

Bread of Life

CBS SPRING 2020

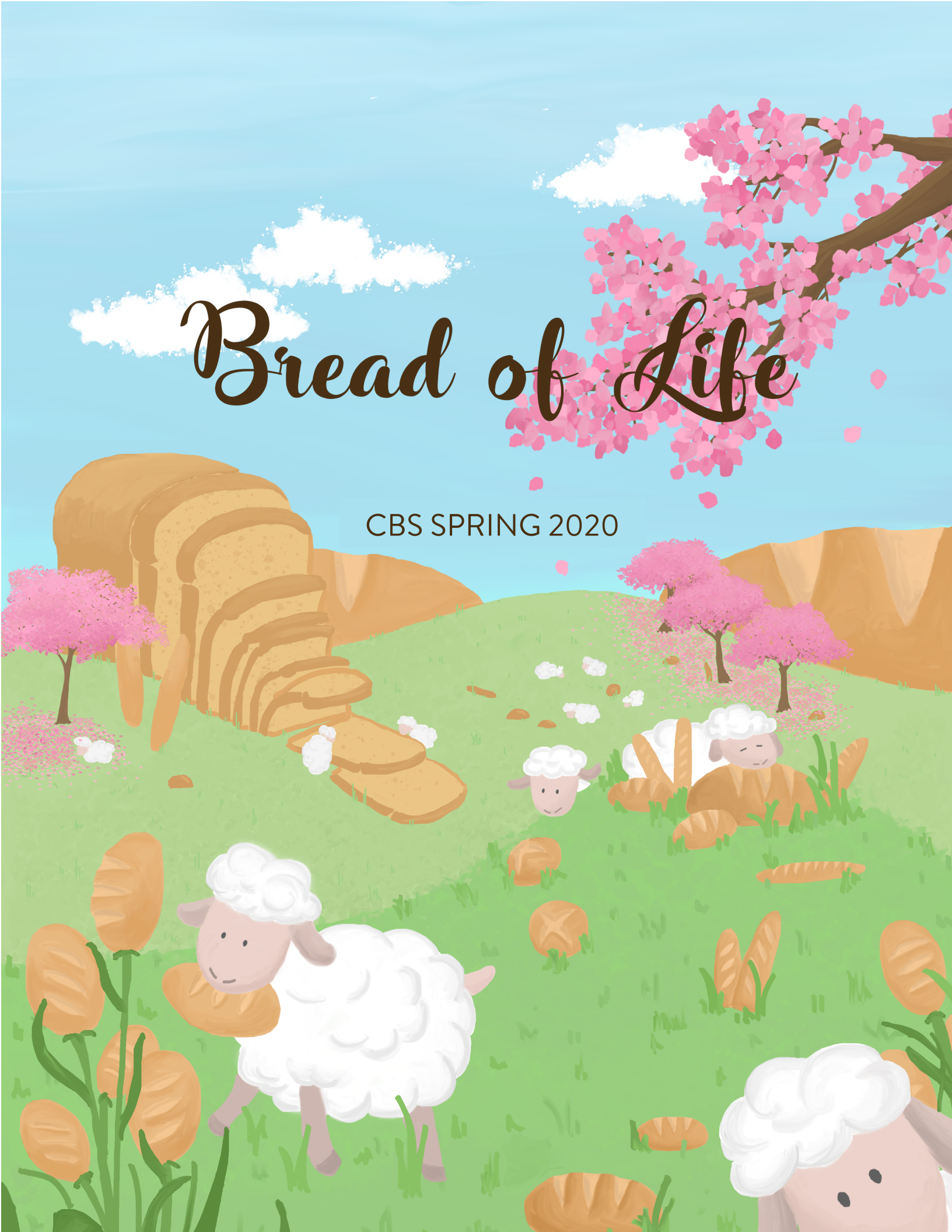


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INTERVIEWERS

Daniel Woo

Emily Kam

Jackie Peng

Jasper Liang

Kevin Hu

Lucy Lu

Melanie Lim

Stephanie Deng

WRITERS

Darren Chang

Jason Chen

Jasper Liang

Lucy Lu

EDITORS

Kimberly Yap

Stephanie Deng

DESIGNERS

Emily Kam

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jasper Liang

Lucy Lu

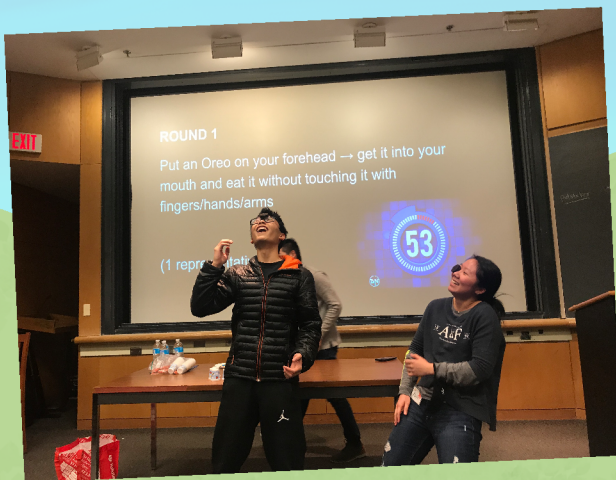
Stephanie Deng



What Qiming Sun does at Okenshields



Alyssa Gao '22, Emily Kam '22, Jason Chen '22, Lucy Lu '21, and Darren Chang '21 discuss *Mere Christianity* together



Alvin Chang and Alice Zhao '20 compete to see who can slide an Oreo into their mouth first

CBS ice skates at Lynah



Daeguung Chung Kim '21 and Alyssa Gao '22 twinning!



editor

Dear CBS,

This past semester has been quite a wild ride. Congrats to everyone for pushing through and finishing!

Since coming home, I've been listening to Pastor Joel Osteen's podcasts with my family, and I highly encourage y'all (if you haven't already) to take up listening to a biblical podcast or something similar. With quarantine and social distancing in place, it's even more important now to take charge and find for yourself a virtual resource that you feel comfortable with and excited to dedicate your time to.

One particular sermon of Pastor Osteen's really resonated for me. Especially in these hard times, it's easy to go about your day discouraged and anxious, waiting for someone to reach out to you. And while we can always count on our brothers and sisters in Christ to lift us up when we're down, don't forget that the most important encouragements for yourself come from yourself. So *bless yourself* and speak out loud with hope for yourself, as God created us in His own image and He has made no mistakes. By blessing yourself and lifting yourself up, you are in agreement with the Lord and his plan

for you. Tell yourself that you can do anything, and God's endless mercy will pave your way.

Personally, I have been guilty on multiple occasions of being pessimistic and doubtful—not blessing myself enough. But just throw away the idea that blessing yourself is selfish or self-centered and stop cursing yourself. I know it's easy to say hard to do, but I challenge y'all to join me in striving to be more confident, more positive, more hopeful in yourself this year!

On an entirely separate note, I'm currently especially appreciating that CBS is the type of close-knit community that transcends any and all physical borders. Even though we won't all be together in this upcoming semester, I know for certain that this fellowship will remain strong in our trust and love for each other.

I hope that this edition of BoL preserves all the lovely memories we have made this semester, both on campus and in quarantine. (Sorry it took me so long to finish.) To all those who helped me with this edition, thank you from the bottom of my heart. As always, sending my prayers to everyone for good health and safety.

With all my love,
Joy Thean '21

coordinators



To my dearest brothers and sisters in Christ:

It has taken me much too long to write this letter (I'm very sorry Joy). Raymond taught me the term "lame duck" after Darren and Kevin were confirmed to be next year's coordinators and boi did I really become a lame duck. A lame Aliceduck. But unlike me, God is never ineffectual or simply sitting around. So thankfully He has provided me again with guidance and time to reflect and write. I'd like to share some lyrics from two of my favorite hymns that have given me much comfort and direction, which I hope may in turn nourish your souls: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" and "Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?"

V1: Oh soul are you weary and troubled? / No light in the darkness you see? / There's light for a look at the Savior / And life more abundant and free

How often the first two lines have resounded in my heart and mind, and perhaps many of you as well. I have frequently been drawn in prayer to Psalm 42 and the similar cries reflected there. In coordinatorship and in life, I have felt burdened and run-down, sometimes overcome with a deep sense of my own inadequacy, sometimes simply tired from the amount of things I have on my to-do list. Yet the solution given here and in the Bible is not to constantly focus on ourselves and the issues plaguing us (though there is appropriate room needed for sorrow and even grieving), but rather to turn to Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith. There we may find respite, comfort, freedom, and joy.

V3: His word shall not fail you, He promised / Believe Him and all will be well / Then go to a world that is dying / His perfect salvation to tell

Things have certainly been a bit crazy this past semester. I remember at the beginning of the semester wondering how Bible studies and prayer groups would go. I remember at the news of class cancellations wondering how to shepherd well virtually and what all of it meant for CBS, as well as for my personal graduation and plans. I remember during the call of my summer teaching fellowship being cancelled wondering what I would do post-grad. Now, at the end of the semester, I wonder at God's incredible faithfulness and ability to work all things out for the good of His people. There is still and will be many more moments of wondering. As I graduate (with my digital diploma lol) into an uncertain and unstable world, I have learned more and more to hold onto God's promises and to also share the assurance I have received from them to others.

C: Turn your eyes upon Jesus / Look full in His wonderful face / And the

things of earth will grow strangely dim / In the light of His glory and grace

Again, the message from the first verse resounds. The balm to our aching weariness, the light in our darkness, the assurance in the face of uncertainty, and the voice calling us and giving us purpose is Jesus Christ. When we look upon Him and know that we have eternal life, which is to know God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3), how much less overwhelming are the sufferings we face, and how much more peace can dwell in our hearts. Another thing I want to share is a certain piece of wisdom that a certain alumni who I met this past semester shared with me; certainly many things grow dim in Jesus' light, but certain other things may also grow brighter. May we have the wisdom and desire to seek out those brighter things worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8) and give God the glory. This focus on Jesus leads well into the next song.

V3: What can strip the seeming beauty, / From the idols of the earth? / Not a sense of right or duty, / But the sight of peerless worth.

Idolatry. The sin that clings so closely. From motivations of insincere desires to appear selfless in the sight of others, to jealousy over others' academic/career success, to lack of discipline to read God's word in favor of some other brief enjoyment, I have struggled (and still do) with all of these. Time and time again, I have been drawn away from God, only by His grace to be drawn back to Him. I have experienced that it was truly not the sense of right or duty that came with being coordinator that could relieve me of the false allure of my idols. Instead, it was the Sunday morning sermons preached as I begrudgingly got up for online service with messages that struck my heart with conviction. It was the nights I couldn't sleep as I cried out, finally turning to God when I couldn't handle it anymore. It was the prayers I prayed after picking up my Bible that I had left untouched on my desk for two weeks. These reminders of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, and what that meant for me, were the only things capable of drawing me back in true humility and repentance.

V6: 'Tis that look that melted Peter, / 'Tis that face that Stephen saw, / 'Tis that heart that wept with Mary, / Can alone from idols draw.

We have studied and seen of this heart that wept with Mary during Ben Hutton's message on John 11 on Lazarus' death. Often, it is the personal times we spend with God that remind us of what a friend we have in Jesus, what a personal relationship we have with the one through whom all things were made. May we be reminded constantly of the tenderness and love Christ has for us, and to continually dwell in this relationship with Him.

C: Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring. / Let His peerless worth constrain thee, Crown Him now unrivaled King.

This past semester, as we studied Jesus' "I Am" statements, we learned of some different attributes of Christ. Or as Pastor Felker described it during our first Large Group of the semester, we have begun to see some of the different facets of the same diamond when viewed from different angles. May we be captivated by the beauty of Christ, and not forget all that we have learned of the breadth and length and height and depth of His love. May we be driven to bring Him worthy tribute, from doxology to praxeology (BEHUUR from Fall Retreat if you remember AHAHAHA).

May God keep our eyes on Jesus, and may Jesus' peerless worth be made ever clearer to our often-weak eyes and hard hearts!

Please remember I am always available for any and all of you--just a FB message or Zoom call away! Even if we are no longer to be physically together, we continue to be one body with one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6). May this wonderful truth and the power of the Spirit in our inner being root and ground us in love, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19 vision verse).

Loving and praying for you,
Alice Zhao '20

coordinators

Dearest CBS,

It is surreal writing this letter to close off a tumultuous semester. I never expected my senior year to end in such a way, and I have been struggling to put words to paper describing how I feel. I have started and stopped writing several times. With this space granted to me, I want to share two related stories.

First, I want to confess that I came into the spring semester with arrogance and complacency. This contrasted fall semester, when I came into senior year feeling burdened with existential questions for CBS, worried for the direction of the fellowship and anxious of the work ahead. Yet, despite my lack of faith, God has been gracious and merciful, blessing this fellowship with new faces, spiritual growth in brothers and sisters and new formats to worship Him and learn about Him in CBS. I think this got to my head, and after the fall semester came to a close I came away with a feeling of general 'pride' with my role in serving.

In one of God's funny twists, what I thought would be an easier spring semester turned out to be one of my most spiritually wearisome yet bittersweet. I missed many weekends of church and large group traveling over weekends such that I only attended a single large group before mid-March. Ironically enough, the second in-person large group I attended turned out to be my last, as it was right when Cornell shut down in response to COVID-19. In summary, I felt strangely detached from CBS in my last semester, disconcerted all the more because of my supposed role of being heavily involved in serving in the fellowship.

Through all this, I realized in my particular place of leadership, in which I often fixate on problems and challenges with CBS, I often discounted the inherent joy of community. That in spite of all my 'work' in serving the fellowship, I've only remembered the replenishing power of fellowship and the grace of corporate worship when I was physically absent. This semester reminded me of how everyone has been serving and encouraging and teaching me throughout my four years, and pointed out sins of inattention and pride in my coordinatorship. God has humbled me with this realization, with the understanding that indeed, I am *"his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

This is not to say to use community as a crutch for one's faith, nor as

the sole motivator of our belief in Christ. It is to reiterate the sweetness of regular communion, fellowship and worship with one another for God that I so often take for granted. Therefore, in this pandemic era, that privilege is in some ways taken away, but in some ways it is all the more present and even magnified. From Matthew, Jesus reassured us that *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* (Matthew 18:20).

Therefore, I pray that we treasure the preciousness of community. I am thankful for the Zoom large groups and prayer meetings we have continued with and everyone who attended. I encourage everyone to seek to meet with another by means of technology. I hope that we do not do this merely to go through the motions, but that especially in this time, God's Spirit will genuinely give us a mindset of unity and inclusive love for one another.

My second story grows out of recent events. First, the coronavirus pandemic and resultant economic and human suffering and then the death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests have been occupying a substantial amount of my head space. I know I am not alone in this. Engaging in conversations about these crises has been exhausting, and reflecting on the past few days, I realized the language I use to explain and discuss the recent events has been woefully cynical and without hope.

If the language that I use, and by extension my heart, is so devoid of hope, how can I witness of my faith in Jesus? *"but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15).

Unnerved, I reread the passage in 1 Peter and its surrounding excerpts, which are about suffering and persecution for righteousness and for being a Christian. I am glad I had done so, because the context of the chapter was lost to me just merely looking at 1 Peter 3:15. The chapter closes with a resounding ode to Jesus' sufferings, *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit"* (1 Peter 3:18). Therefore, my hope does not need to be replenished by a hope conjured up by my will or by self-delusion, it cannot and it need not. Such a hope would be hollow and fake. The Scriptures remind me that the hope in my heart is supplied by the real suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for each and every one of us. I pray that we may all persist in this imperishable, powerful hope in these hard times.

So what am I driving at? I am not qualified, experienced or well-read enough to provide a comprehensive and theologically tempered understanding of current events. Yet, I do hope to offer a set of exhortations and prayers.

That to sustain and continue in the hope of Christ in us, I hope we can saturate our lives (and with others!) in prayer for this current age. That these will be prayers not only of supplications and askings of God, but of deep confession and repentance of sin and brokenness in our lives, which is connected to the brokenness of the world. Our prayers should also be for unity in a divided Church, for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and for the ministry of reconciliation that Christ gave us (2 Corinthians 5:11-21) to be powerful as to reconcile many to God and to one another. Altogether, I hope that our response, ethic and action as Christians will not generate increased distance between ourselves and injustice and suffering in our time, but that with an eternal perspective, we may properly see brokenness and injustice for it is to God and to actively testify and witness for restorative change.

This letter grew in unexpected ways. I am writing too much.

Thank you Jesus that in college, I have been able to begin to taste and see that you are good. Thank you CBS. Thank you my brothers and sisters at Cornell. I love you all. CBS will always be family. I will be praying for you all.

By the Grace of God,
Raymond Zhang '20

praise ministry



This has been a challenging yet rewarding year for the CBS Praise Team. In the 2018-2019 year, we had 15 people on the Praise Team. At the start of this academic year, we had 7. However, our smaller size has also been a blessing in many ways. For one, each member had to be on set more frequently than in previous years. This meant each member spent more time with the other members than in previous years. Some of my favorite memories come from times I've spent rehearsing with the other members of the set.

In addition, the small size has been a source of growth for our members, because it meant that individual members had a large influence in keeping the whole operation running. In the first few large groups, we were able to set up the equipment without the technical guidance of our upperclassmen, thanks to our more tech-savvy members. After that, even when we were scrambling for people to play on set, we were able to make do. Several of our members were willing to lead by themselves, and other members spent a significant amount of time helping set up even though they weren't on set. The existence of the Praise Team depended largely on the self-sacrifice of the individual members, and I take great pride in them because of the Godliness they have continually shown. Thanks to the Spirit's guidance and our faithful members, we were able to accomplish almost all that the Praise Team had done in previous years despite our small size.

However, there have been some tangible effects to a smaller Praise Team. Most noticeably, we reduced the number of songs per large group from 5 to 4, and we reduced the size of each set. It is my hope that in the future, these decisions will no longer become a necessity, God willing. This year, we also developed a new setup that does not require the soundboard. This development made being on set multiple weeks in a row much more manageable due to the reduced time required to set up. Our new setup was not without its problems, but I am grateful that this option was presented to us.

This spring semester has been a bumpy ride. Due to the pandemic, sudden changes had to be made to the way we did worship. Throughout this time, I desired to make the experience as similar to a regular large group as possible. We had a time of corporate worship, even though only one person could play at a time. I apologize for all the technical difficulties, but I hope that despite the awkwardness of singing to your computer, you still were able to

express a genuine love for God.

The half semester that we had in person was also still filled with wonderful memories. I can vividly recount the experience that David, Jasper and I had in setting up worship for Felly Dinner. We were woefully inexperienced in setting up for the event, and we needed much more time than we had. We hadn't used the drum set regularly in over 3 years, so I had to call Aaron to set up the drum set, which he did entirely through intuition. We started an hour late and had minimal time to practice. The fact that we were able to create an effective worship time was through God's grace—and I will always praise him for it.

There are many other memories from this year that are too many to list. All I can say is, I am very thankful for God's powerful yet gentle presence with us. And I couldn't have asked for a better Praise Team this year. Aaron, Alice, David, Hannah, Jackie, Jasper, Louise, Lucy, Mel, Ray, Stephanie—I love you all.

- Chris Qian '20

reach ministry



Dearest CBS,

Wow – to say what a year it has been almost feels like an understatement.

Where do we begin? As we sit down to reflect, it is difficult for us to summarize such a tumultuous semester – never has a time seemed so fickle, our plans so temporal, and friends so distant. Yet in the midst of such uncertainty (and in the midst of all uncertainties), we are reminded of our most absolute certainty – the strength we have from God the Father, the assurance we find in Christ Jesus, and the counsel we receive from the Holy Spirit.

Being in this position of gratitude reminds us of a central message God has taught us throughout this semester: (1) life is short, (2) be a good steward of our time, opportunities, and relationships, and (3) trust in God. Looking back, it is amazing how God has delivered us through this very message despite our many weaknesses and sin. Through both in-person Cornell days and virtual Zooms, He has provided our fellowship with deeper friendships and conversations in Prayer Partnerships and Open Reach Meetings. In revealing the importance of living out our faith and trusting in Him, God has challenged us with Reach EV Workshop to further understand what it means to share the Gospel: focusing on who He is more than what He has done for us. Through the blessings of Service Marketplace, ACEs, and CBS Lunch League, God has given us love and laughter. As we thank God that CBS can still connect virtually, we are just as grateful to have a fellowship that we can miss so dearly.

In resting our dependence in God, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the struggles we faced. Coming into this school year, one major goal was for Reach Ministry to seamlessly flow into the lives of all CBS-ers. Regardless of any official position or involvement with the fellowship (or Reach ministry), we desired (and still do!) to see all members growing closer to God, to demonstrate the encouragement, teaching and care received from Him to others, and to experience a modern-day Acts 2 fellowship. Yet many times this semester, we failed to put our plans to prayer, often resulting in us letting things slip through the cracks.

While it is easy for us to worry – what if we didn't do enough? How have we hurt people in ways we don't know? – God still finds us in our doubt and fills us with a greater spirit of peace. As we try to love one another and point each other to Jesus, God has increasingly revealed to us His heart for discipleship and the many ways we were distracted away from it, at times causing rushed decisions and hurtful assumptions. But God's desires for this fellowship are not hindered by our attempts; it has truly been a testimony of His grace and mercy to see Him use other ministries and members to love and serve this fellowship in ways we have been lacking (also special shoutout to Reach Train!). In all of this, we can find comfort and joy in Him because we know that CBS is not in man's hands, but in God's alone.

In a way, we are grateful for Reach ministry's Zoom era. At first it felt like we were failing Paul's exhortation to meet with one another, but through the gift of technology and God's power CBS was still able "to stir up one another to love and good works...encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25). This situation has also prepared us for the times to come. Eventually we will be physically separated from one another, as this community of believers. We will move onto different life stages and our desire to follow God's greatest commandments—to love Him and to love our neighbors—may be shaken when we are isolated Christians. What can we all learn from this year, this semester, that can guide us to continue the Christian life in the future?

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:4-7

This year's vision verse for Reach can actually answer that: "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). And looking into the Bible, Apostle Paul showed how he ministered to believers and non-believers while he was in jail (like in Ephesians!). The personal relationship everyone had (or was willing to have) with the Trinity overpowered the lack of in-person meet ups. Because of this personal relationship, we first gathered, and we continue to gather and spread God's love virtually. We hope that you do not keep these good things to yourself, but share with others about how you have been successful and faced challenges in this (like offering suggestion to Reach ministry or joining Reach ministry in our planning) for "by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory (Proverbs 24:5-6).

If you've made it this far, we'd like to thank you for two things. Thank you for bearing with us in reading this letter, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve CBS as Reach Coords. It's been such a privilege to see how God has supplied this fellowship with the endurance and encouragement to love and grow with one another, and we are so grateful that He has chosen you as the brothers and sisters in Christ for our time at Cornell. Lastly, please let us know if you would like any prayer or support – we are just a Zoom call away. In the meantime, we'll be in the Reach Retirement Home (see BoL Spring 2018).

In Christ,
Louise Xie '21, Jessica Yuen '21

bible study reflections



Dear CBS,

I've never led a Bible study like the one I did this semester. One, the group was far more heterogenous, consisting of undergrad students from each year, grad students, and even actual adults. Two, the structure was more defined: we had a specific vision in my mind for each chapter of John that we discussed. Three, we had to deal with COVID-19. Each of the characteristics of this semester's Bible study revealed that we needed to depend on different facets of Jesus (as Pastor Steve Felker preached in the first week) to sustain us. We needed to think of Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" to reach people of different backgrounds in our Bible study, we needed to think of Jesus as the light and the revealer to gain a deeper feeling for and revelation about the passage through the inductive method of Bible study, and we had to think of Jesus as the Bread of Life (in addition to nearly every other facet) when trying to keep our Bible studies and our own spiritual lives afloat using Zoom and other online forums. While these differences could be difficult to adjust to at first, we eventually found that this format and method of Bible study was more conducive to the new Large Group structure — we had something specific to learn and share each week.

I deeply enjoyed our meetings in Goldwin Smith 283, although the location was a bit out of the way. We were willing to be vulnerable while adding what we had learned from our individual walks with the Lord. I'm especially thankful for Ray, Louise, and Attilus, who each led Large Group discussions when I was unavailable or away from Ithaca. Each of the different leaders for this semester participated in the pre-study with other Bible Study leaders to gain a better picture of the bigger picture and shaped discussions as the Spirit led. Through our study, we began to capture a vision of Jesus's "I am" statements and apply "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" to our lives.

In Him,
Darren Chang '21

Dearest CBS,

What a blessing it truly has been to read together and speak to each other God's Word (nearly) every Friday this semester. In this time of wrestling with fears and anxieties, and varying burdens during the COVID-19 pandemic, standing firm and rooted in the truth of the Word of God and specifically in the character of Jesus with continued bible studies has been an encouraging reminder of what it means for Jesus to be our Savior and Lord of our lives. Through Jesus, we have hope and joy that is everlasting in our risen Savior and bread of life, that nothing in this world can offer. Through Jesus, we have reconciliation with God and are called to abide in God and His love.

Praise God that we could continue our bible studies during a pandemic, although virtually, this semester. Praise God for his faithfulness and grace in working in the hearts of our brothers and sisters who so patiently and diligently served in leading bible studies throughout the semester and transitioned to online. I pray that we may take to heart the truths of Scripture we have continually reminded and encouraged each other with during our bible studies, that we may continue to hunger for the Word of God, and that we may continue to speak to each other the Word of God, not neglecting to be meeting with one another, virtual or not.

In Christ,
Stephanie Deng '21

bible study reflections



Hello my beloved brothers and sisters:

Praise God for His faithfulness and for the amazing ways He works! This year was actually the first that I led a Bible study (#never2late) and I am exceedingly grateful for all that I have learned. God guided us first through a transition to Friday LG Bible studies at the beginning of the academic year, then through another transition to online meetings due to the COVID-19 quarantine. While I see room for improvement in increasing discipleship within Bible studies and linking each study together, I also see how God helped each of the leaders, myself included, adapt and improve throughout the semester.

The guiding verses that I kept in the back of my mind for each Bible study was John 20:30-31, as Pastor Steve shared with us during our first large group: “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

Truly the Word of God is good! For in it is the promise and revelation of the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). We have read these truths as we studied how Jesus is the bread of life, the way of salvation, and the life itself (as well as all of the other “I Am” statements). I pray that we may continue to hold fast to these promises and see how God works them out in each of our lives. To Him be the glory!

Love,
Alice Zhao '20

Dear CBS,

This semester’s theme of “I Am” statements was extremely fitting, given the circumstances that we were put through. It was my first time leading a Bible study, and I was only starting to get the hang of it when COVID-19 struck. For a moment, everything was uncertain — we had no idea what the Large Group schedule would become, we had concerns about the transition to virtual Bible studies, and I had my own struggles with finding my passion to serve. How amazing is it, then, that we have a God who is unchanging? We learned about different aspects of God through Jesus: Jesus as the vine, Jesus as the good shepherd, Jesus as the bread of life -- and these will remain true regardless of what we are going through. Every single Bible study was a reminder to us all that we have a God who is much greater, and this message was all the more needed post-COVID.

As for the Bible studies themselves, every discussion was fruitful and went smoothly thanks to my amazing group. I’m very appreciative of the questions and thoughts that were shared, and was delighted to see our group open up more and more as the semester progressed. I’m thankful for the fun we had with icebreakers and with our attempts at singing praise songs simultaneously on Zoom unmuted. I’m especially grateful for the freshmen who all stepped up and contributed greatly to the discussions, for Stephanie and Emily K. who helped lead songs of response, and for the veterans who dropped their wisdom nuggets on us all. I’ve been truly blessed to be a part of this group this semester.

- Jasper Liang '22

bible study reflections



Dear CBS,

We are so thankful to have served CBS in leading our Bible study group. It has been such a blessing, and we have learned a lot. The Lord taught us so much about Himself, the fellow brothers and sisters in our group, and what it means to be leaders in Christ. He showed us that we can all build each other up in His love and that His love transcends the boundaries of this world. Even though we've been physically apart for almost half the semester, fruitful meetings through Zoom act as a reminder from the Lord that in the Spirit, we are one body, regardless of distance (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Lord is so good and so faithful! Praise to the One who is our hope and our refuge!

After reflecting back on this semester, we've realized some things we should improve on in the future. First, at the beginning of each meeting, we should recap what we learned last time. Giving a brief summary would provide people with a more context and another source to refer to in analyzing the current passage. For example, there were many times when my group wanted to answer the question "How does this 'I Am' statement relate to the ones we studied before?" Additionally, in the future, we would like to reach out more to people who are frequently absent. We are all asked to bear each other's burdens and encourage each other in Christ (Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11). Though we did not do so this semester, we will seek to be more mindful in the future. We are thankful that the Lord has shown us our shortcomings, and we will pray that He supplies us with what we need to continue building up His body.

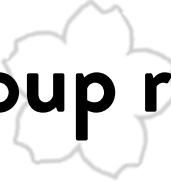
We were encouraged by how the same Word speaks to different people in our group differently, which is a reminder that God builds us uniquely

and that each of us has a different role to play for His Kingdom. Some were reminded of their first love for God (Rev. 2:4). Some were moved by the resurrection of Lazarus, after learning that Jesus deliberately waited to go to Bethany for the glory and purpose of God (John 11:4, 11:6, 11:15) and that He has deep love and compassion for His people (John 11:5, 11:35). Some were comforted by the light (John 8:12) we have in Jesus and the hope that comes with our faith. Above all the reminders and encouragements, we are grateful to have studied in depth these statements that reveal to us the deity of Jesus and the truths of God, so that we may believe and have life in His name (John 20:31).

We pray that every one of us will take these truths not just into our heads but to heart, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17) and we may take up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24) day by day.

- Alyssa Gao '22, Lucy Lu '21

prayer group reflections



----- Central Campus Prayer Group -----

The Central Campus Prayer Group had largely the same members as in the fall, and still met in a reserved study room in the newly renovated Uris Library Cocktail Lounge. What was different, however, was the leadership and structure. The second semester of prayer groups saw the emergence of “character studies”; each week the group would focus on the prayer of a different character/passage in the Bible. In keeping with this new structure of one character study per week, my group truly witnessed the power of prayer, and the sharing of prayer requests at the end of each meeting helped us to encourage and pray for one another.

We were continually reminded that God is worthy of all of our praises in all situations and circumstances. We were blessed with the ability to continue to meet over Zoom after we were sent home mid-semester due to COVID-19. But despite the physical distance and everything going on in the world, we were still able to praise Him and pray to Him, as He is the Lord of all.

10 Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”
11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
13 before the Lord, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Psalm 96:10-13 (a prayer of praise)

----- West Campus Prayer Group -----

Being in Emily’s prayer group gives me a lot of deja vu — it reminds me of the prayer group I led in the fall at the same place (Emily’s suite in Bethe) on the same day of the week, but one of the different and certainly encouraging things was seeing Emily with a heart to lead us to pray over the Lord’s word and with one another. I especially appreciated the document she kept with all of our prayers over time. It helped us not only pray for each other for the rest of the week but also see how God faithfully worked in us in the course of time.

For me, prayer group was an uplifting thing in the middle of an overwhelming week. We dug deep into many prayers in the Bible. I learned how Moses, David, Isaiah, Jonah, Mary and others who loved God deeply cried out to Him and praised Him despite desperate circumstances, because they knew that God is sovereign and in control. I saw the group grow closer to each other as we opened up and shared humbly our praises, gratitudes, fears and insecurities. I saw God answer so many prayers in and after the meeting. For countless times, He brought me closer to Him and gave me the desire to seek Him more when I tended to put Him in the back of my mind.

I am glad that we had this form of fellowship in the past year and am grateful that God used His Spirit and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to lead us and grow us through prayer groups.

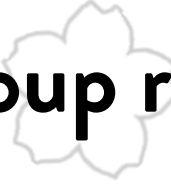
- Lucy Lu ‘21

Every Thursday night a sprinkling of friends gathered to eat Bethe's Indian/Chinese food, spend time submerged in the Word, and pray for each other. I was nervous in the beginning to “lead” a prayer group, because I often felt like I myself didn’t know how to pray. But I was eager to grow alongside friends, and I trusted despite my (un)qualifications, knowing that if any good or wonderful thing came out of this prayer group it would truly be because of the Holy Spirit moving and speaking into our hearts.

We examined the prayers of Moses, Hannah, David, Jeremiah, and others in the Bible, ending finally with Jesus' prayer for his disciples. What is perhaps most striking about all these prayers is that no matter the circumstance, these characters *praised* God. Whether they were rejoicing, lamenting, or expressing gratitude, they still praised God for being the Almighty Ruler that He is.

We also kept a Google doc of prayer requests. I feel that oftentimes we forget how good God is to us, and if it were possible for us to recount all the ways God has blessed and provided for us, we would truly be awestruck. I hoped that this document would help us to see week by week how God works in our lives and the lives of our brothers and sisters. I was encouraged by the group sharing their troubles with each other, and we used the document to reflect on our week. And I was even more encouraged to hear words of thanksgiving and praise being continually lifted to God, no matter our state of mind that day.

prayer group reflections



“Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer’s;
he makes me tread on my high places.
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.”
(Habakkuk 3:17-19)

In Christ,
Emily Kam ‘22

----- North Campus Prayer Group -----

Dearest CBS,

North Campus Prayer Group has been such a blessed time of prayer and fellowship with dear (many young and fresh) brothers and sisters this semester. For the first half of this semester, we unpacked thought-provoking, sometimes challenging, discussions and questions during our Bible studies of characters and prayers in Scripture. It was greatly encouraging to be continually reminded of the truths God speaks to us about approaching His throne and truly surrendering our burdens and lifting our praises to Him in prayer through these character studies.

Praise God that we were able to continue meeting via Zoom for the rest of this semester despite classes moving to online and many people having to leave campus, among many other challenges, due to COVID-19. Sharing in our burdens, praying for one another, and lifting each other up with words of encouragement and Scripture has been such a blessing in a time of much uncertainty, new challenges, and tough adjustments. We decided to begin reading a book together for the second half of this semester, *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which has led to many interesting and thoughtful discussions. Our reading and discussion from this book include God’s calling for us to be united as Christians in and through Jesus Christ, to pray from the heart of Jesus, to seek and understand what it means to truly fellowship with God and with other believers as one body of Christ.

As I reflect on this past semester of our prayer group and many unexpected changes and plenty of uncertainty, I am comforted by God’s faithfulness and grace as He continues to hear our prayers and reminds us of the assurance and peace we have in Jesus as our great high priest. I pray that as we look ahead, we may all continue to look to God for peace and wisdom in the midst of chaos, and comfort and strength in times of heartache.

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

In Christ,
Stephanie Deng ‘21

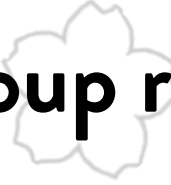
----- Collegetown Prayer Group -----

The Prayer Group at Collegetown met in Eddygate 1G. While small, I am grateful for the faithfulness of each member of the group over the in-person weeks of spring semester. Each prayer meeting was full of grace and encouragement, and I couldn’t ask for any other space to saturate in corporate prayer together. I am very thankful for walking side-by-side with these brothers and sisters as we learned how to pray together, to pray for one another and to pray for the world.

Our weekly prayer meetings typically consisted of half an hour (or more) of study of Scriptural prayers. What caught our attention during our discussion on how Old Testament characters (such as Moses, Hannah, David and others) prayed was their priorities in prayer that oftentimes departed from our priorities. How do we focus on God’s nature and His will in our prayers? How can we be unafraid of speaking candidly about frustrations and lamenting over the brokenness in our life and in the world? How do we intercede for others? Answers to these questions and thought-provoking discussions all stemmed from our time together in God’s Word. The Bible has been amazing in equipping us in prayer throughout this semester.

After everything shut down and we could not meet together in person

prayer group reflections



anymore, God was still graceful in giving us the technologies and internet connections to continue meeting on Zoom. This also gave us new capabilities to host our prayer. We have had several freshmen from Rutgers join us for our weekly prayer meetings, which has been a great blessing and encouragement to pray together knowing that we are in one body in Christ following the same Gospel. We are even continuing our prayer groups into the summer. I invite everyone reading, regardless of where you are at, to join us!

While I have had the pleasure of 'leading' this prayer group, it has taught me about the equalizing grace that God has given us through prayer. No matter where we each are in our Christian walk, God is always faithful in listening to our prayers because of Jesus' death and resurrection. I have learned a lot from everyone in this group. Praying during each meeting has been like exhaling a long breath, a blessing from God I am very thankful for.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.”

Luke 1:46-50

Christ,
Raymond Zhang '20

class of 2020

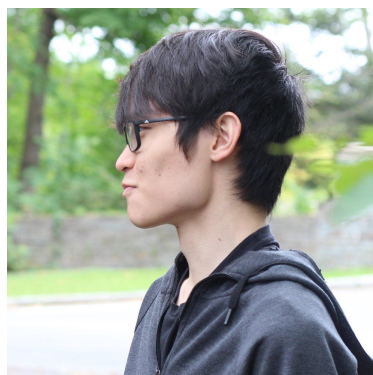
SENIORS

ALICE ZHAO



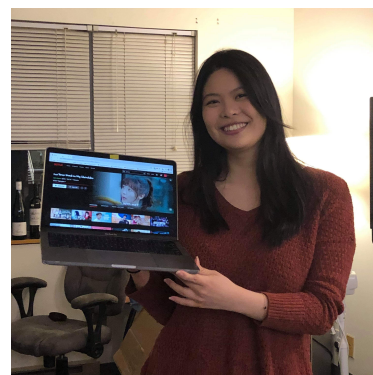
Best addictive laughter

CHRIS QIAN



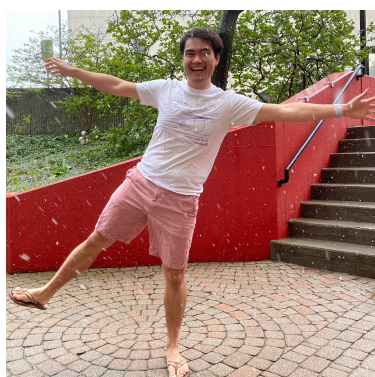
Most likely to cut fruit with his jawline

FRANCES LIU



Most likely to pull an all-nighter binging an Asian drama

LIAM PATTERSON



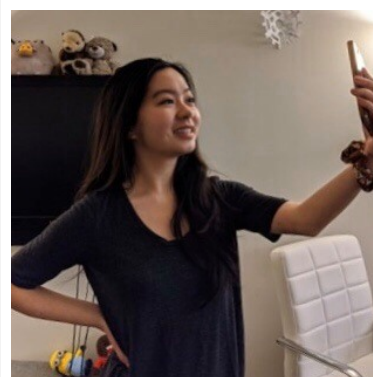
Most likely to wear shorts in a blizzard

MANDY CHAN



Biggest weeb

MEGAN LEE



Most likely to become a social media influencer

MICHAEL HUANG



Most likely to become TikTok famous

RAY ZENG



Most likely to have a Lactaid on him

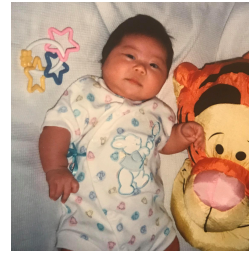
RAYMOND ZHANG



Most likely to scream unnecessarily

Alice Zhao

hometown: Long Island, NY || major: Biology and Society



"O vain man! Show me your faith by your joy. Use your faith, and have joy; increase your faith and increase your joy."

- Samuel Ward

It's the end of our second day of [online] class after a three-week long spring break. Despite being 700 miles apart, Alice and I are still able to conduct her interview via video call. On the way to our meetup, we run into two of her apartment mates, Shu and April. We then settle into our respective rooms and begin the interview.

1. CBS is...

Wonderful, loving, a place where I have grown in my faith and in my love. A group of people I will miss dearly.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

He has humbled me; but obviously there is still work to be done. God has really expanded my mind and my heart to know Him more, to know His love more, to know His will for me more, and has enabled me to love others in a more humble and selfless way. I definitely still struggle with these things, but God has definitely grown me in my ability to do these things with more pure motivation and for God's glory rather than personal gain. He has also changed my lifestyle - to be healthier and more disciplined. Slowly but surely.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

Your freshman year is almost over. I encourage you all to take time to reflect, because I think that when we go to new places and start a new phase in life, we can be consumed by busyness, excitement, stress. So take time to really reflect and see how God is walking with you the entire way. Commit yourself to the Lord. My freshman year, I grew hugely in my faith and I think that set the foundation for how I sought to love

FAVORITES

Praise song: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Cornell class: ASL 1101 (although Boxing is a very close second)

Study spot: Mann Library second floor

Place to eat: Terrace

Music group/artist: Indelible Grace

Verse: James 3:17 - But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Dessert: Patbingsu (Korean shaved ice)

CBS tradition: Felly Dinner

others and to love God for the rest of my college years. You have three more years left; use that time well because the days are short.

b. Sophomores

What a cute bunch. They are so adorable! You'll be juniors next year...I encourage you to seek how you can be serving the body of Christ (although this is true for anyone) but especially for sophomores transitioning into upperclassmen. This will probably (and should) be on your minds. Pray and seek for God's will, where He has placed you, where your gifts lie, and how you can use them to further His kingdom. But at the same time, be careful of overworking yourselves. Make sure to rely on each other as you seek to serve. Your time at Cornell is halfway over! You are probably looking toward your future as juniors, but don't be too stressed about it. Tell them I love how cute they are.

c. Juniors

Juniors...becoming seniors. Wow you guys are all grown up (laughs) ohhh, time flies. For some of you, senior year will be the most enjoyable year at Cornell. For others, it may be more difficult. But either way, I would say to rest in the Lord. Take time for resting in the Lord. Some people may be burning out or very tired from three years at Cornell. I think that rest is a great encouragement. Also, watch how you walk, invest in those who are younger, make disciples who make disciples. You are looking to the future after college. Make sure to prepare and pray adequately as you plan for the future, but don't idolize it. Trust in the Lord, seek Him as your refuge. But also enjoy your last year. Climb the clock tower. Watch the sunset over the slope. Behold God and the time you have had here. Praise God.

d. CBS in general

As brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a special bond that holds us together. We have one faith, one God, one Spirit. Really cherish that gift of fellowship, cherish each other, bear one another's burdens, serve one another humbly in love, and be vulnerable to each other. I think that, with vulnerability and honesty, we can grow closer, grow in accountability, grow in love and understanding. Also don't forget about outreach. Make Christ known, at Cornell and whatever communities that you are part of. Make your feet swift to share the Gospel, and pray for boldness.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

Spending time with my apartment mates. I can't think of a really specific

instance, but they have been one of my greatest joys at Cornell. Living together, sharing life and food, growing together. There's just a lot of times when we're not really doing anything, but having fun! And loving. I think there are a lot of great memories, but this is definitely up there. I think living with them is going to be one of the things I miss the most.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

Half of my bed is stuffed animals. I can sleep through pretty much anything, even a hurricane. But at the same time, I don't think I'm hard to wake up. I can sleep through non-human stimuli, but if a person like April (her roommate) tells me to wake up, I'll wake up. I think I'm a great driver. I can reverse park without a rearview camera! I have a sloth on my minivan.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I don't go to PSB that often, but I like going there when I can because I can see a lot of people there.

I really like Kennedy Hall. I have spent probably like 75% of my life in Kennedy Hall with Alt Breaks. I had spent so much time in Kennedy Hall that Shu [apartment mate] has me on Find My Friends, and it always tells her that I'm at work at that location.

In conclusion, anywhere there's people/friends is my favorite spot.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

People in my life who I can be open with, who will love me and not judge me, who will walk with me, who will keep me accountable, who will point me to God when I am feeling lost.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term: this summer, I am doing a teaching thing in Brooklyn. Right now, it's still set to happen (amid uncertainties due to COVID-19), and hopefully have a job after that for a year or two. I will then go back to school for a Master's in Public Health.

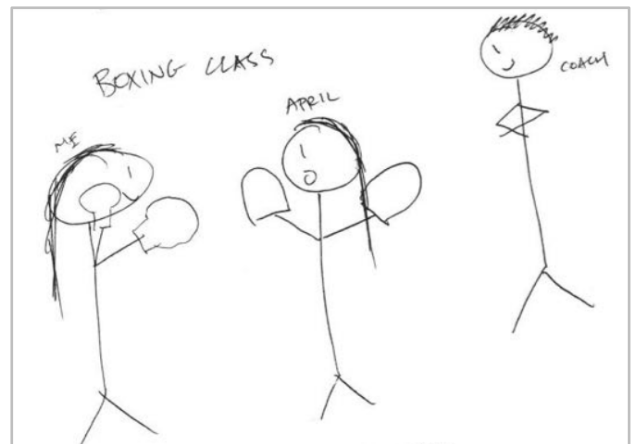
Long-term: Working in public health. I think it would be cool to work for the CDC, but I don't know if that's where I'll be. I want to be engaged in public health. I have thought about (it wouldn't be a main job or anything) but I have thought about becoming a Biblical counselor (training and certification with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors [ACBC]) but this could be far in the future. I also want to engage in the community and in church. I'm not sure what that will look like, but it's what I care about and where I hope God will use me, but it could be something completely different.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

I'd rather not be able to close any open doors. Because - I generally prefer open doors over closed doors. Also I could ask people to close doors for me. Most likely it will be other people who will want to be the ones to close the door. Other people are more inclined to close doors for you rather than open doors for you.

I had known Alice since she was a sophomore, and I am continually amazed how God has grown her in her faith. She is someone who will go out of her way to love and serve others. She is someone who lives her life centered around God's word. She has been an amazing coordinator, worship leader, Wegmans-run-driver, and sister in Christ. Have you tried her avocado toast? It's "Very Good!" (a reference to one of her catch phrases). There is so much that I and the rest of CBS will miss about her. But I pray that God will use her in ways that honor Him, in ways that she might not even realize yet, and in ways that continually enable her to grow in her faith.

- Kevin Hu '21



Boxing Class: The coach complimented April and my form and I will remember that moment forever.

Chris Qian

hometown: Montgomery, NJ || major: CS and Math



"So long, and thanks for all the fish."

After my class on Discord ended, I rushed to Messenger only to find that Chris had already sent me a Zoom link. It had been a busy morning of me sitting at my desk doing almost nothing, and I didn't want to keep Chris waiting after he went through the immense trouble of clicking a few buttons to set up a Zoom meeting. I joined the meeting, out of breath from my run to Google Chrome, and was greeted by Chris' smiling face. We said hello. And we began the interview.

1. CBS is...

Chinese Bible Study. CBS is special.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

A lot of ways. When I was a freshman, I was a lot more afraid to do things. I was not comfortable with praying in front of people for example, or praying by myself. When I was a freshman I also struggled a lot more with theological questions. I remember my freshman year it was really big in just like, the development of my faith. At the start I was also not as spiritually disciplined. Like back in high school I wouldn't go to church consistently and I also wouldn't read the Bible consistently. In

FAVORITES

Praise song: Come Thou Fount and God is Able

Cornell class: Numerical Analysis (MATH 4250). It was my first time taking a high-level math class, and the material was pretty interesting but also challenging.

Study spot: My troll answer is Day Hall. If you go to the basement there's a lounge area that has a vending machine that sells sour ropes. I also like studying in the Bethe library and the second floor of Mann library.

Place to eat: Definitely not Mattins. *laughs* My favorite place was definitely Terrace back when they had udon, but now I think I like Mandibles. *tells me about a secret passage from the plant science building to the biotech building*

Music group/artist: I don't think I have a favorite artist.

Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1. The chapter talks a lot about the importance of love... it's very touching how important it is.

Dessert: McDonald's chocolate chip cookie. That was the best dollar I spent.

CBS tradition: My favorite tradition is definitely making a bonfire at fall retreat. I like going outside when it's super cold and looking up at the stars and warming up at a fire.

general I would not think that much about the things I was doing. So all of these things kind of show how I have become a lot more mature.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

To the freshman I say, hang out with each other. For example, you can like, get dinner sometimes or something like that. Or you know you can just like, hangout and talk about your feelings, what's going on. One thing I really liked doing with my friends during freshman year was after church we would go eat at Bear Necessities, and I would get a Bo Burger and we would talk about the sermon or struggles we had. It would be pretty encouraging.

b. Sophomores

I guess... I don't know... I think you guys are doing really great. My encouragement is to keep on doing what you're doing and keep having those consistent prayer meetings. I guess my advice would be for you to follow-up with people, even if after one week they don't make much progress or forget about it. Just keep praying for that thing.

c. Juniors

I would say you guys have done a very good job of stepping up to the leadership plate. My advice would be to turn to God whenever you feel like, overwhelmed and stuff like that.

d. CBS in general

My advice would be to love one another.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

In freshman year at the first CBS large group I was feeling lonely and homesick. I don't know, I wasn't really adjusting that well to the new environment. I left CBS early and as I was walking from Klarman back to North, I got a text from Newton saying "Yo where'd you go?" I said, "I'm at Martha's" and Newton ran over to Martha's and walked me back to Goldwin Smith and he showed me how to climb onto the roof of Klarman. Back then what you had to do was go to the bathroom of the third floor and climb out the window.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

When I was in 4th grade I was really good at making card towers. One time I made one that was 11 stories tall. It was at camp, and then a counselor kicked a ball and knocked it over.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

It's near Stocking Hall. So like it's this part that overlooks the place with the gardens, what's it called? [Me: Botanic gardens?] Yeah, yeah. There's like a little valley, it's very nice looking. There's a bench there you can sit on.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

It was during winter break when I was a sophomore. I was like, God, can I have a sign? And when I went to Congaree National Park, I saw a rainbow in the mud. I didn't expect to see that. [Me: why did you want a sign?] I was like, ah, I'd like to know that you're there. [Me: So whenever you feel like you're doubting, do you remember this rainbow in the mud?] Sometimes. *laughs* It was in a swamp, and I don't think the rainbow was caused by light. I think it was caused by materials in the water? I'm not sure.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

My short-term plan is to learn about statistics. And my long-term plan is to do research in statistics. Well, it doesn't have to be statistics. I'd say do research in machine learning.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

I think I'd rather not be able to open doors. The reason is that -- no sorry, I'm the only one who has this characteristic, right? Me: Yes? Actually never mind, I'd rather not be able to close any open doors, because I think most people leave their doors closed.

We said our goodbyes and zoomed off (haha, "zoomed") to our next online activity. Chris is an interesting person to talk to, even when he tells me about math and other smart things I do not understand. His "scooby dooby doos" during worship and PSB presence will be greatly missed. Chris, I pray that God will continue to reveal His wonders to you and that you will grow ever closer to Him, no matter where life takes you.

- Emily Kam '22



"The Renaissance of PSB"

At Goldie's: Sam. At Couches: Stephanie. Bottom Left: Alexandra. Small Table (Left to Right): Raymond, Andrew. Rectangular Table (Clockwise, Starting From Bottom Left): Alex X., Attilus, Newton, David T., Kevin H., Darren, Kevin G., David W. Middle Circular Table (Clockwise, Starting From Top Left): Marvin, Helen, Alex H., Eleanor. At Blackboard (Left to Right): Aaron, Jessie, Freddie. At Christmas Tree: Jeff. Bottom Right Circular Table (Clockwise, Starting From Left): Emily, Kathy, Zoe, Mel, Shelly, Alice.

Frances Liu



"人算不如天算"

I see Frances' Zoom icon every week in our beloved Spreadsheets class. She has been such a great TA this semester and a great neighbor across the hallway on the 3rd floor of Eddygate. As I begin to call Frances, I think back to when she was but a young freshman and how we've gone through so much in the past four years! So many memories come to mind, but once I see Frances' smiling face in her large bedroom, I pull it together and launch into the questions.

1. CBS is...

I think CBS is like a family, like a group of people who are very loving and dependable. You can trust them to point you in the right direction.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

When I first came to Cornell, I didn't know anything, I didn't know Christianity, I didn't understand God. In almost every aspect, my relationship with God and how I view Christianity has done a 180-degree change. I still remember learning about all these things my freshman year -- my world was blown.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

Try everything you can, and don't be afraid to reach out. Even if there's a 1% chance that you want to do something, go for it. Live life with no regrets.

b. Sophomores

I think sophomore year it's easy to be content with the way things are, but then you realize that things don't always go the way you expect them

to. I would just say to not stop trying, to still try to make new friends and explore new things while maintaining relationships from freshman year.

c. Juniors

I would say don't be disheartened by rejection. Don't lose hope and keep on trying. Now that you're an upperclassmen, I recommend that you reach out! Wow, I don't remember junior year at all.

d. CBS in general

I think in general, I would encourage people to not be complacent with themselves, and to keep reaching out and keep trying to get closer to God. Also to be open to a constantly changing CBS.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

This is so hard, there are definitely a lot of them.

On the 4th of July a few summers ago, I climbed the clock tower and I was able to see the fireworks from the top of the clock tower and it was a very pretty sight.

Wait, I want to change my favorite memory, there are too many!

The two weeks when I came back to campus for my MEng project before school started was actually very nice. I was at school, wasn't taking classes and was just working on a project, so it felt like the right amount of work to feel productive but not feel stressed out. I got closer to people I didn't think I would get to know -- I cooked together with friends, I went to the gym every day, I went to bed early. It was an optimal two weeks looking back!

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

Oh I have very bendable fingers. *demonstrates bending them* They bend a lot.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

There's an area past the Vet school and past all of the Riley Robb stuff. If you keep walking down in that direction, you'll reach this farmland area of Cornell, and it's very nice and peaceful there. When it rains, a lot of worms come out, though, so be careful of that.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I think finding peace in times of stress -- praying to God has helped me a lot throughout college because college is really stressful. I also used to have difficulty sleeping a lot, and it's helped me to pray. I think especially now with the world in such a stressful state, it's nice to find comfort in God.

FAVORITES

Praise song: Oceans

Cornell class: [laughs] The first thing I think of is either Wines or Spreadsheets [laughs some more] Let's say Spreadsheets.

Study spot: My room

Place to eat: Detasty

Music group/artist: Rock

Verse: John 3:16, a classic

Dessert: Cheesecake

CBS tradition: Felly dinner

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Long term: I want to travel the world throughout my life. That's my goal. If I can, I want to go to all 7 continents and learn about the history and culture of every place!

Short term: Well I guess to graduate from my master's program and to be employed.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

I would rather not be able to close any open doors! Metaphorically speaking, not being able to open doors is like cutting yourself off from opportunities.

What a joy Frances is! She tried to change her favorite memory of college so many times. She is hilarious. It's such a blessing to see how much she has learned and enjoyed throughout Cornell and CBS! I pray that she can continue to experience more of God's love and wisdom in her final MEng semester in the fall and in many years to come. Much love for Frances <3

- Melanie Lim '19



Fireworks at Cornell by Frances Liu the master artist

Liam Patterson



""You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" -Wayne Gretzky" - Michael Scott" -Liam Patterson"

We did this interview over Zoom across the hall. Yes, across the hall - I was in 4D in Eddygate and he was in 4A, but we chose to follow social distancing rules. Liam appeared on Zoom with a solid (btw I probably got this word from him) Duffield background. I almost thought he was actually in Duffield. After I realized that people in the background were not moving and we caught up on how we had been doing, the interview began.

1. CBS is...

[Liam: Is it memey or serious or sad?]

not just a lit Friday night. It's like a community of believers that I can

FAVORITES

Praise song: It has to be "Oceans" for the memes, (or "Cannons" that's a good song too, but yeah "Oceans").

Cornell class: I really like ARCH 1301, where we had a survey about architecture and learned about Cornell and random places in France and Italy. I took with it Jeff a while ago. It was fun. I got to see him on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and get lunch after.

Study spot: Although Phillips is supposed to be my place, I spend a lot of time in Upson because it's newer and better lit. Like, I spend 75% of my time here in Upson.

Place to eat: If it's all of Ithaca, it's gotta be Wings because it's an Ithaca thing. If it's on campus, Terrace. Their chicken fingers are good. I haven't been to a dining hall in 2 years. If it's Appel or RPCC, no doubt Appel is better. [Lucy: YES]

Music group/artist: I don't know. It changes rapidly. (Going to his iTunes) Right now I'm into The Strokes (alt/rock music band). I also like Vampire Weekend.

Verse: [Liam: Can it be a cliché verse? Lucy: Yes.] Joshua 1:9. It's a cliché verse, but it's one that I remember by heart. It's what they gave us when we memorized verses in elementary school.

Dessert: Ice cream hands down. Favorite flavor is probably salted caramel. (Cornell doesn't have it. If they are making new flavors, I would like them to make it next.)

CBS tradition: [Liam: Can it be a tradition we no longer do lol?] It's the ACE where we tape people onto the wall. Also the ABCDs of sharing. It's iconic. I will remember it forever. It shows up a lot in these memey felly dinner skits. Oh yeah, also the memey skits for felly dinner.

always relate to and that always have my back. If I were to introduce CBS to other people, I'd say the mission statement, but that's what CBS is to me personally. Oh also it's 1G. (a second later) And 2E. I gotta give Ray some credit. They are classics.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

He definitely made me more open to people. I used to be closeted about sharing my faith with someone. Coming here and coming to CBS made me realize that everyone comes from different backgrounds and everyone is different. The sharing mic makes it easy to share with the fellowship what's going on in our day-to-day life. People in CBS are also easy to share with. I can just come to someone and be like "let's meet up!" Seeing God working through CBS has been powerful.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

Good luck on hosting the sophomore picnic next year. It always comes sooner than you think.

b. Sophomores

All the best classes are at your hands now that you are done with your distribution requirements, unless you are in Arts.

c. Juniors

You got one more year. Two more semesters to bring your GPA up.

d. CBS in general

Bring back HEC Auditorium! Gotta love Goldwin Smith 132.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

It's hard to choose one. I guess going out of 2110 and playing rocket league with Newton. Solid memory.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

It's not a very hidden quirk, but I always wear shorts.

I guess it's a talent that I haven't gone to dining halls in a couple years. I cook a lot. [Lucy: Yes, I have firsthand experience.]

Also, you can count on Michael and me to have the best stocked pantry in any apartment in Eddygate. [Lucy: Yes, I have firsthand witness.]

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Klarman roof. Solid.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Definitely a sense of community here, and a very loving one.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term is easy because Cornell took my tuition for another semester.

For long-term, who knows. I would like to end up full-time in Chicago, but we'll see how that goes.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

[Liam: you can still block the doors even if you can't close them right?

Lucy: I think so?

Liam: Can I assume that all closed doors will stay closed?

Lucy: Hmm ... let's say no guarantee.]

I'm a big fan of breeze and I like a lot of light, so I would choose to open all the doors. That'd be cool. Also I'd rather drive with open doors than not be able to drive because you can't drive if you can't open the doors.

[So it looks like Liam chooses not to be able to close any open doors.]

Liam strikes me as a cool guy that knows a lot about the world (including but not limited to the world of servers), but is humble enough not to boast about it. He is a really hospitable and kind brother. I remember him driving me and a few other girls to Syracuse just for Chick-fil-A, giving rides for people to and from the airport and the delicious Thanksgiving feast he made last year. I am really encouraged to see that he found a loving community at Cornell. I look forward to interning with him this summer and how God will continue growing him and his faith wherever he goes.

- Lucy Lu '21



Felly dinner!

Mandy Chan

hometown: Stewartsville, NJ || major: Biology



“Glass half empty, glass half full. Well either way you won’t be going thirsty count your blessings not your flaws.”

- Lauren Aquilina

Despite our physical distance as I video called Mandy for this interview, I still felt the same joy I get from seeing and chatting with this dear sister in person. We spent some time just catching up and sharing about quarantine life in the past few weeks. We ended up spending quite some time talking about children, sharing about our appreciation of the little ones in our lives but also commiserating over the reality of those “terrible two’s.” But Mandy’s smiles and sweetness in talking about her younger cousin and family really encouraged me to cherish all these moments we get to spend with family, even when there are kids running wild in the house. :)

1. CBS is...

Wholesome. I think within CBS it was super nice because it’s very close-knit. It’s very easy and comfortable to hang out and talk with anyone. It’s not like awkward, it’s close.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

I think God has changed me a lot just this past year. I think that, coming

home for break, there are things I need to fix. Especially like starting freshman year, I couldn’t really find a fellowship group I felt completely going alone in. For me, it was very awkward to go into a new environment by myself. Freshman, sophomore, junior year, I started but never finished. This year has been most consistent in me attending and trying to think more about my faith and read the Bible more. It’s really helped me that I’ve made friends with people who know Christ. I also hang out a lot with Emily’s sister, someone who’s super inspiring. So this year has been really great in terms of me learning more about my faith and being more active in trying to know God.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

d. CBS in general

Spend more time with your friends in CBS and in general because for me I’ve learned a lot from other people. I wish I had joined earlier and gotten to know people better, this year has been one of my best and most enjoyable years at Cornell.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

Hm... :thinking: my friend and I like to try new restaurants in Ithaca (i.e. after orgo prelim), somewhere nicer you have to drive to get to.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

My hidden quirks or talents? :thinking: what can I do? I’m pretty good at binge-watching shows, they don’t take too long to finish. It’s not a talent, but I’m trying to learn to bake more. People in my family have been eating my creations so they can’t be terrible...I like to draw and I’m not bad at looking at something and recreating it in drawing.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I really like Mann Library. The second-floor study space.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

A prayer I’ve had since freshman year is to know more about God. I think this year has been like the first time I’ve made some progress reading and learning about the Word and more consistently attending small group and large group.

FAVORITES

Praise song: Grace - Laura Story

Cornell class: Asian 2260 Japanese Pop Culture - It’s a new class. We learn about anime XD It’s capped at 40 people max because it’s discussion based. The first day there were people lined outside...there are so many weebes at Cornell LOL

Study spot: Olin stacks now and the Rose library previously because it’s smaller, a quiet, nice place.

Place to eat: Wings? Yeah...can’t think of anything else...what do I eat? This semester I’ve been cooking more. OH Miyaki before they closed!

Music group/artist: Taylor Swift

Verse: Proverbs 31:25 “She is clothed with strength and dignity and laughs without fear of the future.” My cousin, did this calligraphy piece of this verse and gave it to me as a present. It’s really nice and really inspiring. Probably the one I hold closest to my heart.

Dessert: Whipped cream. I don’t squirt directly into my mouth in case other people want to use it also it doesn’t make it in.

CBS tradition: I think it’s really cute how for Valentine’s day, the guys do something for the girls and the girls do something for the guys.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term: Study for the MCAT

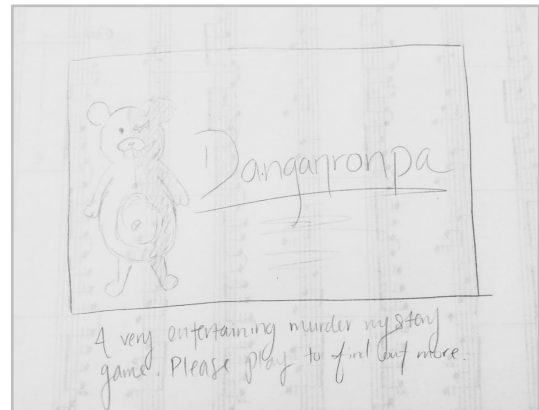
Long-term: Find a job and apply to medical school. I guess during my gap years is when I'll figure out if I want to be in the healthcare field but not necessarily a doctor.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

Definitely not be able to close any doors. Because I think you need to get into places. You bother people less if you ask them to close the door. Some doors are heavy enough that they close themselves.

It has been such a blessing and joy to get to know Mandy this past year. And I have been so encouraged by her desire to grow in her faith and to be growing in Christian community. She is definitely a smart cookie and has shown her potential in detective work (ask her about that bathing suit of rocks LOL) and lights up a room with her smile and laughs. Praying that God continues to give her peace and contentment, especially in her upcoming gap years, and that He continues to grow her desire to know and to love Him all the more.

- Stephanie Deng '21



*A very entertaining murder mystery game.
Please play to find out more.*

Megan Lee

hometown: Hackensack, NJ || major: Government



“Once quarantine is over I’m going to carpe all the diems.”

On a Wednesday evening at home, I opened Facebook Messenger, excited to remotely see and interview the one and only Megan Lee, but unfortunately only to find out that it was impossible to exchange even two sentences with her without the call breaking up. Luckily, we had a quick solution—we switched our platform over to Zoom (because we’re that basic)! Granted, it still wasn’t quite perfect, but it sure did work a lot better. But it was okay because we were about to have the time of our lives getting to hang out with each other online! After updating each other on our quarantine lives, it was time to dive into the interview!

1. CBS is...

A place to grow in. I think a tight-knit group of friends too.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

I felt like I had to be rebuked a lot by God over my years here. I think there were so many ways where I was wrong. Being too prideful might’ve been one of them. I think one of the ways I feel changed is that I have learned how God wants me to change. I don’t think I fully know yet, but I have a greater awareness of it.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

I think I’d say to not have too many expectations, in a way. Like things don’t always go the way you plan for them to go. Sometimes God has a different vision in mind and because of that, if you always try to have your way you can get really disappointed. Not that you shouldn’t have goals and stuff, but don’t hold onto them so tightly.

b. Sophomores

In gearing up for such a busy year, I’d say to not get too involved with things. Well, not involved, but don’t let yourself be tied down to activities

or other events that you don’t want to be a part of. If you really want to do something then you should do it. But if you don’t, it doesn’t feel good to continue doing it.

c. Juniors

One thing I really admire about you guys is how much you encourage each other and just like the friendships that I see. So I would say to keep doing that! And keep cherishing the people around you. Even though I think everyone is so different, I think that’s a really good thing and you can definitely use that to your advantage in the future somehow. So keep doing what you’re doing!

d. CBS in general

Remember that no group or individual can be truly perfect. I think you guys should continue to be gentle and loving with each other. One really good thing about CBS is that there are a lot of opportunities to be vulnerable, and I think we should continue to encourage that.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

It was during Slope Day that year when we were rained out (Galantis). I had lost one of my earrings just walking around the slope and when I realized, I was so sad because I had them for so long and I was walking around with only one earring. When it started to rain, everyone started sprinting toward the exit, and as a path cleared on the road, I saw my earring on the ground! I was soaked but I was like, “My earring! It came back to me!” Even though I lost the back part of it, I was still able to keep the hoop earring. Even though the show was missed, I was really happy to get my earring back. And I thought it was funny at the time. And then we just sat inside and it was a good time. And we ate hot dogs I think. And also just staying up late and talking with people, I really enjoyed that. I think that was a general memory trend that I really liked.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

Omg I’m untalented. I’m really untalented. I can do the Stitch voice. [Me: Wanna do the Stitch voice now?] Ohana means family. Ummm that’s it. Besides that, I’m untalented and unathletic. I can kinda do an English accent. Maybe I just do weird voices. [Megan finds Mel’s Stitch in the 3B living room] Gasp! I have a Stitch!

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I quite like PSB actually. Like I like the lighting. And I like Goldie’s. Unless it’s crowded. But when it’s not, I quite like it.

FAVORITES

Praise song: Mighty to Save

Cornell class: Independent study

Study spot: Libe

Place to eat: Terrace on-campus, and Koko off-campus

Music group/artist: The Killers

Verse: Psalm 51:10

Dessert: Affogato

CBS tradition: Hanging out in Eddygate

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I don't know if this will fall into the category of a prayer that was answered. But over the years as I prayed for health and guidance, I think prayer taught me that I can't always rely on myself. And not only that, but I also have to keep trying to trust God. And it's not only like one day that I'll trust God, it's always an uphill battle in a sense. I don't know if that fits into a prayer answered necessarily, but it's something I learned through prayer, so it's like my prayer was answered.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

I don't really know about either. I think for short-term I definitely don't know. Long-term, I would like to travel, hopefully off Corona. I think if I had a dream job it would be to travel and write, so I would like to travel and write. But I doubt that's like a short-term plan. That's for more like when I'm older.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

I think I would rather not be able to close open doors because I feel like I could leave them slightly ajar, right? Which is fine. I'm also quite curious so I think I would have to open doors. I think I would be very confused if I walked down a hall and couldn't open any doors. It's a balance between lacking privacy and being curious in a way. But I think I'd rather... what if I had to rob a bank one day? Or a casino? I don't know. Then I'd have to open some doors. I can see less scenarios in which I would have to close them. I can see some, but it would be less important.

As we wrapped up the interview, Megan proceeded to feed Pluto (3B's lovely pet betta fish) before going on to write her papers. As always, it was such a wonderful time getting to catch up with Megan and hear about her experiences and her most recent dreams and aspirations. Although I am sad to see her leave so soon, I am so grateful that God has given me the opportunity to cross paths with her because she has been such a blessing in my life, as I'm sure she has been for countless other people as well. I am confident that God has amazing plans for her and I pray that she will find happiness, meaning, and success in whatever she does in the future!

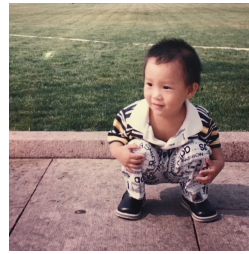
- Jackie Peng '21



*Finding my earring while escaping
Slope Day and pouring the tea with friends.*

Michael Huang

hometown: Hillsborough, NJ || major: Info Sci



“haha just kidding... unless...?”

I was binging Tasty videos on different ways I could make chicken when Michael alerted me on Messenger. “henlo jasper”, he said. “is now still a good time?” I was embarrassed to show up 10 minutes late to a virtual meeting, but Michael greeted me graciously over Zoom, boasting his Cornell hoodie. We caught up with one another, and thus commenced the (technical) interview.

1. CBS is...

One of the more central communities I've been a part of at Cornell, which is important to me because I've never felt a sense of community like this before. It's nice to see everyone come together under a common belief, and experience the conviction that ties us together and urges us to be present for one another.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

By allowing me to get to know Him (I wasn't really exposed to Christianity before college). He's definitely changed my perspective on existence and life; my own beliefs have been replaced with something greater than me to believe in and follow.

FAVORITES

Praise song: I want to say “Oceans”, but I feel like that's a little basic. I'll say it anyways

Cornell class: Let me pull up my transcript... I liked SPAN 2095, it's really chill

Study spot: My room, or open classrooms in Kimball

Place to eat: On-campus: whatever the place in Sage is called. Off-campus: my apartment (4A).

Music group/artist: Don't have a favorite artist, but I don't mind EDM

Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. It's easy to lose heart at certain times, but it's nice to know that there are things beyond what we see now

Dessert: I'm not much of a sweets guy, but egg tarts are nice

CBS tradition: Spending time in 1G

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

Try everything. Get involved in as many clubs as possible, and figure out what you like and where you want to dedicate your time.

b. Sophomores

Don't stress too much about work and internships and professional stuff, because that stuff will come. Take time to think about what you value most, find solidarity in your friend groups. Remember to stay positive and empathetic.

c. Juniors

Keep your chin up! Definitely put in the work where work is due, but don't burn yourselves out. Lean on others for support if you are struggling.

d. CBS in general

Maintain the aspect of community, emphasize inreach as well as outreach to make everyone feel purposeful and valued. Appreciate each other and our roles in contributing to the community.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

One time in freshman year, we got snowed out and Cornell cancelled classes. A few of my friends and I got together in Mews to play Avalon -- it was nice spending time with my class. I just generally enjoyed spending time with people.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

The only things I am good for are cooking and playing the ukulele. I can dance a little bit too. Oh, and making memes. Back in my prime, I used to be pretty decent, but now I'm retired.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I like Beebe Lake in the fall -- it's actually really nice. There's this spot on North at the waterfall, a little bit past the trail (I don't think you're supposed to go there) -- there's this ledge you can hop to. Great picnic spot.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I don't know about completely answered, but to find my way and my passion -- at least in terms of my career path, figuring out what I was interested in, and what I wanted to pursue and contribute.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term: interning, then finishing my masters

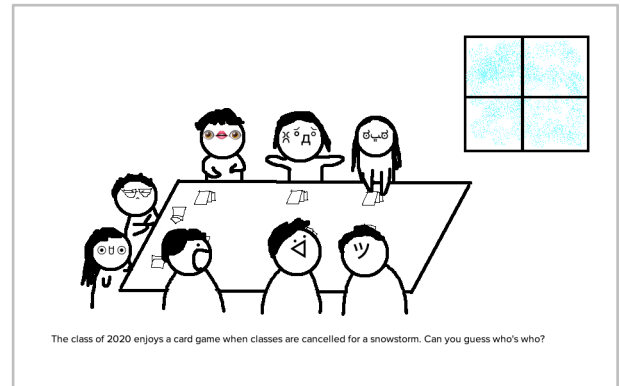
Long-term: probably working, and then maybe, hopefully, potentially finding a Christian community. Oh, maybe get a dog -- a corgi.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

Mmm.... I would say... Not be able to.... Wait I'm trying to logic my way through this... Not be able to open any -- wait, never be able to close any open doors. Because if my door ever gets closed, I would never be able to get out of my room. And I would die. Open door policy, just like the one that America placed on China.

After ending the interview with the menacing "End Meeting for All" button, I sat back, delighted with our conversation. He was very thoughtful with his answers, and liked to season his responses with a dash of humor. Throughout the interview, Michael expressed how important being a part of a community was to him. Luckily, God's family is the best community anyone can be a part of. I pray that Michael would continue to be a blessing to those around him, and that he would find and contribute to a Christian community just as much as he did in CBS.

- Jasper Liang '22



"The class of 2020 enjoys a card game when classes are cancelled for a snowstorm. Can you guess who's who?"

Ray Zeng

hometown: Middletown, NJ || major: CS



"I'm so rumbly in my tumbly"
- Winnie the Pooh

I realized that I had never scheduled a meetup before 11am. Mark it down - Ray and I started our video call at 10:45am and talked over snacks and breakfast - a good time. Despite having graduated after the fall semester of his senior year, Ray stayed in Ithaca - to serve as a deacon at FICCC, to be in fellowship with CBS, and to play League in Eddygate 2E. His experience has been both unique and encouraging; I was super excited to interview him. Here are his reflections.

1. CBS is...

Our extended family of brothers and sisters from many different places, with different interests, and different directions in life. Ultimately, we are joined together under Christ, and because of that are able to love and care and grow together in the short time that we have at Cornell.

For me personally, CBS has become the closest group of friends that I have had in my entire life.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

He has made me more mature, though there is still much more room to grow. Part of that has been me learning to be more humble and to understand better what it means to love and care for others and to be loved and cared for by others. I have been learning more about my limitations, but also learning more about God's limitless possibilities and His faithfulness and providence. He has taught me to be more patient, to be more focused on the things of His heart rather than the things of my own heart. He has taught me that this is a lifelong process that began on the cross, and will continue until I see Him face to face.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

Be patient, but also not complacent in getting to know your class and

class and dynamics of how you relate to CBS as a whole. You will find that it takes time for people to grow into "what does it mean to be a Christian in college?" but they can also become very complacent to the point where they stagnate. It is a balance between being patient but not complacent with people.

b. Sophomores

Get ready for more responsibility. But with that comes a lot of joy and opportunities to impact the underclassmen and also learn about one another, and work together with one another. Continue in your prayer meetings. I hope they have been a great encouragement to you guys, and they certainly have been a great encouragement to other members of the fellowship.

c. Juniors

Remember that even though you guys will be new leaders and be spearheading a lot of what happens in the coming year for the fellowship, you are doing all this not of your own strength or the strength of your peers; ultimately it is in God's hands. God is faithful in providing. Part of the way that God provides is also through you guys encouraging the underclassmen. So don't think too little of your experience as soon-to-be seniors; know that God uses the foolish to teach the wise.

d. CBS in general

Two things that stand out - the first is to be patient with God's timing, whether it be in terms of when you ask God for things related to school/friends/career aspirations. For all these things, we have a tendency to rush and take hold of as soon as possible, to receive everything, to be looking for the next new thing, to be pushing for that new height. While that is important to do at Cornell, it's too easy to push into that too hard and lose sight of how ultimately, everything is from God. It's easy to be caught up in the moment just worrying about the immediate short-term things that we see, such as GPA, relationships with current friend groups/roommates; these things are of value, but not ultimate value. The current state of your life around you can lead to disillusionment - losing sight of God's greater plan for you. His timing is not necessarily our timing.

The second piece of advice is to seek genuine connections with people, where you will invest time into friends, both Christian and non-Christian. Especially for the Christian side - to have community and the ability to pour out your own fears/anxieties/doubts and to have ppl to be accountable to, and encourage one another. The Christian community is one of the biggest things you can grow in in college. It will be the most

FAVORITES

Praise song: You are Holy (Prince of Peace)

Cornell class: Game Theory (ECON 3801)

Study spot: Any location I'm at within 6 hours of a deadline/prelim

Place to eat: Koko's

Music group/artist: Owl City

Verse: John 10:14-15

Dessert: Anything with ice cream in it

CBS tradition: Camping Trip

accessible just by the proximity you will have with brothers and sisters, walking through similar lives, experiencing similar struggles and issues, and being able to grow together in that regard. This is something precious that happens in college. In my experience with talking with alumni and being in internships, I know that this experience is not easy to find outside of college.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

There's so many. The entire experience of living in Eddygate 2E, especially last year, in growing in learning to love and care for people, in terms of understanding how different personalities/standards coexist, and more than coexist - to grow and encourage one another. There were a lot of good late nights, and honestly even some tears shed. But ultimately, a lot of maturing in how to demonstrate love in a way that is caring, in a way that is considerate, in a way that is Godly, and not self-serving or conceited.

[A follow up question that I just thought of - would you trade it for the 1G experience?]

Honestly no. Don't get me wrong, 1G when I was a junior/senior was great, but I think 2E has been cleaner (*we both laugh*); I think also the people/conversations/directions I've been pushed to grow in in 2E would not have been the same in 1G. Ultimately, I think that this is what God had planned out, and when I look back, I think it's very good.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

I) I have double-jointed thumbs.

II) A great point of suffering/but also a blessing - the ability to turn off the part in my brain that tells me I need sleep - it's been good for times when I need to stay up to finish some work or to spend it with someone who needs to talk, but it becomes a liability at times when paired with lack of self-control.

III) Another thing - I rather enjoy cleaning, which is honestly a superpower when it comes to living in Eddygate.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

:thinking: for a while...I guess the Lindseth Climbing Center in Bartels Hall. Climbing has been something that I picked up during my college career, although I haven't been climbing much these days. Classes/work didn't motivate me enough to go on campus, but climbing sure did.

I also wanted to add a note to the reader: this is not an example of how you should approach school in college. Go to class. That's more advice that I have.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Giving me friends. It was something I was insecure about when coming to college. In terms of close Christian friends, it was something I didn't have experience with before college. Relationships have been something I have always desired and asked God about, and it is something that He has really delivered upon.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

For short-term plans - they have been quite shifted because of COVID-19, but I think - generally, for the next year or two - to acclimate to work and to begin to puzzle out how I translate what I've learned in college to the post-college life. I was hoping to have time to travel this summer and maybe do short-term missions, but the timing of the pandemic has made that more difficult/not as feasible.

Long-term: to get a better sense of where my career will go, and how it fits with my faith. I hope to also get married.

But in terms of long-term plans, there genuinely is a lot of uncertainty, and that's something I've learned and grown to be okay with.

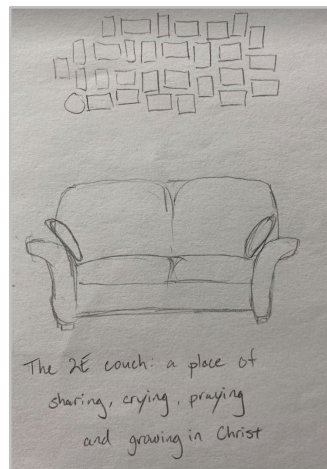
9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

I'd rather not be able to open any closed door. I'm ignoring the literal implications of this. I'm thinking in terms of my personality and the way I approach things. I say yes to a lot of things and do too much things. I'm continually learning to allow God to open the doors for me, rather than me unlocking doors as much as possible. I also need to learn to say no and when to take a step back, such that when I do take opportunities, I have confidence to follow through because it is not me that is acting, but God that is working.

The other cop-out answer for this is: can't I just ask someone to do it for me?

I clearly remember my first conversation with Ray: it was at the Appel lounge area right before my first CBS North Dinner (Fall 2017). I remember we talked about the sleep schedules of sophomores vs incoming freshmen. From that point forward, I knew Ray to be a night owl. If he wasn't gaming or working, he would spend nights hanging out in 1G (the "less-clean" apartment). But one thing I will remember is that he was always willing to lend a helping hand - whether it was through making the effort to clean 1G or taking people to the climbing wall. I pray that amid the doubts and uncertainties, Ray continues to place his trust in God to carry him through. I pray that Ray continues in his willingness to serve and love others.

- Kevin Hu '21



Raymond Zhang



“The God of the bible is also the god of the genome. He can be worshipped in the cathedral or in the laboratory. His creation is majestic, awesome, intricate, and beautiful.” – Francis Collins

Before this zoom interview officially started Raymond was reminiscing about how he used to conduct these interviews for his upperclassmen during the spring, and that he always thought about how he would answer these questions whenever he asked them. Now it was finally Raymond's time to answer these questions. He was seated alone in the master bedroom of his house, and I in my own bedroom. It was sunny outside and we raved about the beautiful sunny weather before we started. Even though we weren't anywhere near Cornell campus, the interview still felt like any other heartwarming talk with Raymond.

1. CBS is...

Oh gosh. *Thinks for a while* I've heard this so many times, but when I'm with everyone in CBS, or even a few people, I feel a warmth and a joy that I don't think I would get without God. Wait, that was really convoluted! Let me rephrase this again. I can't - oh noooooo - *panics for a little bit* Okay. I guess there are many things that I think about.

CBS is full of brothers and sisters who are dear to me. I really can't imagine college without CBS. It's been a group that I can share joy with and a group that has pushed me and challenged me. Even though we're always imperfect, at its core I see a smaller group of the larger body of Christ who yearn to know more about God and manifest such love out onto this campus - and I'm amazed to be part of it. I guess this is the best answer I can come up with now.

When I think about CBS now I feel a little bittersweet because these interviews are usually held on campus. Now I have to think about it after the fact.

FAVORITES

Praise song: *Looks at playlist* Death was arrested is one of my favorites. Christ is mine forevermore is another one.

Cornell class: I suppose Chemical Biology 4500! It made me want to do grad school.

Study spot: PSB - not for the studying, but for the people. If I want to really study I go to Upson.

Place to eat: Macs

Music group/artist: Kpop? I listen to Honne and BTS a lot.

Verse: Philippians 2:5-8

Dessert: Baklava - it's like a puff pastry but crunchy and sweet at the same time!

CBS tradition: the End-of-the-year camping trip. I'm sad we're going to miss it this year.

2. How has God changed you since freshman year?

You know, I've probably talked about this before, but I don't think I was Christian before freshman year. I think I was searching for something but until God worked in me and helped me rediscover Him I don't think it really materialized within me that there is a spiritual reality. This rediscovery has directed so many questions to me, like 'who am I', but has also made me question the extent of my sin and who I am, and also who God is and why He has saved me. This rediscovery definitely changed my outlook on life - these questions really pierce into the core of who I am. It hasn't always been sunshine and daisies - there have been many times where I have focused on the outwardly instead of the inwardly, and it's been so hard for me to give that up. I think the most critical thing that has happened to me since I've come to Cornell is my receipt of an awareness and understanding of God and others, and how it forms what I do in this world. I guess if I were to describe it in simpler terms it would be empathy, love, and introspection.

3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

a. Freshmen

I think everyone is so different. *thinks with a really serious face on* I think it's to realize that there is no such thing as a secular religious divide - for me, if something wasn't 'godly', then I would separate it from 'godly' things - I separated schoolwork from spiritual work, separated friends who weren't Christian from people in fellowships - and I wish I didn't see it like that. See that everything is from God, and that you can do everything with the fruit of the Spirit.

b. Sophomores

I think that you guys are very close, and that's something that you guys have worked for, and something that I have been very encouraged by. Be more attuned to one other in junior year, especially during internship and job searching. I know that it's common to feel worried and uncertain during this time; it's always a tough time. Know that you shouldn't be afraid to support one another and talk to one another. Each of you are going to be in different spots. Don't forget to talk together in the upcoming year. Don't be afraid to rely on others and to reach out to others. To be honest, you may feel like you don't know how you can help when others ask you questions, but even when it's hard, be honest to each other out of love.

c. Juniors

I worked a lot sophomore and junior year - many upperclassmen knew how much I was in the lab. Don't work too hard. God will show you the

futility of your own work, especially if you do it for your own ambition. You always have to eat to stay healthy, but you will never feel solely satisfied with eating - and that's the same thing with finding satisfaction in work. And this is something that I encourage the freshman to think about - and the sophomores to think about as well.

d. CBS in general

I think to be hospitable. Not just to each other, but to others outside of the fellowship. Sometimes CBS can feel exclusive, even when it's a close community, and sometimes we can take for granted that it's a closely-knit community, but we can also sometimes forget about others. Some people may be on the periphery.

It's hard to willingly go to others. We should have an awareness that the love of God reaches everyone, and that it does reach everyone. Have a contagious joy that others can see and be hospitable at all times. Be eager to invite people.

4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

It's always been late nights with CBS people, whether it be 1G or ... the thing is, I have a bad memory, so usually people remember things, but I... umm... I think just late nights and doing who knows what in 1G. Playing games and chatting is always good. I had fun during this year's winter retreat too. I think all these times have been pretty memorable.

5. What are some of your hidden quirks/talents?

Hidden quirks or talents...

I can widen my nostrils weirdly... like now... like this... (proceeds to demonstrate a couple of times) I usually get weird reactions from others whenever I do this.

I also used to fence once upon a time, I'm not sure how many people know about that!

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I really like PSB, PSB is a really good place. Like in general, the PSB atrium. The party center.

7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

He's continuing to answer the prayer that I would cherish him. I always pray, 'God, may I continue to cherish you like a treasure,' and I think that He has answered that prayer and He is continuing to answer that prayer. Sometimes it's so hard to remember, but He has sustained that prayer for so long. I think He has also answered what to do with my life - He has given me tangible clarity for the upcoming years, but has also reminded me to always keep my mind open. He has answered my purpose of work. I don't work for myself as much as I used to.

8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short term, I will be in grad school. I hope to get my PhD and to find a church community wherever I go. I still haven't decided where I should

go. And I have a week to decide.

Longggggg term. I don't think too much in the long term, because I don't know what I will do after grad school. There's definitely prospects of doing industry jobs or academic jobs. But yeah, my long-term plan is to find work that impacts people with the skills that I have in science.

Maybe something related to health or the environment. I think I want to teach, and I want to learn how to teach better.

This is weird to say out loud, but I want to get married in the future - that's something I want to think about. And to continue to find ways to serve God.

9. Would you rather not be able to open any closed doors (locked or unlocked) or not be able to close any open doors?

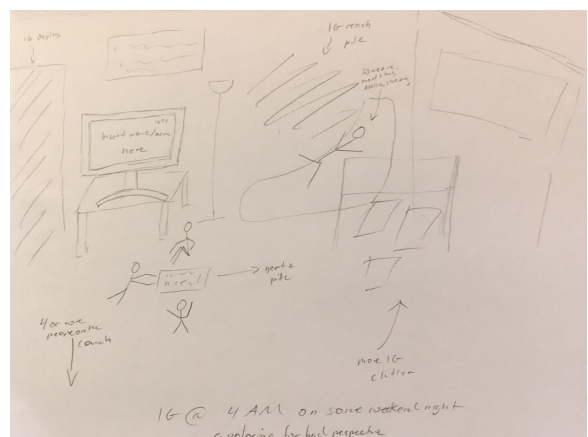
Okay - there are two levels. The first level is physical level - you know, thinking in terms of safety view, I would like to close my door... which means I would need a roommate or a spouse next to me to close the door after me afterwards. I guess I wouldn't be able to go out of my house.

Wow this is so hard! They both suck. *chuckles* I think I would like to not be able to open any closed doors because I would like to be able to close doors and I like quietness and solitude and I would like to be able to generate this. I think that is my thought process.

Okay, I'm not going to talk about the figurative one, because that one is too crazy.

It was a blessing to be able to watch Raymond go full circle with the senior interview process. Looking at his honest, sincere answers, it's hard not to see how big of a heart Raymond has for God and for his CBS community. I thank the Lord for allowing me to learn even more about his deep journey with God, something that encourages me to seek Him first in all things as well. I pray for nothing more but blessings and peace for Raymond as he continues to find joy in the Lord during his next couple of years in graduate school!

- Daniel Woo '23



1G @ 4AM or some weekend night
(Apologize for bad perspective)

senior wills

Alice Zhao

I will to Meili a desire to memorize the Bible and keep the Word rooted in your heart and mind always.

I will to Lucy a desire and love for serving God and His people. I also will the only right way to eat avocado toast (with Trader Joes "Everything but the Bagel" seasoning).

I will to Louise the ability to say no to too many commitments and choose spiritual health with discernment. I also will the title of mom driver. Should you accept I will send you a sloth sticker for your car.

I will to Jessica a heart for outreach without fear, the funniest sense of humor, and a love and commitment to serve in all the church families you are part of. I also will many PAM classes (may there always be a James to guide you).

I will to Emily J. smiles and laughs that brighten a room and hugs filled with love. I also will the ability and desire to treat young'uns to Mangomango.

I will to Emily K. not only all the logistical skills needed for Reach ministry but also, more importantly, the heart and motivation to build a fellowship of love and discipleship and to reach out to others.

I will to Alex an unabashed love for cute and fluffy animes. One day I will finish all your recommendations.

I will to Darren & Kevin all the responsibilities of being Coordinators (peace I'm out AHAHAJK) and all my love for the fellowship.

I will the time to be still, wait, and listen for God's guidance as He tells you "'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21).

I will to Jackie a love for long hugs and the heart and boldness to be honest and vulnerable even when it's hard. I also will the desire to build up others and lean on God when academics and life get tough. I also will a love for Identity V (that hopefully doesn't consume all your time <3).

I will to Hannah gentle patience and love to care for others and encourage them with words of truth. I will to David & Jasper love for volleyball (even though you guys had it long before I did) and the perseverance to push through the painz of gainz.

I will to Kevin all my love for Tab, including casserole-based "dinners" and serving and learning from older brothers and sisters who have walked with the Lord much longer than we have. May the Lord bring more young'uns to Tab, according to His will and steadfast love.

I will to Alicia a steadfast heart in praying for others. May you magnify and praise Him every day.

I will to Stephanie a love for spending time and living "Life Together" with others, and the discernment to figure out where God is using you and to align your will to His.

I will to Felix a love for reading the Bible and seeking the historical beauty in it.

I will to Daniel a contagious laugh and the ability and time for self-reflection to turn towards God with all things.

I will to Valerie the ability to figure out what you want to do with Biology in your career (although I haven't fully figured it out myself lol). I pray the Lord continue to guide and lead you.

I will to Aaron & Felicia continuous video game shenanigans, and perseverance and love to continue finding new ways to serve God and others.

I will to all of CBS the desire to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Chris Qian

I will the 15 foot extension cable to Aaron.

I will the 2e drum equipment to Jackie.

Liam Patterson

I will all of 4A haha good luck with that oven/fridge combo tho.

Megan Lee

I will to Jackie the Illuminations shimmy.

I will to Emily Kam my love for creative writing.

I will to Joy my project hope membership and cozy times in 3b 😊

Michael Huang

I will to Liam & Frances another semester with me #fml.

I will to smol Lauren some big design energy.

I will to Louise the coffee at Temple of Zeus in case I never try it before I graduate Le deja a Daeguang la habilidad de hablar español.

I will to Alvin better taste in TV shows (kidding! mostly).

I will to Lucy the heart for serving others and the brain to raise CBS's collective GPA.

Ray Zeng

I will to Dae Guang, Victor, Alex and Victor the illustrious task of maintaining the legacy of Eddygate 2E.

I will to Attilus my Google Drive folder of all the FICCC tech ministry things (and a raincheck for a meal that we never got) and whatever Indomie is leftover in 2E so he won't have to live off of Soylent.

I will to Alex and Darren late nights spent talking politics and faith.

I will to Felicia my eternal gratitude for letting me use her pizza steel.

I will to Dae Guang, Alex, Grace and Aaron the last meatball on our DST world.

I will to Hannah, Felix, Meili and Kevin better soundproofing between the Uris cocktail lounge meeting rooms.

I will to Misha fewer spray paint fumes and more time exploring the world.

I will to Jasper, Kevin, Darren and David the burden of keeping 1G poppin (and clean!).

I will to Lucy the CBS prayer journal archive (can be found near the TV in 2E).

I will to Joy the box of electronic components that's somewhere in 2E.

Raymond Zhang

I will to Alex an ear to listen to God, freedom in Christ from anxiety and continued weekly meetings with each other. I will to Alvin the 1G couch.

I will warm hugs to Attilus. I will to Daeguang good chats about serving.

I will to Daniel a gentle heart, the FRUIT of the Spirit and continual growth in Christ.

I will to David "no I'm Raymond" jokes.

I will even more e d g y food combinations to Emily K. I will to Emily L. survival in chemistry.

I will many questions on the wonders and glories of God to Hannah.

I will a continual hunger to learn about God and love for biomedical engineering to Jason.

I will to Jasper my bed in 1G and care of the 1G legacy.

I will weird looks to Yessica.

I will to Kim to stay hydrated, homie.

I will to Louise an appreciation for lab memes.

I will to Marc good health and loud laughter from the Lord.

I will to Nathaniel my sick yoyo skills.

I will to Stephanie 1G hospitality and sincere gratitude for letting me eat all your food.

I will weird hand waving to Valerie.

I will to Darren and Kevin meekness in leadership, compassion towards others, firmness in the Gospel and surrender to the Lord.

Newcomer! Pearl Ngai

hometown: Queens, NY || major: ILR || class: '22

When we set up this meeting on zoom we both almost missed our scheduled time! I thought it was 11:00am and Pearl thought that it was 11:30am. Thankfully, all miscommunication aside, we didn't have a packed weekend schedule since the Coronavirus sent us back home and were able to have a wonderful interview!

1. What are your first impressions Of CBS?

I would say welcoming! I was really surprised- on the first day that I was there, person after person would approach me, introduce themselves, and ask me why I was here... it reminded me of my home church, which is really small and tends to flock towards newcomers. I was touched by how quick people were to help me feel at home and at ease.

2. One thing that surprised you about CBS?

You know, to be completely honest, how Jesus-centered and focused everyone is. I'm not super used to having Jesus centered conversations, but even if the people in CBS were talking about schoolwork, they were able to also talk about their relationship with Christ... I'm inspired to take on a similar sort of thing in my conversation with people, whether or not they are Christian or not.

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

My dream is to be a podcast host! I feel like everyone can have a podcast, but not everyone can make it. I would love to host This American Life, or Freakonomics - I would love to just develop stories. It's really hard to break into that field and be successful, but I don't mind... I feel like it would be a really fulfilling job.

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

That is a great question! *thinks really hard*

I think in my friend groups, I'm usually the mom of the group. I usually

say things like "text me when you get home," or "make sure you drink a lot of water"... not to boss people around, but to make sure that everyone is safe and sound.

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

I would say pineapple, because I really like pineapples, and pineapples grow in tropical areas, and I like to be in warm weather, and they look really cool! *laughs* I aspire to be a pineapple when I grow up.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

There are things people say that I like... *thinks really hard again* There's an illustration that my mom has always told me, that "when you say something to hurt someone else, it's like putting a nail into a tree...even when you take the nail out of the tree by apologizing or making things right, the hole is still in the tree." It's been a really good visual for me in reminding me how powerful and important my words are and can be, so I always try and think before I speak!

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

If I even graduate!! *laughs* In the light of this quarantine... This sounds really nerdy, but I hope to be more active in talking to my professors. Yes, talking to peers is really great, and so is making lifelong friendships, but I think professors are really interesting people that can teach us so much, and I don't know how to approach them that well. There are so many things to learn from them... so hopefully to find a mentor in a professor before I graduate. And I also want to climb the clock tower.

It was such a blessing to learn more about Pearl! I'm glad that I got to learn about her love for podcasts and pineapples, as well as her desire to seek God in all things. I pray that Pearl will continue to delight in the Lord at Cornell, and if we ever get to come back to campus, Lord willing, I hope she gets to find out what's really at the top of the clock tower!

- Daniel Woo '23

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Alice Zhao
Junior Class: Caring, Empathetic, Always there to listen
Sophomore Class: Very Loving
Freshmen Class: Young! *laughs*
Ithaca: Quaint
Dining Halls On Campus: Appel! My fav~
Bubble Tea: Kung Fu Tea



It may be snowing in April, but I still love it here!

Valentine's Day Felly Dinner



Junior girls line up for some yummy noodles (Alicia Chen '21, Stephanie Deng '21, Louise Xie '21, and Joanna Luh '21)

Melanie Lim '19 looks like she knows something you don't (ft. Emily Jacobsson '22 and Megan Lee '20)



Daeguang Chung Kim '21, David Tse '21, Kevin Hu '21, and Darren Chang '21 sing to CBS



Hello Class of 2023!
(Alexandra Li, Emily Liu, Valerie Chen, Dawn Zee, Meili Bowden, Daniel Kim, Tony Yang, and Marc Liu)





A VIGNETTE OF SERVING THE LORD: ABRAHAM IN GENESIS 18'

By: Darren Chang

Genesis 18 holds a special place in my prayer partnership: it's one of my favorite chapters to think about serving the Lord and it's one of Felix Yang's go-to chapters for its rich symbolism. Perhaps the other brothers in our line will pick up this chapter as well. Abraham's heart of service in this chapter can be a true model — a vignette of serving that should motivate how we approach the Lord.

It's incredible (even unimaginable) that "the Lord [appears] to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre" in such an intimate way in verse 1. In fact, the Lord appears by the oaks, or terebinths, signaling vigor in Mamre, meaning "fertile." Abraham is finally ready to become a useful and productive servant to the Lord. While God has always been ready for Abraham, the converse was not necessarily always true. As Abraham grows (both spiritually and in physical years), we see a greater willingness to surrender to the Lord, mirroring Paul's use of the term "co-workers" (Rom. 16:3, NIV).

Although we call Abraham the Father of Faith, he's still just as human as the next Adam. He lies to the Pharaoh that Sarah is his sister and not his wife because he fears for his life (Gen. 12:11-13; Gen. 20:12-13), he disobeys God's calling in Genesis 12 when he brings his father, Terah, with him out from Ur of the Chaldeans, and he "begets" Ishmael (beget is the verb used in the KJV and Darby translation, which I think is fitting) by way of his wife's servant (Gen. 17). Not only does Abraham beget Ishmael, he also voices what Scottish commentator Alexander McLaren calls "a petulant wish:" "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" (Gen. 17:18, ESV). Then, when God promises Isaac, Abraham ridicules the Lord by laughing at Him (Gen 17:17).

God has smote humans for far less than this. Yet, Abraham is still alive by the time Genesis 18 rolls around, and God comes to Abraham. This is exactly like Christ's gift to us. This should be an encouragement and an exhortation to us believers as an example of God's overwhelming and amazing grace. We are able to receive salvation and repent our sins even though our iniquities continually stain us, representing our humanity (Ezra 9). We can have a close and personal relationship with the Lord because Christ's death and resurrection bridges our sins.

In fact, it is in the backdrop of such iniquity that God appears to Abraham as "three men" (Gen 18:2) and Abraham serves them with his best. The number three is important in this context as a sign of perfection and wholeness; in other parts of the Bible, this shows up as

as the Trinity; three days between Jesus's death and resurrection; three wise men; three righteous patriarchs in Abel, Enoch, and Noah; three righteous fathers in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and three times that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest (among other mentions). The three men here are a surefire symbol of God — complete, whole, and holy. Abraham's response is instructive:

2 When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

In our lifetimes, we (probably) won't have the same opportunities as Abraham. But, there are certainly still similarities we can draw. For example, we may have a calling to be an apostle or missionary in another country or simply even another church, mirroring God's command for Abraham to "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house" (Gen. 12:1, ESV). We might wait on the Lord to fulfill our prayers according to His will, as God did with Isaac.

Many times, reading the Old Testament (or even the New Testament) might seem dry or unrelatable because we don't have the same experiences as the characters. None of us (I think) have wrestled with God like Jacob, been stoned like Stephen, or committed adultery like David. In fact, earlier this semester I posed a question to my class about the importance and role of different parts of the OT to our lives walking with the Spirit. It seems that books like Leviticus aren't so relevant at first glance. But, this is a dangerous way to read the Bible, because we believe in the inerrancy of all 66 books. I challenge you to find ways that OT characters can be relatable to your experience as a Christian. This might not be so easy at first, but finding patterns of Christian life repeated for millennia develops Biblical models for our own lives.

Abraham is, in my experience, one of the easier characters to empathize with. Even in vv. 2-5, we can find some revelations from Abraham's example. When he sees God, Abraham bows to the ground in an act of worship and honor. I often think that there are times when God communicates with us and comes to meet us where we may stand at

that particular time. Perhaps we've just gone through the loss of a loved one, or we're struggling through a difficult semester, or we just can't "feel" God. But, just as He comes to Abraham, He comes to us as well. Then, the question is no longer "is God there?" but rather "are our hearts open to receive?" Often, the answer is no.

When we feel hopeless and certain that God is not with us, we might pray as Abraham prays: "do not pass by your servant" (v. 3). Fanny Jane Crosby's hymn "Pass me not, O Gentle Savior" is relevant both to our experience and to this verse. Here is the first verse and the chorus:

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

It's a beautiful and gentle hymn. More importantly, it's a plea to hold onto the Lord tightly. I had this experience at the beginning of the social distancing time this year. I felt that God was passing me by even though many of my friends (both in CBS and outside of fellowship and Ithaca) were more positive about the COVID-19 situation. I suppose that it's not exactly unreasonable to be floundering during a global pandemic, but it's certainly not the most comforting spiritual place. This hymn and the prayer to the Lord to not "pass me by" have been critical in spiritual, emotional, and even physical restoration.

The next verses demonstrate Abraham's willingness to be for the Lord. He asks to bring "a little water" and "a little bread" for the three men to rest, eat, and wash their feet. We constantly ask for "things" in supplication. This isn't wrong per se, because we are told to cast our burdens on God (Phil. 4:6). Yet, John 15 clarifies that this isn't a blank slate to ask for a romantic relationship, entrance into medical school, or a new Supreme sweatshirt. Rather, Jesus clarifies that we "ask whatever [we] wish" "if you abide in Him" (John 15:7, ESV). In other words, we shouldn't allow our prayers of petition and supplication to overwhelm our desire to be "for the Lord."

The next passage shows that Abraham is serving God with his best:

6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." 7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he

had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

He offers to the three men three measures of the best flour, a calf, and milk. For the time, these were obviously delicacies, but the description of the preparation process and ingredients gives us clues as to just how well Abraham treated the wise men. The flour is "choice" flour, meaning that it is of the highest quality. Abraham tells Sarah to make three measures of cakes — in other translations (such as Darby), the word "seah" is used instead of "measures." A seah is a bit larger than a peck, an antiquated measure that's about 2 gallons. It's a bit odd to measure cake in gallons, but just think about it: six gallons of spice cake! If you've ever been to a high school football game, that would be the size of one of the smaller Gatorade coolers they put at the 50-yard line.

The calf and the milk are also rich symbols. In the Darby translation, the calf is described as "tender and good," a young animal without defect slaughtered for God's satisfaction. The milk is similarly said to be "thick and sweet," implying freshness and substance. At a conference I went to in January 2020 titled "A Real Romantic Journey: The Life of Abraham (Part IV)" hosted by the Church in Cleveland, these three elements of Abraham's offering were discussed by the speaker (Titus Chu) as "[typifying] the healthy humanity of Jesus, going through death by being slaughtered, and in his resurrection producing the thick and sweet milk." With these meaningful items of food and drink, Abraham serves God.

The best of what we have is certainly Christ himself. Our serving and our life have to be motivated by Him — otherwise, we are stuck in patterns of fleshly living that are not only destructive for our own spiritual lives, but also actively harmful to the flock. Therefore, Abraham's example of serving in Genesis 18 poses the question: if God gives us His best in Jesus, how can we not respond in the same by giving our best?

Regardless of how much we offer the Lord, however, we must be mindful that God gives us infinitely more. God invites us to enjoy eternity with Him in the Kingdom of heaven, which is a banquet table where we can feast sumptuously in comparison to the measly amount we offer Him (Matt. 22:2; Matt. 25). All that we give back to Him is already His to begin with (1 John 4:19). The food that Abraham offers was already God's to begin with, because He created it all. The analogy might be like that of a father who buys his daughter popcorn. When the daughter offers him some, he is ostensibly pleased. Yet, he was the one who had bought the popcorn in the first place. In the same way, we are only able to offer and serve God because He loved us first.

Abraham dedicates his whole life to God; in this instance in Genesis 18, he freely gives a calf, milk, and cake when God appears in his life. I know

I struggle and will continue to struggle with this, for there are many idols at Cornell. It can be overwhelming: grades, a social life, extracurriculars, people's perception of you, a career — these all take our time. Serving the Lord and loving the Lord in our individual and communal Christian lives also comes from many different avenues and in different forms. For one brother, it might be the person they call from their home church every week who's unsure about their faith. For a sister, it might be their work at a local church. For another brother, it might be their daily devotional time where they seek to know the Lord better.

While the particulars of every Christian's situation may be different, we should still think: "how can we offer our best to the Lord?"



By: Lucy Lu

MERE CHRISTIANITY READING GROUP

As some of you may know, a few brothers and sisters including myself read Mere Christianity together this past winter break. How the group came into being is a long story, but I am grateful and absolutely amazed that God used different circumstances and random conversations to bring us together. It is good to read a book with someone over break. For a lot of us, break is a rare time of the year when we finally have time to read something that is not school related, but it is also a time when it is hard for us to have fellowship with each other and be kept accountable.

We chose Mere Christianity because all of us are interested in reading some Christian apologetics — reasoned writings in justification of our faith. The book was indeed a blessing. The author C.S. Lewis first builds an argument for Christianity from our experience with morality in general. He then introduces the Gospel and its fundamental elements. Lastly he addresses some hard topics including the Trinity and God's omniscience.

Though the book is not long, the content is dense. It introduces perspectives I never thought of before. For example, he writes in chapter 2.1 that "if the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning; just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning." What a great way to explain our search and longing for a purpose! It is because there is meaning to our existence. While there is a lot to take in, Lewis uses many analogies drawn from common sense and daily life to explain abstract concepts. I remember tearing up a little when reading his stunning comparison of the pains in the process of sanctification (Romans 5:3-5) to the awkward appearance of lumps on the shoulders of a horse which is being turned into a winged creature. The picture of a winged horse which can see new horizons it has never seen before after all the awkwardness and suffering was so vivid and moving that all I could do was to praise God for calling us to be sanctified.

In addition, our discussion as a group helped me not only understand the content of the book more, but also reflect on and be encouraged by many other things. I appreciated the openness and candidness each member had during our virtual meetings. We were not afraid to ask hard questions and express our doubts, which I believe is a result of the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in the group (Matthew 7:1). I loved

how we pointed each other to the Scripture based on which the book was written. No matter how many books on apologetics we read, it is important to remember that the Bible is the root of all of them (if the books are biblical, of course) and the source of all truths. Moreover, I have been greatly encouraged to see how God uses this group to strengthen our ministry. One of the members is reading the same book with a friend of theirs who is interested in Christianity. Who could have foreseen that one of the purposes for which God created the group was to support and pray for this ministry?

As I said earlier, small groups like this are a great way to meet together and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). This group has been a blessing to me and I encourage all of you to find ways to have fellowship with one another and even more so during this time when doing so is challenging.



By: Jasper Liang

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

When I first realized that I was being sent home for the rest of the semester, I couldn't be happier. I still had my worries about how I would get home and if I could avoid getting sick, but being a careless Zoomer, I wasn't even too worried about that. While I was on my Air Canada plane en route to YVR, I was just imagining the wonderful time I was about to have in quarantine: I had a three-week spring break, I could relax and play *Animal Crossing*, I could practice piano on a real piano in the comfort of my own living room, I could enjoy actual food, I could study alone in my room and sleep in my own bed.

I was also imagining how freeing this quarantine could be for my spiritual life. Now that everything was about to move online, I could be involved in both of my churches and both of my fellowships. It would be so much easier to attend prayer meetings, bible studies, large groups, and meetups. Being at home would free up time for me to do my devotionals and read some books, and I would have my own room for quiet prayer. Most importantly, I could escape the things that pull me away from my faith: academic stress, self-consciousness about my image, and a secular culture.

Anyone reading this right now would realize that my vision was borderline delusion. After a few seconds of reflection, I can confidently report that my weeks at home did not go as I had planned. I ended up accomplishing nothing during the three-week break, my passion to serve in ministry faltered, and my sleep schedule was in the dumps. My laziness left me even more unprepared to take on virtual classes when the semester started up again. I became stressed more and did less, my devotional schedule became more erratic, and my sleep schedule failed to normalize.

How could this happen to me? I thought I would be escaping all of the issues that were holding me back. After all, I was only slacking on my devotions because I had a lot of homework, right? I couldn't meet up with people because my schedule was so packed, right? I only had some anger in my heart because I was under so much stress, right? I was only feeling distant from God for those few weeks, but I will work on that relationship once I find some free time, right?

The issue is that we are always so good at coming up with excuses for ourselves. We also often fail to accept the root of our problems. When we are honest with ourselves, it is not really the workload that stops us

from obeying God, it is not the packed schedules that prevent us from reaching out to our brothers and sisters, it is not the competitive environment that causes us to idolize academics and career. Ultimately, we are fighting our sinful nature – and this is something that we cannot run away from.

On the other hand, something even more prominent than our sin is God's grace. Jesus paid it all on that cross, and we are no longer slaves to sin. The danger comes when we take God's grace for granted and only praise Him when it's convenient for us.

We shouldn't deceive ourselves by blaming our disobedience to God on our circumstances. Definitely, the pressures of being a university student make it difficult to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Of course, situations will arise that will make it difficult to love our neighbors as ourselves. But 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us of this: No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

To me, this way of escape is often the encouragement of my brothers and sisters in CBS. Living the socially distant life has unfortunately pulled me away from this family, and keeping in touch virtually just isn't the same. Being quarantined has helped me realize just how important church and community is. Together, we can bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2), stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), and encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Ecclesiastes reminds us of this: For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

Rely on the Lord always, encourage one another, and submit to God's will: these are things that we must do no matter where we are.



MERELY A CURIOUS CASE OF QUESTIONS IN CHRISTIANITY

By: Jason Chen

Last winter break, I was in a reading group where we read *Mere Christianity*. This article will be about the big takeaways and certain benefits of doing a reading group such as this.

Some of the main takeaways I had from this book were the following:

1. Theology is important because it helps you gain a new perspective with those who have experienced it before as well, in a way similar to how a map of the Atlantic Ocean tells you different things than a walk on the beach.
2. Pride is the greatest sin because it brings people away from God. This claim is debatable, but the reason he states this is that the devil becomes the devil because of pride, which leads one to desire self-sufficiency from God.
3. Since there is a moral law that we all seem to know (even though we don't have to follow it), then that tells us that there is a higher being. Though this may be countered with claims of behavioral evolution, it is an interesting claim. It's interesting because this innate want for meaning, morality, or fulfillment is what leads many non-believers to Christianity.

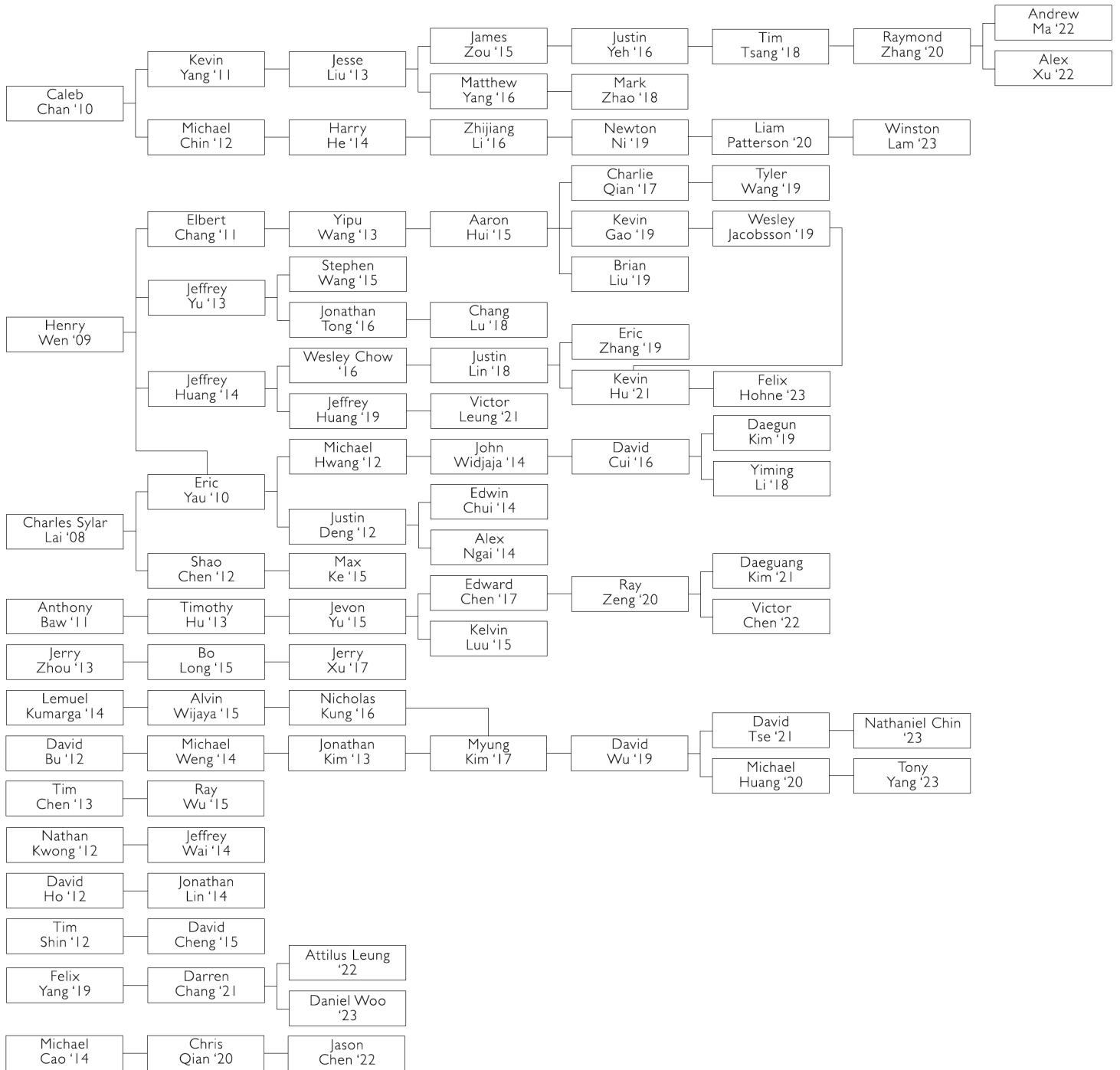
Taking all these aspects into account, there initially seems to be no great conclusion to draw from this. But I think what I am able to gather from these claims is that we rely on faith. We rely on theology to learn, humbleness (or lack of pride) to understand we don't know it all, and an

innate want for something more in life to drive us to learn more. I think that though we may not know it all, or produce enough claims to get anywhere decisive, God has given us curious minds for a reason. And I think it's all just to guide us to Him. This curiosity-drive is why I think these continual discussions and questions about faith, belief, and Christianity are critical to "growing spiritually" (in whatever way you define that term).

TLDR: In any case, from all of what I said, if you don't take anything else away from this article, remember this: keep questioning and learning about your faith, because your faith is possibly the most important thing in this life for you to understand. So in times of trial, confusion, or debate, you can be strengthened because you will have explored these questions already yourself.

Prayer Partner Tree

Brothers of CBS



The fellowship tries to burp through the alphabet for ACE



Darren Chang '21, Attilus Leung '22, and David Tse '21 spend 6 hours getting their hair dyed for charity



North dinner at Appel!
Thank you Kevin Hu '21 for the selfies



CBS Bible Study moves to Zoom!
Coronavirus can't stop us from abiding in the Word <3





Shoutouts



To: Alice

Thank you for being the best first-face I met at CBS. Your leadership, faith, humor, and contagious laugh inspire me. I hope to be as cool of a senior as you in the future :D

From: Anonymous

To: Kimberly

Thank you for being the supremest PP ever. I knew from our first lunch at the Ivy Room when we both took advantage of the Pure Leaf Tea discount that we were meant to be. I hope we can continue finding more similarities and that God will bless you in your senior year. Pls stay for MEng T-T

From: ur little juan

To: Darren

Thank you for taking me in as a prayer partner, even though you already had one. Thank you for your kind, wise words and your patience during our talks, and thank you for your beautiful prayers. God bless you and I hope that we get to meet often in the fall!

From: Daniel

To: cbs 2022

thanks 4 being a constant & loving source of joy even if u only see me once every few weeks hehe love u lots see u more next semester

From: emj

To: Ray Zeng

Thanks for the laughs, positivity, brotherhood, and last but not least, your care in 2E 💙 We appreciate it even if we don't say it much :-)

From: Anonymous

To: 1G Monday Spring Prayer Group

I seriously couldn't have asked for a better first prayer group! Thank you all for your patience with my verbose attitude and occasional bursts of energy, as well as your gentleness and compassion for each other. I will always treasure this group in my heart and I will continue to pray for you all, wherever we end up in the fall. Love you all!

From: Daniel

To: Frances and Alice

I lava you guys forever!

From: Megan

To: Kevin

Thanks for being a great MC xD

From: Anonymous

To: everybody

yeet

From: Anonymous

To: Mel

Thank you for being an amazing apartment-mate! 3Beans has a fond place in my heart forever cause of you and Hannah :) I will miss eating frozen Italian-seasoned meatballs with you, completing the lengthy, arduous, scientifically-based process of changing the fish tank's water, and watching many movies.

LOVE, mel267

To: Central Campus Prayer Group

It's been such a blessing leading the group this semester! While our time physically in Uris Cocktail Lounge was cut short, God still gave us the privilege of meeting virtually, and that is something I am so grateful for. It's been awesome seeing you all grow and mature in your prayer lives, and I hope that as the semester closes out, we may all continue to rely on God, make our requests known, and have our prayers aligned with His will.

- Kevin Hu

To: Daniel

Hello SIR! Thank you for your kind heart and continual striving after God. Praying you may desire God all the more during the rest of your college life and beyond. Galatians 6:9.

From: Anonymous

To: Pearl

Hello dear friend! I have been so encouraged by your desire to know God more and seek Him out. I pray God keep you steadfast in clinging to Him and illuminate your mind and heart to know and love Him deeply. Hebrews 10:23

From: Anonymous

To: Jackie

Jackiejackiejackiejackie! Thanks for your immense amount of love and hugs, for them YouTube workouts (get that 4-day challenge LOL), and for your precious honesty. I will dearly miss you and going to class with you, and am praying for your continual growth in Christ. 1 Peter 5:6-11

From: Alice

To: CBS Volleyball

For me, volleyball was a way to have fun in the midst of a busy semester. It's been awesome to see you guys' devotion to being in fellowship through playing sports. I'm looking forward to more late night practices, shared memories, Louie's Lunch, teamwork, and aces. (I'm still working on setting).

From: Kevin Hu

To: Mel

BIG

From: Anonymous

To: Chris

Thanks for being a great praise ministry leader! I loved our lyrical analysis and what you shared about worship from what you were reading. It's always a good reminder to me when you go back to Scriptures for answers. You have great thoughts on hard topics - still remember how you jumped in on our bible study and started answering a hard question right away haha. I learned a lot from you.

From: Lucy

To: michael huang

thank u for all ur infosci advice!! idk what a uke jam session actually entails but we should figure it out and have a uke jam session.

From: not smol lauren

To: mh999

yooo it's been a long hard 4 years but I'm glad we got to spend some time together =) #startedfromthebottomnowwehere

From: dw434

To: Joy

Thank you for BoL and for all that you do <3

From: Anonymous

To: em j

thank u for bringing dinner to me after game dev meeting, it warmed my stomach and my soul. thank u for always greeting me with ur lovely smile, those warm my soul also. u are the best half of the em & em duo. <3

From: em k

To: S(ervant)team

Thank you all for being great ministry leaders and shepherds! It was not an easy year and there was probably a lot to think about and act on, but I was really encouraged by how you all humbly served the fellowship not out of the interest for yourselves, but for others and for God.

From: Lucy

To: "Surprise" birthday card organizers

The love you show through dedication to celebrating so many people's birthdays is touching and inspiring. Thanks for all your hard work and time! I find it a blessing that we all eventually know it's happening :P

From: Anonymous

To: Mel

HEY LADY. Thank you for getting me through three-fourths of college. I LOVE YOU LOTS <3 and you're always welcome to come back and crash in 3B :)

From: Kim

To: Emily Jacobsson

Shoutout to a PP with a beautiful singing voice, contagious joy, and a heart for learning more about and growing closer to God! I look forward to encouraging each other and growing more together in the coming year! <3 <3

From: Your older PP :)

To: Emily JayYay

I have been UBER excited to have seen your face more periodically as you become part of Christ Chapel with me. You have been a great blessing, and I am inspired by your koinonia with others at Christ Chapel. I anticipate another year of sitting next to each other in the pews and riding the PARTY bus to church (its LiT).

From: Jessica

To: Alice

thanks for your ~positivity~ and spiritual encouragement. excited for you and hope to stay frendos forever :^)

From: Anonymous

To: Liam

fav roomie

From: Anonymous

To: Nathaniel Chin

Thanks for sharing about your adventures and insights from COVID19 quarantine Bible reading! Your excitement and growth are so encouraging, and I hope you continue to find sustenance in His word in other parts of it and after quarantine is over!

From: Hannah

To: Sophomores

I am encouraged by how much you all grow in the past year :D Thanks for bringing us good memes and music. Hope you all continue bearing good fruits of the Spirit!!

From: Anonymous

To: Raymond

stay hydrated homie

From: Kim

To: 1g residents

thanks for the couch it is very nice to sleep in

From: Anonymous

To: Reach Train (of whatever rendition there has been these last three years)

Much gratitude to my brothers and sisters in serving and loving others in Reach ministry. Thank you for your Godly reminders and attitudes towards growing koinonia in CBS and spreading the Good News to others. I am inspired by everyone's hearts to fulfill the mission God has given us and grateful for your prayers throughout the whole event-making process and towards our individual challenges and victories in doing inreach and outreach. As Paul writes to the loving church of Ephesus: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2) Grace and Peace to you as you continue to serve in this ministry and/or go on to bless other communities and people under God's instruction. I am excited for what the next year will look like for everyone.

From: A Reach Coord

Dear Alice & Raymond

Your patience and sacrifice in serving and loving God through your ministry in CBS is an incredible testament to God's love and grace. Your heart for CBS and most importantly for building God's Kingdom is such an encouragement and blessing. May God continue to bless you to be a blessing!

From: Anonymous

To: Meili

thank you for always supplying me with toblerone bars and sharing your love for raspberry pure leaf with me.

From: your fellow ARMY

To: Freshmen

It is really nice to get to know you all! Keep being cool and rooted in God's love <3

From: Lucy

To: Felicia Setiono

Thank you for always praying with, for, and over people with such uplifting, scripture-filled prayers. And thank you for helping me to search for answers to difficult questions!

From: Hannah

To: raymond

thank you for being a wonderful roommate - always down to eat, chill, and talk at the oddest hours of the night and encouraging me as a brother in Christ. we certainly had our meme moments, including our inability to make to class on time. but, i'll truly treasure your flexibility and willingness to share, build-up, and be vulnerable.

From: darren

To: sophs

you are the coolest class and your memes are very funny you are better than all the other classes

From: sophs

Dear Jessica & Louise,

Your heart and diligence in serving and loving God through reach ministry has been such an encouragement and blessing, and not just within CBS peeps! Thank you for continually sharing many words of encouragement and for your patience and perseverance even in the face of challenges whether logistical or smol or big <3

From: Anonymous

To: alice

thank you for your heart in leading the fellowship and the Bible study leaders. you have provided encouragement and faithfulness in a way that has left an indelible mark on many a cbs-er.

From: Anonymous

To: chris

your passion for music is so cool and your passion for Christ even cooler. we will miss you!

From: atticus

To: seniors

thank you for your four years of dedication and service. your faithfulness and love for the Lord and CBS really shine through. we will miss you!

From: Anonymous

To: lucy, kim, dgck, ray, liam

though this was not a large cooking team, I enjoyed prepping valentine's day felly dinner with you all. we had a blast in the kitchen working under high heat and duress to make comfort food. liam - thank you so much for washing the dishes!

From: Darren

To: Chris Qian

Thanks for the thought you put into praise team meetings and for persevering through so many technical and logistical challenges!

From: Anonymous

Dear Joy

Thank you for so patiently and diligently working on BoL, for all those late nights and for so graciously dealing with long, and I mean long, but also such blessed, heartwarming BoLs. So encouraged by how God is growing and shaping your heart to love and serve Him all the more!

From: Anonymous

To: raym

thanks for being amazing coordinator and also letting me crash in 1g too many times

From: yeetn't mingn't

Dearest frosh

Your growing desire to seek God, to know and love Him, that we are blessed to witness and encourage as a fellowship in our conversations/prayer groups/Bible studies/life together has been such an encouragement. So grateful God brought each and every one of y'all to Cornell. Also s/o to your class for raising the average height of CBS heh

From: Anonymous

To: Kevin Hu

Thank you for being a great prayer/small group leader and investing your care into the group even when there are many other things going on for you. I praise God for the peace, trust, and grace he gives you in those times!

From: Hannah

To: Mel

Thanks for your constant guidance for serving and loving others, and your encouragement in volleyball (honestly, I probably will not join next year...too much strezzzz). I will miss you lots, especially your humor, funny faces, and Godly nature. Hey, why don't you just stay for a PhD and keep blessing us? :) It's okay, I know God has plans for you to bless others and spread His name as you have done in Ithaca!

From: Yessssica

To: Alyssa

Thanks for sharing what the Lord has been teaching you at large groups! It is encouraging to see you grow at Cornell in the past year. (and thanks for being a great pp :D) (No need to sign lul)

From: Anonymous

To: Mel

I love how you are always down for a good time, even if it involves staying up to watch a trash YA-novel-based movie instead of sleeping and then going to CTB for bfast. You are a wonderful PP. You're wise, realistic, and easy to talk to and I feel like I can tell you things. Thank you for listening so, so well and being always willing to discuss the things we've been thinking about. I am very #blessed to know you and your fish and your snail (may he rest in peace). I promise we'll eventually read that book together (once we finish all our other books)! :)

From: Emily

To: Joy Thean and rest of BoL staff

Thank you for all your behind-the-scenes time, effort, consideration, and prayer in putting this magazine together! It isn't easy, especially when we tend to operate on college student x CBS time hehe... But thank you for your patience and care!

From: Anonymous

To: zozz

all yall have grown since freshman year (i see u) and im eager to see how God will continue to shape and mold yall. we didn't do enough fun things together this semester. :(but, thanks for prayer meetings. thanks for mango mango. thanks for the memes and the mems. thanks for all yalls affection and friendship, and thanks for being here.

From: Anonymous

To: THE ORACLE

nothing can RESIST my love for y'all <3

From: Kim

Dear "What the NANI"/Juniors

Wow, how did three years go by in the blink of an eye?! Thank you for your prayers and for your words of encouragement and truth from God's Word. What a blessing it has been to grow and walk alongside each of you! Looking forward to our final (but not final bc ya know God's kingdom is everlasting) year here full of love, laughs, memes, even tears and fears.

From: Anonymous

To: jessica

thank you for your faithfulness and supporting the fellowship even when you had personal difficulties or uncertainties. you were given a difficult task as reach coordinator, and your serving and loving heart continues to shine through day by day.

From: Anonymous

Dearest señors/señoritas

Why you gotta go?? Wow my heart, it feels like y'all were just planning welcome picnic just the other day! Thank you for so many blessed conversations and encouraging prayers, for wonderful shared meals, and for smiles and laughter that has brightened my days. So encouraged by how God has been so faithfully growing and equipping each of you to build His kingdom and excited for what He has planned for y'all!

From: Anonymous

To: ray

thanks for all the memes and also sorry for ditching too many meetups D:

From: yeet ming

To: Alice

No words can express my thankfulness for your love and guidance these past two years. Through my highs and lows in Cornell you have been with me, and I could not ask for a better older PP than who you have been to me. You have shown me what koinonia, the love between Christians, is in our relationship from late night prayers to impromptu care packages. I'm most grateful for you preparing me in facing the biggest sin I had hidden as a Christian, by reminding me of Jesus Christ's role as our Interceder and Defender during my first semester at Cornell (can you figure it out? if not, I'll let you know what situation I'm talking about). I'm really sorry for not having cared for you equally as you faced challenges and burdens while serving. I'll continue to keep in touch with you, so make time for me when you become a career woman.

From: Your Younger PP

Dearest sophs

You all continue to bring such light and laughter into my life and so many others! I thank God for all y'all and your beautiful hearts that He is shaping and growing for His Kingdom. Your faithfulness and diligence in class prayer meetings is a great encouragement and reminder for us to all not neglect in meeting with one another!

From: Anonymous

To: Ray

Thanks for the freezer space & the space in your heart. Let's catch up and cook in the Bay sometime :)

From: Anonymous

To: joy

thank you for putting together BoL and expending your blood, sweat, and tears on such a project!

From: darren

To: Raymond Zhang

Great brother in Christ and CS major. Best of luck at Facebook!

From: Anonymous

To: THE ORACLE

My love for y'all knows no bounds. Thank you for always being there - ready to pull me up whenever I'm down.

From: Joy <3

To: Ray Zeng

Thank you for formally/informally supporting the prayer groups this year! I appreciated hearing your insights from leading prayer ministry last year and your feedback and occasional guidance in leading the fall semester Wednesday prayer group. Also, thanks for setting a good example of consistently including genuine adoration in prayers and checking in on how brothers and sisters in the fellowship are doing. Wed. prayer group and CBS will miss you!!

From: Hannah

To: Alyssa Gao

Thank you for always sharing what God is teaching you in his Word! I'm always humbled and uplifted by the lessons and wisdom you share. Praying God gives you the grace to keep encouraging the fellowship in this way!

From: Anonymous

To: Larina Fu

The one who I met on a lovely afternoon, whom was sitting on a bench waiting to trek to campus for your advisor meeting. I don't know if you still remember our first meeting, but I remember how grateful I was and still am to God for this moment because of your interest and persistence in keeping your Christian faith in campus. It was really encouraging during a time I felt unprepared to talk with people about exploring Christianity or CBS. Thank you for meeting up with me this year and praying with me over my concerns and challenges, bearing with my off-track conversations, and encouraging me to follow and trust in God's plan. I am excited for another year of praying and reading His Word together, and getting to know more about God and our purpose this year. We are not merely his fans, but His devoted followers (haha, we NEED to read this book over the summer).

From: Jessica

To: Emily K

Thank you for designing so many beautiful BoLs, inside and out. Every semester, I'm always so grateful for your hard work and caring!

From: Joy <3

To: Louise

Thank you for being a strong, resilient jar of clay. I am very blessed to have served with you and gotten to know you better outside of the PSC. Even though you may feel wary and uncertain about what you do, please be confident that you are walking in God's light and the Holy Spirit inside of you is guiding you every step of the way. I am glad to learn and be inspired by your thoughts and plans for community and outreach. Let's continue praying together and sharing our thoughts about how Sunday service was! I'll miss secretly laughing with you during our steam meetings.

From: Jessica

Dear Chris

I thank God for how He has so faithfully equipped and grown you to serve and love Him all the more through leading CBS praise ministry! Thank you for many thought-provoking and encouraging PT meeting workshops and Bible studies, and for patiently and diligently prepping and making even last-minute updates to chord sheets and slides. :)

From: Anonymous

To: jessica

thank you for your faithfulness and supporting the fellowship even when you had personal difficulties or uncertainties. you were given a difficult task as reach coordinator, and your serving and loving heart continues to shine through day by day.

From: Anonymous

Dearest non-undergrads/senior señors/señoritas

Thank you for countless words of encouragement, heartfelt and bold prayers, and much needed reminders and truth from God's Word. Thanks for lifting up spirits with your lightheartedness and bumping up average CBS age just a lil :)

From: Anonymous

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Chinese Bible Study (CBS) is a student-run Christian fellowship at Cornell University. We seek **to know Christ and make Him known**. There are two 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.