two weeks we had (as of the time of the writing of this article), we got to see Paul's testimony and what it said about the Gospel. Going back to the core of the Gospel, we saw how Christ and Christ alone is sufficient. Coming from a semester of being in various roles of serving, I was remarkably reminded to not forget that the reason I serve must be a product of my relationship with Jesus, and not the other way around.

In the end, I got to experience God's plan working out in our Bible Study. Although busyness took its toll at times, Bible Study was a constant source of encouragement this semester. We didn't always get the most sharing (rip our time management), but just simply spending time in the Word was such a blessing.

In Christ,
Ray Zeng '20

TUESDAY WEST

Dear CBS,

This semester our West Campus Bible Study gang was primarily composed of the sophomore class with a few seniors sprinkled here and there (really just Gabby). We underwent major changes during the semester as we said goodbye to our brother Jeffrey and our sister Stephanie and sent them off to Monday's bible study. No feelings were substantially hurt in the process (or at least to our knowledge).

We also transitioned from Keeton dinners to Rose Taco

Tuesday (or as Darren likes to say, "TAKO TUEZDAY")! This was truly a turning point in our bible study, as we collectively endured long lines to obtain delicious fried dough balls, plantains, and some incredible salsa before rushing off to our designated meeting place in the Keeton 135 common room.

Our bible study attendance ebbed and flowed due to night prelims and an overall busy semester, but God constantly revealed new insights on what it means to live as an obedient Christian freed from the constraints and impossible demands of the law. As leaders, we thought that reading James and Galatians balanced our understanding of how faith is to produce good works, and that Jesus died for us to be permanently free from the shackles of the law.

James particularly outlined living out the Gospel even in the midst of trials and temptations. The declarative language was especially instructive as we tried to find applications to our lives in 2018, two thousand years after James was written. Though we may live in a seemingly more advanced age, we also live in a society that is further away from God, filled with the temptations of social media groups like subtle Asian (Christian) traits and an overall derisive attitude towards religion. In addition, our ability to pursue religion without fear of persecution often drives us into complacency.

Yet James's writing is instructive and conclusive. We are to patiently await Jesus's return like a farmer waiting for rain (James 5:7) while remaining accountable to all of our brothers and sisters and "Count[ing] it all joy... when you meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:2, ESV). We are to grow our relationship with our Father through prayer and to pursue works as a manifestation of our faith in Christ. What James leaves for us is an analysis we strive to follow daily. But we constantly fail to accomplish the outlines of a perfect Christian life, only further reminding us of God's holiness.

Galatians, on the other hand, serves as a criticism of the Church in Galatia but also as a reminder of our eternal estate. Paul (the quintessential father figure worried about the salvation of his brothers and sisters) churns out biblical truths when he (re)characterizes the legalism of Jewish leaders within the grace given through Christ's sacrifice. We see through the Galatians our own spiritual misunderstandings and shortcomings as they forget God's promises. In spite of all this, Paul brings hope! He shows that we have the New Covenant, a covenant that doesn't require self-flagellation every time we fail a commandment. Instead, justification comes from faith. Read opposite James, Galatians provides another beacon of hope.

It is this beacon we are thankful for, this gift of God we can bring into our fellowship and our conversations with other brothers and sisters. We deeply enjoyed getting to know each other and our experiences in Christ. We relished the chance to open our eyes and have those intentional discussions that brought us joy in the Gospel and in

fellowship. We hope we can carry the messages of Galatians and James, of living the Gospel out as Christians. As the children's song goes, "We've got Christian lives to live/ We've got Jesus' love to give/ we've got nothing to hide/ Because in God we all abide."

**In Christ,
Darren Chang '21 & Ji-Won Choi '19**

TUESDAY WEST MEMBER

Dear CBS,

This semester, Bible Study wasn't just a time to read the Lord's Word together with brothers and sisters. I was able to see how the Word was related to my life, and every week we were challenged by our leaders to apply the lessons learnt in practical ways. There were many applicable and practical lessons learned from James. However, the book of Galatians, which seemed quite historical at first, slowly began to reveal how my life was not that much different from that of the Galatians. Through this book, I am learning to appreciate my salvation so much more and to seek the Lord simply for who He is and what He has done, not just because it's another item to check off my to-do list. Bible Study was also a precious time of fellowship, when I received much love and support through prayer. I also drew much encouragement and strength from my brothers and sisters who were also struggling and running this race of faith alongside. I am so thankful for this time we have spent together pondering, diving deeper into the Lord's Word, listening and caring for one another, and growing in our knowledge and faith.

**Blessings,
Gabby Wan '19**

WEDNESDAY NORTH

Dear CBS,

Throughout the semester, the Wednesday night Bible study would meet in the magnificent lounges of CKB to go through the books of James and Galatians. Typically, James and Galatians are seen as opposing one another; the former emphasizes the merits of works, and the latter speaks on the fact that we can't be saved through works, but rather through faith and faith alone.

Our group would meet after North Dinner. We would spend the first 10 minutes of Bible Study taking turns going to the bathroom. Then we would spend another 10 minutes trying to finish a puzzle in the rooms of CKB. We would then spend the rest of the time tackling the apparently opposing opinions of what it means to be a follower of Christ. From reading James and Galatians, we have learned that the work that Christians do and the fruits that Christians produce are important because they represent the outward expression of one's faith. The faith that produces good works is one that seeks to glorify and love God and is made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thus, without such faith, one doesn't really have any foundation and strength

to express one's love for God and for others.

Through these two books, we also learned the weight of God's calling to be loving towards one another. Both James and Paul exhorted their readers to rebuke, maintain purity, and commit themselves to build up the church. Yet, they always reminded us that these things should be from a place of Godly love and wisdom. For example, in Galatians 5:13, it says "You my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love."

We hope that everyone will continue to grow in their love for the Word and receive instruction in the Word.

**In Christ,
Felix Yang '19 and Felicia Setiono '16**

WEDNESDAY NORTH MEMBERS

Hello CBS,

As a freshman, I am now realizing that life involves so much more decision-making than I anticipated, one of those decisions often being: "Should I go to Bible Study or work on my CS project?" But I knew I would never regret going to Bible Study, so I just about always went.

From the outside, it looks boring. It's a couple of people with open Bibles on their laps, often sitting in silence and thinking. But studying God's Word is as far from being boring as I am from finishing my BRBs (which is pretty far). The Word is boring if you read it passively and really quickly in the morning and call it "doing my devotions". It's not boring if you go in-depth and truly take the time to dwell on the passages—it's *alive*. I'm realizing that the Word of God is indeed alive and active.

I'm also realizing that not everything in the Bible can always be directly implemented in our lives. After expressing my confusion with the end of Galatians 2 ("But like, what do I do with this information?"), Felix explained that the passage would help to enrich my understanding of theology and the basis of my beliefs... which actually ties in with a recurring theme that popped up throughout the semester: faith and works. What *is* my faith based on? Am I too focused on the "doing?" Am I trying to gain righteousness through actions in the same way that the Jews were trying to do through obeying the law? I must dwell on this a little longer.

Thank you to everyone who came all the way to North to accommodate the 1.5 freshmen who attend, Felix and Felicia for being splendid leaders, and God for literally everything (the location, the opportunity to grow together by studying His Word, a random unfinished puzzle that Mel and Felicia obsessed over, etc.). God is good.

**In Christ,
Emily Kam '22**

Dear CBS,

Wednesday North Bible Study finds its home in the cozy blue room in Bauer Hall. We come together with (hopefully) full stomachs after north dinner to dive into the Word of God. This semester, we had the blessing of reading through James and Galatians together. Led by Felix and Felicia, who always have great insights and questions to prompt us for discussions, we delved into these two New Testament letters.

First, we read James, a book that I found was often discussed in its richness for application to our daily lives. We certainly found that that was the case. From the importance of faith-wrought works and warnings against partiality and hypocrisy (teachers be careful!), to the encouragement of those who are suffering or under trials to faithfully endure, all of these topics are readily applicable to our lives as Cornell students. However, James' teaching on self-control of words was most compelling. What we say is reflective of what is on our hearts ("Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield freshwater." James 3:12). Our speech is indeed the most powerful instrument of our faith, so it is necessary to develop godly discipline of knowing when to withhold our tongue and when to use our tongue to build others up.

Galatians contrasted James in that it was often less read or discussed about in its entirety. After reading Galatians 3, we shared that yes, this chapter seemed really unfamiliar. That made the discussion all the more rich, as we wrestled with the wording and implications of the passages and how they related to one another and to our faith. Galatians is home to the vision verse of Reach ministry this year (Galatians 5:13-14). Reading through the book in its entirety and learning how our freedom comes from faith in God's promise and not from our adherence to any law helped put this year's Reach vision into perspective in a compelling way.

There have been two constants at every Wednesday North Bible Study - at least one person walking down the hall to go to the bathroom, and Bible-saturated conversation with brothers and sisters. While I will admit that there were days when I was exhausted from getting through the hump day, bible study was always a consistent and prayerful encouragement to round off the day.

**In Christ,
Raymond Zhang '20**

THURSDAY CENTRAL

Hello CBS!

It's been an eventful time in the Thursday Bible Study. We started out at the beginning of the semester hopping lounges in CKB until we were able to secure a room in RPCC. But a few weeks later, we realized that there were no more freshmen attending anymore. Seeing that the remaining members were all residents of Collegetown/West, we found a new home in Sage Hall, and thus, Thursday North became Thursday Central Bible Study.

Despite all these changes, it's been a fruitful and challenging journey through James and Galatians. Through James, we learned that while our faith is not by our own works, faith is also not complete without works. In Galatians, Paul discusses another aspect of works - the ones decreed by the Mosaic Law. He explains why the works in the Old Testament are different from the deeds of James, and urges the Galatians to remember that they are justified by faith and through faith alone. Some of the highlights of our discussions include walking by the Spirit, not growing weary of doing good to all, and being hearers and doers of the Word. We've been blessed by the willingness of this group to share ideas and ask hard questions. We once even had a series of heated debates while trying to reconcile "carrying one's own load" and "bearing one another's burdens" (Galatians 6).

We're so thankful for the faithful attendees of our small group this semester, for all the good times over good snacks (thanks 7-Eleven and Trader Joe's), and for the thought-provoking weekly discussions. May we continue to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures and in applying the topics we have discussed, and may we continue to pray for and encourage one another to run the good race.

In Him,
Lauren Kam '19 & Chris Qian '20

THURSDAY CENTRAL MEMBER

Hello CBS,

Thursday Bible Study enjoyed the honor of being the most traveled bible study this semester. As we traveled, we visited different North common rooms until we settled on a conference room at Sage (thanks to David's experience from pulling all-nighters at Sage). We may no longer be a "North" bible study, but our thirst for the Word was present each week no matter where we met. Lauren and Chris were incredible bible study leaders, with their ability to articulate the meaning of difficult texts in James and Galatians and their infinite patience with ~~my~~ our confusion about the "works" mentioned in both texts.

But most of all, God blessed us when He challenged us while reading James and Galatians. With Chris' questions and Lauren's guidance, we reflected on our walks with God

and how a Christian life contrasts with that of non-believer. James unfolded the many areas where Christians in the past struggle, and unsurprisingly we all struggle with the same sins he mentions. Whether it be taming our tongues, meditating on and obeying God's scriptures or living a life with faith and works, James taught us that a Christian life is consistent with what we have learned. When we submit ourselves to God, He reveals Himself to us and lifts us up far beyond our imaginations.

Galatians reminded us of how Jesus our Messiah has freed us from the chains of the law (specifically the Mosaic law!). We can stand firm in the truth, knowing that Christ's sacrifice frees us from our sin. For if we relied on our own works for our salvation, we would never attain or retain our salvation. As people who have received freedom from slavery, we reflected on how we should prioritize God in our lives yet we often struggle. Walking the path of a Christian will never be easy, but learning and discussing together as a bible study helped us mature in our understanding.

This semester was a truly fruitful one. From our discussions of the fruits and "vegetables" of the Spirit to the fruits and vegetables of Chris' diet, this bible study was a wonderful time for us to share and reflect before the end of the week. Before we end this, let's thank everyone who allowed this bible study to flourish as abundantly as it did. Thank you to Lauren for buying amazing 7-eleven snacks (honey butter chips!) or baking amazing treats (those pumpkin muffins :D). Thank you Chris for always keeping us on our toes with your questions and insights. Thank you everyone who came to know God and make Him known at our bible study. Finally, thank you God for giving us the gift of Your Word and Your presence each week.

In Christ,
Angela Huang '19



1.

1. Shelly Zhang '19 and Lucy Lu '21 bake brownies in Eddygate

2. Evelyn Shan '19 and Attilus Leung '22 enjoy a snack at Fall Retreat



2.



3.

3. Ray Zeng '20, Darren Chang '21, Angela Huang '19, Ji-won Choi '19 enjoy Purity on their Bible Study trip

Eating Together

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31



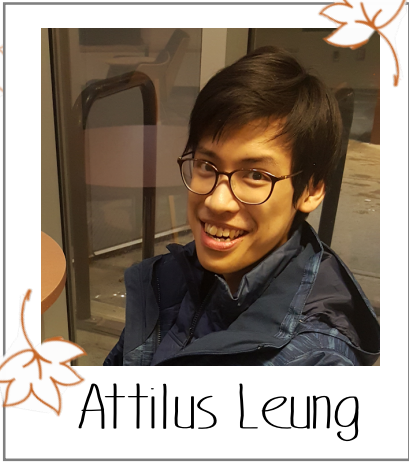
4.

4. Dumpling party in Eddygate 4E during Fall Break



5.

5. Sophomore Class (2021) Lunch! Darren Chang '21, Joy Thean '21, Kim Yap '21, Alicia Chen '21, Stephanie Deng '21, David Tse '21, Xiaoyu Duan '21, Kevin Hu '21, Louise



Attilus Leung



Emily Jacobsson



Emily Kam

Sophomore
Transfer!



Jessica Yuen



Alex Xu



Julia Zhu



Jasper Liang



Victor Chen

CBS Freshmen

Fall 2018

Alex Xu 

hometown // Queens, NYC
major // Math

word associations	senior class:	Old
	junior class:	Less old
	sophomore class:	Welcoming. Being closer in age makes them more relatable. I have a brother 3 years older (senior at Cooper Union right now) - there's a clear gap.
	freshmen class:	Normal, about what I'd expect
	ithaca:	Quaint. I grew up in suburbs, went to city a lot. Ithaca's nature and the kind of people I met through church has broadened my view of community - I've never really seen this before.
	appel dining hall:	Better than RPCC.
bubble tea:	Fine. We have Kung Fu everywhere in New York. It's up to my standards, I'm not really picky.	

I get to Mac's a few minutes before the lunch rush begins and snag a table. Alex gets a Philly cheesesteak like the last time we met up (also at Mac's!) while I go for some cheese-filled pasta with meatballs and extra alfredo sauce. We talk for a bit. Then he remembers, "weren't you supposed to interview me or something?" - and so it begins.

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell - when I first arrived, I thought campus had different scenery than what I was used to - especially living in a suburban area. But I appreciate that. It's mostly the people that make the school good or bad, not just the school. I'm more focused on people that go here. CBS - I knew Evelyn from the Veritas preorientation program I did. What struck me was that within a few days of meeting each other we felt pretty comfortable with each other. The atmosphere is not too awkward. There was a very brief period of awkwardness, but a pretty smooth transition of getting to know everyone.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Less depressing than people make it out to be. I've heard so many stories about Cornell being cold, the atmosphere is "dark" (for lack of a better word). But coming here helped me realize whatever circumstance you're in, it's what you make of it - like Paul told us to be joyful in whatever circumstance. If you want to be happy, I guess you just have to like acknowledge and take a good hard look at your mindset. [David: "Do you think the weather also plays a part?"] Don't think it's just the weather. Some people can be really positive when things aren't going well, some people are really negative even when things are going well. It's not fair to use a broad brush to describe a place.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I think writing about sports would be a fun thing to do. It's very dynamic, things change every day. It's something I'm genuinely interested in and have opinions about. I used to write articles when I was a kid and post my thoughts on facebook.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

How many people?

[David: "Let's say 5 to start"]

I'd probably enjoy fishing. I've never fished before but it seems like a really nice, relaxing activity. I can take my mind off the fact I'm on a deserted island.

[David: "How does your answer change if it's 10 or 20?"]

With 10 I'd probably just be able to delegate, sounds like a lot less work.

With 20 people, probably just nothing. If we have 20 people it's probably just fine, there's enough work.

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

After thinking for a while - "I'm gonna skip this one cz I can't think of a single reason why I'd be associated with food"

6. Favorite quote or saying?

I feel like it should be a Bible verse but... hmmm... *thinking*

What's the Bill Gates quote? The laziest person find the quickest way to the solution?

I don't see myself as a lazy person but I think its creative

[David: "What's wrong w being a lazy person?"]

We're not called by God to be idle. And sometimes you'll be a burden on other people

[David: "But I thought you said if there's a group of 20 people you'd do nothing"]

Well I guess I'm not perfect haha

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Make an impact, be a positive person. Help other people grow in Christ. Go through 4 years, and in the end say "I had an impact on other people and I grew as a Christian and as a person"

[David: "What led to this goal?"]

Used to be so focused on my version of success. And you know, it never really ends. There's always something else you want to accomplish. You're gonna spend your whole life chasing after things that in the end don't have much significance. And once you get older, you're just gonna look back and its sad - "if I'd done this, if I'd done that". And that kinda existence doesn't seem very holy or Christ-like. I had a lot of mentors growing up; they made me who I am today. I want to be that person for someone else.

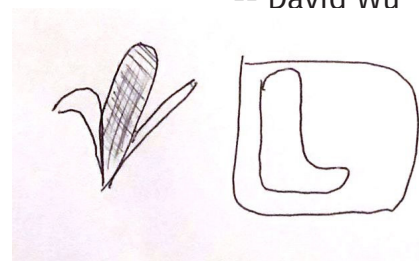
I heard a comedian say, "having a kid isn't special, raising a kid makes you special." I feel like that's a good point, even if it's in the context of a joke.

Even though we had gotten lunch twice before, I still learned a lot about Alex. He's definitely put some thought into his life goals (and bubble tea) - you should all get to know him =) Praying that CBS can support and help him continue to mature throughout college.

-- David Wu '19

Corn + L

In high school we just pronounced it like that. And when we typed up "Cornell" we'd put the Corn emoji and a big L. And it kinda stuck with me.



Attilus Leung

hometown // Hong Kong
major // Computer Science (A&S)

word associations

senior class: Last year of school
junior class: Class before seniors
sophomore class: It's the class before juniors
freshmen class: The class before sophomores
ithaca: Trash
appel dining hall: Trash
bubble tea: Not as good as the ones back at home

I fight my way through the fierce first snow of Fall 2018. As I make my way across the snow-covered bridge and down the road to Appel, I am met with a wave of freshman year vibes. I take a seat in the good ol' downstairs lounge by the TVs, and Attilus shows up minutes later, looking cheerful as usual. After catching up over dinner (complete with apple cider!), we got right to the interview.

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell: It's a fake Ivy.
CBS: It's a really nice place. I really can't say otherwise.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It's colder than I expected.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Never really thought about it. Everything is based around money.

Kevin: anything in particular?

I guess I'd be making video games because I've got nothing else to do.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

I'd get carried by other people.

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

Durian. Because...I like spikes.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Nani

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Be competent at life.

From the familiar Appel atmosphere to the conversation about dining halls vs BRBs places, from the bonding to the short-and-to-the-point, laughter-inducing interview answers, this meetup was fruitful and encouraging. Attilus is extremely passionate, funny, and personable; I am excited to see what God will bring him during these four years.

-- Kevin Hu '21



Emily Jacobsson 

hometown // Rowland Heights, CA

major // Econ?

senior class: *long pause* I don't know. Ji-Won. OH WESLEY. Graduating. A lot. Many.

junior class: Um. Not as many. Alice. Raymond. Who else? Is Stephanie a junior? I don't think I'm good at word association.

sophomore class: I don't know any. Is this supposed to be like CBS-specific or in general? Older than me but not by much. Normal, about what I'd expect

freshmen class: Emily. Because me and also Emily. You know?

ithaca: Cute. Do you want more? Cold. But it's still cute even when it's cold. Pretty. It's quaint. It's so quaint.

appel dining hall: Lots of options. OOH fried rice. OOH the lady who makes the fried rice.

bubble tea: Yummy. Boba. Bo-ba tea. Not consumed as much as I would like to consume it.

word associations

After a good service at Tab on living love in our daily lives, Emily and I drove over to Chipotle with some brothers and sisters to enjoy some delicious food outside of campus. Emily generously gave me her extra tortilla wrap, and I consumed more calories than I should have. After dropping off the others at Eddygate, we drove over to Donlon, the land of the wild, where we settled in a lounge on her floor and began the interview, but not before I met several of her friends (what a popular cookie!).

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Um. It's like the people are a lot more or they're a lot less study oriented than I had assumed at first cuz I thought it was a bunch of nerds who don't do anything but that's not true. CBS everyone is close and friendly, but it's kind of intimidating cuz everyone is so close you know? I think it's cute that they eat dinners together weekly. Adn like in the first two weeks when everyone's asking to have lunch with them I was like this is so nice I was so happy. [Alice: Do you find it very intimidating?] No because people are friendly. They don't come off as intimidating it's just like when you think about it? Maybe?

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It like got small like really fast? Does that makes sense? Cuz it's a very big campus but it got a lot smaller and that happened a lot faster than I thought it would. Also there's like a lot of asian food. *eats cookie* Do you want one of my crackers they're pretty yummy.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Hmm strawberry farmer. [Alice: Woah] I'd plant them all by myself and I'm not going to use any GMOs only love. That's my plan. I told that to my Yale interviewer. [Alice: Has this been a dream of yours for a long time?] Mhmhm. At least beginning senior year. Yea. [Alice: What gave you this idea?] I don't remember where it came from but all of a sudden

one day I was like none of this is worth it. And anytime my journalism teacher read an article with strawberries in it he would cut it out and give it to me.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

Complaining. AHAHAHA. I would whine a lot. But also I could be useful in with *arm flails* what's it called? When you distribute tasks and I think maybe. *nod* I don't know. What kind of roles can you have on a deserted island? Oh maybe I can farm my strawberries there. And then I'd bring food. I'd be a harvester. And then everyone would be my friend. Can you grow strawberries on an island?

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

Oh man. I don't even know that many fruits. [Alice: Or vegetables] Well in 8th grade when I had an interview once and they asked me that question I said I would be an apple because there's always apples so it's like I'm reliable. That was my answer. Can I google fruits? Is that okay? [*Alice nods*] OH. The quiz says I'm an apple. [Alice: You just took a quiz?] Heehee yea. It says "your love for traveling acquaints you to the greatest lessons ever learned but I don't know what that means. "You have a magic wand to cheer up the lonely or something". I don't know what this has to do with apples thought but it's fine.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Deep contemplation Have you heard of dare? Like D.A.R.E. D stands for Don't do drugs. A is I won't have an Attitude. R is Respect yourself. I don't know what E is though. Emily. *Looks it up* Oh it stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Oh that's a good one. [Alice: Does this count as a quote?] It's a saying. Okay, let me look. I have a note document of quotes. These are hard Alice. I wasn't prepared. OH I know I know hold on I have to find it. This one from Winnie the Pooh. "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." it's cute. This made me sad in senior year. Are you going to filter the stuff I say so I don't sound stupid? [Alice: No]. AHAHA SAD amazing.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I don't know. Like figure out the direction in which my life is going. Make some lifelong friends. Uhhh *smacks lips* be happy? I don't know. Maybe join a few more organizations and be involved. *nods*

What a lovely time with one of the most adorable people I've ever met! Emily has been such an encouragement to my heart this past semester, and I pray that God will grow her in amazing ways, even if He takes her path in unexpected ways (like maybe a blueberry farmer instead of strawberries woah). I can't wait to continue growing with her and seeing how God will work in her life through the Word and the people around her, and I'm sure the coming years will be filled with many more fond memories of cows and friends. Here's to the years to come!

-- Alice Zhao '20



i am a cow w/ a hole in me.

Emily Kam 

hometown // Burlingame, CA
major // Info Sci + Humanities Undecided

word associations

senior class: Lauren
junior class: Sparse
sophomore class: Light pink. Everytime I think of sophomore class I think about that group picture where people were all wearing light pink shirts.
freshmen class: Where are they?
ithaca: Cold
appel dining hall: Apple
bubble tea: #basic

It was a nice, chilly Monday. The sky was already dark when I walked into Apple (this is not a typo) at 5:57pm. ~30 seconds later, I saw Emily with her silver headphones around her neck and a bright smile on her face. We had dinner together and talked about school and life. I was amazed by how creative and thoughtful she was when she told me about her image of emotion as either a sphere of fluid that can change color or a series of objects like lightning, flowers and golden bubbles, and when she asked me questions like "Do you think people in general are easily entertained / amused?" So one thing, among many others that I learnt about and from Emily, is the difference and the relationship between being entertained and being amused.

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

I've been here too many times, so I don't even know what my first impressions are. I have the impression that this is a big, beautiful place where smart people are. Two impressions about CBS.

- (1) One day I was in my dorm. I looked out my window into CKB quad and saw this group of people talking and waving their quarter cards on the quad. I thought these must be Lauren's weird friends. So I went to say hi. And this person hugged me. I was like I don't know who you are.
- (2) Second impression is better. I was at CBS Panda Tea Lounge event. You know that feeling of eating together with a big family at a Chinese restaurant? I was not even talking to people and was just observing, but it felt like family to me. I don't always make decisions based on what I feel, but I decided to go to CBS after that.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I was surprised that I did not get lost.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I want to do two things. One is to be a missionary, but I don't know what specific things I would do. Two, as an alternative reality, I want to be a beatboxer in a premier, world-famous a cappella group and write Asian American literature on the side. (What story would you write?) I was "working" on this story where there's a guy working in a Chinese restaurant and he observes a family who goes there every week. And the story unfolds from there.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

Hopefully building shelter and a farm, or making tools. I like making things. (What do you think would be the most useful tool?) Probably knife - a huge cluster of sharpened sticks. (Reaching her hands out in the form of a cluster of things) I got you fam!

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

Lime. First, it's emily backwards. Second, it's green (my favorite color). Third, I really like limeade. I think it (pointing at dining hall limeade) tastes better than lemonade.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

(Thanks to messenger I don't have to type. The following is what Emily sent me:)

"Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up." —Jesse Jackson

"Also i don't really know who jesse jackson is but i like his quote."

"You write your life with a pen." —Me

"Jk im not gonna quote myself"

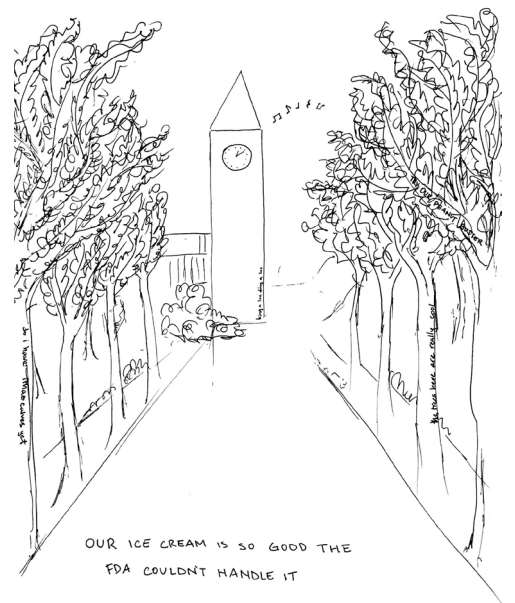
7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I was going to say that I would like to know what I want to do with my life, but I guess I'd never know so I won't say that.

I want to grow in two ways. One is to grow my relationship with friends and other people. The other is to grow my relationship with God. I think even during my first semester here I was touched and cared for by God more than any other time in my life. And I have three and a half years more to grow my relationship with Him.

Another thing is to find what my focus is, because I'm not passionate about anything. It kind of falls in line with "to know what I want to do with my life." I applied to be an English major and now I'm Info Sci and want to double major in Gov. It's all over the place so I want to find my focus. I also want to make sure that God is in that picture as well.

Even though she said that her interests were all over the place, I can tell that Emily has her own interests that she is really passionate about. I am also glad to hear (and praise the Lord) that she has found God's presence on this campus and desires to grow her relationship with Him during her time here and beyond. After taking a picture of her against a light green (YAY) wall at Apple, we walked together to Engineering Quad for CS homework, talking in Mandarin.



-- Lucy Lu '21

Jasper Liang 

hometown // Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
major // Computer Science

word associations

senior class:	Old
junior class:	Younger
sophomore class:	Try Hard
freshmen class:	Scared
ithaca:	Cold
appel dining hall:	Superior
bubble tea:	Non-existent (in my life at least)

I met Jasper for lunch the day after the first snow came to Ithaca. I spied him in the corner of Trillium, cozy and ready to chow down on a nice delectable taco salad. Rushing over there with my own pasta bowl in hand, we caught up for a hot second before diving into the following spicy questions.

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell: Professors are really nice - It is really big. Student population is what I expected of America
CBS: Inviting and Engaging. I struggled to stay awake in large group for the first few weeks, but I started getting into it later on.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Didn't expect it to be so hot in the first weeks of Cornell. Expected campus to be bigger, but everything is in walking distance so it's a big surprise.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Pilot - just a commercial pilot, flying big jets.

[Raymond: What about Air Force pilot?]

No that's too dangerous (Chuckles). I feel like I'll get really nauseous.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

Uhhh... (Pause). I don't know... I'll be an advocate, a helpful advocate. I will give support, reasons for and against a decision. I won't make decisions so no one could blame me.

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

Apple because it's very simple and tasty and juicy and very crunchy and very satisfying.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Quote by Abraham Lincoln(?): "the best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time"

[Raymond: Why do you like this?]

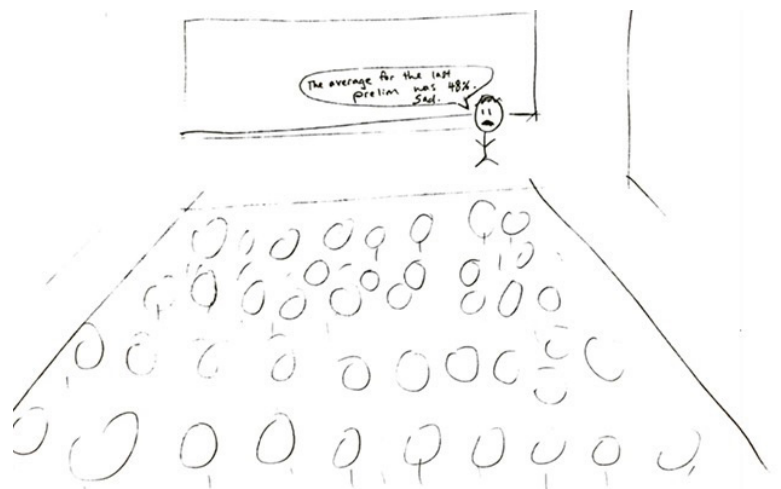
The future can be daunting, so it's good to look at it in a different perspective

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

4.0 GPA, tons of internships lined up, also grow to six foot five /s. (I will need to drink all of the milk in Ithaca to get that tall). More realistically, have fun.

As we closed our conversation, I was struck by how fun and cognizant Jasper. As we went our separate ways for the rest of the day, I left energized by his unassuming sharpness and humor.

-- Raymond Zhang '20



Professor White speaks to his pupils, circa 2018. (Not) colorized.

Jessica Yuen 

hometown // Brooklyn, NY
major // HBHS

word associations

senior class: Crazy
junior class: Small
sophomore class: Stephanie
freshmen class: Emily's
ithaca: Bigger than expected
appel dining hall: Don't go much
bubble tea: Meh, not as good as NYC

When we made plans to for this interview, neither of us knew that it would be right after the first snowstorm of the semester! Braving snowy, hilly paths, I arrived in the familiar Rose House lobby to find Jessica sitting on the couch waiting for me, in snow boots as well, but smiling. Over some Korean-inspired food and squash cheesecake (it was actually delicious), we began to talk and share.

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell: Very pretty because I'd only visited once before and that first, first time, I came, and it was a really really gloomy day.

CBS: Very nice, I like that it's student-run. Also surprisingly, I had no knowledge of CBS, Angelyn told me about it first and I told her about AAIV and now we're in the fellowships we told each other about. It's interesting how things turned out.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

People are a lot friendlier. Before I came here, my friend told me this horror story about two roommates who had orgo together, and one ripped out the other's notes before the test. So I think I was pretty traumatized after that, that's pretty cutthroat.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I would travel a lot and not work. I think I would go to Asia and experience culture, try to do as the locals do. And I think if money was always available, I think I would donate to missionaries, to global health issues, I don't know, I don't have specific charities in mind. Actually, I wouldn't want to be a missionary, but going on a short-term mission seems very fun. My pastors have been trying to get me to go on one, but I'm still thinking about it.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

I would be the one to make the plan and delegate roles like find wood, forage for food, but not like a leader, like a secretary?

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

A banana, because I'm pretty plain and unassuming and normal, but versatile. Am I versatile though? I guess so because I can easily adapt.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

1 Peter 2:9

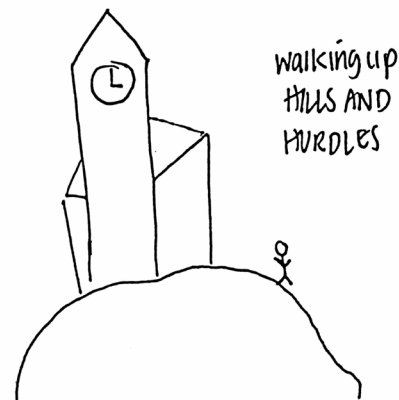
"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him, who called you out of darkness into His marvelous life."

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Find a boyfriend, get into the Sloan program, know how God wants me to integrate my faith into my work, yeah... but I really want to find a boyfriend.

This was my first meal with Jessica so it was a joy to finally get to know her a bit. I love her cheerful, honest personality and her eagerness to learn and grow, both academically and spiritually at Cornell. I'm excited to see how God will challenge her and shape her during her time here.

-- Lauren Kam '19



Julia Zhu 

hometown // Corvallis, Oregon
major // Biology

word associations

senior class:	Finding jobs
junior class:	Taking tests
sophomore class:	Finding housing off campus
freshmen class:	Studying
ithaca:	Cold
appel dining hall:	Great
bubble tea:	Sweet.. too sweet for me

I first messaged Julia on Facebook and I was afraid she didn't notice it so then I messaged her again and then I was really worried that she forgot who I was. Then the greatest day came and just before Thanksgiving break, Julia responded! We met at Appel and she guest-swiped me in and it was such a fun time. Julia is so interesting!

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell? Has a lot of people. I went to a summer school at Washington University in St. Louis and I was expecting it to be like that and I got just that.. Except the housing off campus here.
CBS - people are nice. On the Powerpoint slides they always say things like Let's go to Eddygate for ACE.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

That I have to live off campus for the next few years. For other schools that I googled, the on-campus housing is always there so I just assumed Cornell would be the same. I don't want to be homeless.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I would probably still like to be a pharmacologist but I'd work less hours and spend more time reading books. I like to read anything, mostly fantasy fiction. [Favorite book?] I like a lot of them I can't pick just one favorite.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

I definitely would not be the leader. I'm bad at taking responsibility and leading a lot of people. I'd probably just do what I am told to survive. I don't think I have good survival skills.

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

I think oranges because I eat one everyday, I feel like part of me is going to be made up of oranges because of how many I eat. I eat so, so many.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Hm. I'm trying to think of one. I can't think of one.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to get into graduate school by then. [Anything else?] I'd like to meet more people! And learn to talk louder, sometimes people tell me they can't hear me clearly.

Julia and I had an awesome dinner and I got to learn so much about her! Tried to assure her that housing will work out and all will be fine. Highly recommend everyone gets a meal with Julia, 100/10. She is so funny and I'm looking forward to spending more time together #YEET

-- Melanie Lim '19



Victor Chen 

hometown // Houston, TX
major // Computer Science

word associations

senior class:	I don't know... senioritis
junior class:	So you're just going down the line... I can't even distinguish between the grades
sophomore class:	Pretty big
freshmen class:	Where are the girls?
ithaca:	*thinking face* Gorgeous
appel dining hall:	Crowded (more so than RPCC)
bubble tea:	Bubbles are weird

When I asked Victor where to eat, there was not a moment of hesitation. The clear and correct answer was RPCC. At that moment I knew I must be speaking to a man of culture... wait, RPCC is better than Appel, right? Okay, all jokes aside, I was really blessed to have this chance to meet up with Victor and give him a very impromptu interview (that I only found out about the day before).

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell - A lot of people. It's kinda an oasis in a desert. (Victor is from a small high school... of about 1000 people; I think we have different definitions of what it means for a school to be small.)
CBS - Friendly people, everyone.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

That it didn't get cold as fast as I thought it would. (Victor says he somewhat enjoys the cold, which he defined as below freezing.)

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I would make something really cool, but I don't know what it would be. I used to make stuff with thing around the house for random practical things.

4. If you were on a deserted island with other people, what would your specific role on the island be?

The improviser/engineer, considering the answer to the last question.

5. What fruit/veggie best describes you and why?

Tomato, because I'm not sure if I'm a fruit or a vegetable.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

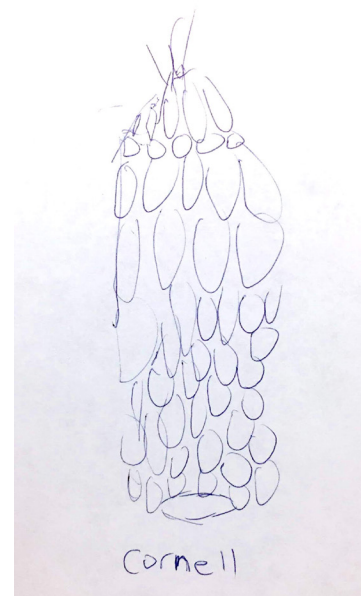
"I like my cheeseburger with no cheese."

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Figure out if I'm a fruit or a vegetable. And also figure out my vocation and what God's calling me to do... kinda like the fruit/vegetable thing.

After dinner there was only one thing on my mind: how I missed the Mongolian stir-fry at RPCC. No, actually (I should stop making so many bad jokes), I was really blessed to get to know Victor a little better and see some of his quirks. I could see that Victor really is a unique and thoughtful guy who has a heart for the kingdom of God. I'm excited to see what God has in store for him over these next few years at Cornell.

-- Ray Zeng '20



The Bad News and the Good News

By Felicia Setiono '16

I assume you will want to hear the bad news first, so I will start there.

While a Christian is called to joy, a quick read of the bible will reveal that those who believed in God, the prophets and Jesus' apostles, suffered greatly for their faith. As I continue my walk, knowing and wanting to know God more, I find myself suffering more for His sake. In a way, this phenomenon can be summarized in Luke 12:48, when Jesus said "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (ESV). Those who know his master's will is expected to act upon it. Thus, the more time I spend with Jesus and the more I get to know His heart, the more I long to carry the cross and carry out the great commandments and commission in my daily life.

There is continually a conflict within myself. For those of you who have walked with the Lord for some time, you know exactly what I'm talking about. I know what I need to do to preserve myself and my sanity, but I also know what I need to do to further God's kingdom on this earth will go against that self-preservation.

There are many examples of this. Some that come to mind include choosing to answer a phone call at one a.m. ready for a two hour conversation instead of sleep or saying yes to serving in fellowships or the church knowing that, as a result, I would have less time to build my resume. Other examples include going out of my way to reach out to people who had repetitively expressed a lack of interest in community, or my worst nightmare, trying to continuously seeking and loving someone who you don't even want to love.

While my flesh begs me to give up, the gospel screams that I can't. Many times, I look at those around me whose thoughts are inundated only with career development, the next internship, accolades, their dream house and I wish that I could be them. I wish they would be the ones to struggle with a lack of sleep as the suffering of those who are around them become their own suffering. I wish they would be the ones to break their backs in order to love people, I

wish they are the ones continuously saddened by the helplessness that comes with wanting to support people when they are completely broken themselves, I wish they are the ones burdened with the inability to pray for others as they have nothing remaining to say to God.

I also know that I'm not alone in my jealousy for those who don't know God or who don't seek to worship Him. One of the psalmist wrote:

*"For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.
Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.
They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.
They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.
Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.
And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches." (Psalm 73: 3-12)*

The psalmist describes those who were against God continued to prosper. He saw the world around him continue to revolve and thrive though it did not have God. In fact, it seemed that those who pursued God (including the psalmist) were wasting away:

*"All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning." (Psalm 73: 13-14)*

Sometimes I would lie in my bed and I would allow myself to live in an alternative reality. I would imagine myself as a different person, and I get to choose what happens to my life, I get to choose how to respond to people, I give myself a way to emerge victorious from any situation. In my imagination, my life is unlike my true life, which is full of uncertainty, suffering, loneliness, confusion, and frustration that lead to persistent tiredness.

However, Christians were never called to live in such a false reality. We are called to live in the true reality, in the world that God has created. When I imagined a better reality, I had forgotten that the best story has been created and written for me in the reality where our God exists. The good God who loves His people dearly lives in this reality. The God who has the power to create and destroy this world and yet died for my sins and yours is here in this reality. His glory can be experienced in this reality and is to be conveyed through the joyful obedience and perseverance of His people.

Persevere, my brothers and sisters!

Persevere in the truth and in the faith that you have been called to. Many skeptics can come up with a multitude of explanations to claim the falsity of the gospel, but not many can explain the strength and the conviction that brought Jesus' disciples to their death. Persevere, because in your perseverance, others might consider that the good news we believe in may have some truth in it.

In his book *Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand wrote about the persecution that he and his family went through for Christ. Wurmbrand's son, Mihai, had both his parents taken away to jail. A lady who took Mihai in had her teeth and bones broken and was left a cripple for taking in the son of Christians. Mihai wasn't allowed to see his mother until two years after she was imprisoned (he was 11 years old). She appeared, unrecognizable from the torture that occurred in the prison, and yet she cried out to her son immediately "Mihai, believe in Jesus." Wurmbrand then wrote that it was at this point his son became a Christian. "He [Mihai] said afterward, "If Christianity had no other arguments in its favor than the fact that my mother believes in it, this is enough for me." It wasn't a neatly packaged presentation of the gospel nor was it the elucidated arguments for the historicity of the scripture that brought Mihai to God (although these things are helpful too), it was the suffering of his mother and his mother's perseverance in the truth.

His mother was only able to say those four words before she was dragged back to her cell. But in those four words she conveyed that despite all of the hardship and the pain, living a life as a servant of Christ is a worthy and blessed life. As Wurmbrand wrote, "If Christ can be loved under such circumstances, He surely is the true Savior." And in fact, the truth that we convey as Christians in our perseverance is also what gives us any hope to persevere. It is also this truth that the psalmist held onto. At the end of the psalm, he said:

*"Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works." (Psalm 73:25-28)*

The truth of a God who is just, who is good, who is powerful kept him going and it will keep me and you going as well. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

I will end with this: in my anger, I tend to assume that God thrives in and enjoys my suffering. But one day as I spent some time praying, I saw an image of a father crying, of a father seeing me in my suffering and crying with and for me. So here is the good news: our God who is all of the aforementioned, also loves us so deeply, in a way that we can't comprehend. He will keep us as He receives our broken and contrite heart. He promises those who are poor in spirit will inherit the kingdom of God. One day, as we hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant," we will rest fully in His presence. This is our reality and I've never been more glad.

Chinese Bible Study

