

bread



life

fall 2019 issue  
chinese bible study

# cbs vision verse

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.

◦ EPHESIANS 3:14-19 ◦

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

# fall 2019 bol staff

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# a look into cbs



Alex Xu '22, Darren Chang '21, Jasper Liang '22, and Victor Chen '22 enjoy a game of volleyball on North Campus while waiting for the tennis courts to become available.

Tony Yang '23, Chris Qian '20, Lucy Lu '21, Jessica Yuen '21, Melanie Lim M.Eng '21, and Kim Yap '21 participate in open-air worship in front of Willard Straight Hall.



Raymond Zhang '20, Jason Chen '22, and Aaron Hui PhD '21 chalk in front of the CKB quad in preparation for O-week.



Kim Yap '21 and Joy Thean '21 work out by making dumpling fillings for the annual dumpling party.

# editor letter

Dear CBS,

I hope you all enjoy reading this edition of Bread of Life! To all our wonderful newcomers (and also regular members!), may this edition help you learn more about the various people who come to this fellowship in sharing of a common passion for Christ and community. From worship to prayer to preaching and studying, many of the leaders who help run this fellowship have poured their thoughts and reflections into their letters, and I pray that their words reach through everyone's minds and change hearts.

To everyone, I want to encourage you to push through whatever currently weighs down on our mind and be comforted by the fact that with the Lord by our side, we will never falter. The following verse from Isaiah 40:31 always sits in my bathroom back home and whenever I see it (which happens a lot - lol), I'm reminded that truly renewed strength comes from Him and Him alone.

*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;*

*they shall run, and not be weary;  
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Personally, I was faced with a lot of struggles and hefty obstacles last semester and staying encouraged during that time was extremely hard, but the words of both Christ and friends helped me move past and reflect peacefully upon it.

I am so extremely grateful for all the help and support that was given to me during this process. I 110% would not have managed to finish compiling the rest of this edition without all the amazing people who volunteered to interview, write, edit and design. I hope you all know just how much I love and appreciate each and every one of you.

My hope is that this edition will preserve all the good memories CBS has had over this past semester, as well as impart little bits of encouragement and insight onto everyone who reads it. I'm really excited to see how CBS will grow next semester!

**With love in Christ,  
Joy Thean '21**



# coordinator letter: alice zhao

To my dearest brothers and sisters in Christ:

Where should I begin? To be honest, I wasn't sure how to organize this letter and all that God has taught me in this position of coordinator (let alone everything else I've learned this semester). But He has recently revealed a passage to me that I think is helpful in compiling my thoughts and that I hope may be helpful to you all as well:

Matthew 9:9-13

"As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

## Jesus' Call

Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew rises to do so. Perhaps you (like I) have sometimes fallen into the bad habit of failing to recognize the hugeness of this seemingly simple action. I have sometimes failed to consider how every area of Christian life is a calling that should be obeyed. For me, that also includes how I serve as coordinator. Following Jesus is a lifetime of obedience and love, an eternity of walking with our Savior and Friend. It is following a saving call that comes from Him, not ourselves, and turns us from the path we were walking on into His path. This involves bringing every area of our lives under His authority, including how we serve. I encourage you all, my friends, to consider how Jesus may be calling you to service specifically, and also want to remind you to not be afraid or lazy. He does not call the equipped, but equips whom He calls, and this is a truth I experience daily.

## Loving and Spending Time with Others

Here we see Jesus reclining with the tax collectors and disciples, spending time intentionally with them. Something I have learned more and more each year is to make use of the time I have with people God has placed in my life. This semester I have been blessed in the amount of time I have had to spend with others. There are times when I forget this precious gift while trying to finish all the things I need to do but being intentional about the time I have and how I may show love to others has been another lesson I've learned.

## Awareness of Sin and Need for a Physician

Jesus has come for sick sinners who are in need of a great Physician. Sometimes I have keenly felt the depravity of my sin and need for His grace and at other times I have suffered from a spiritual apathy that thinks my "little" sins are "not that bad." Jesus' call is a call for repentance, and this has often humbled me from my pride that comes from being in a position of leadership. I learn more each day of what it means to go to Him for healing and restoration and to watch carefully how I walk in this position He has given me.

## Mercy, Not Sacrifice

Finally, the verse that really drew my attention was vs. 13, which is a reference to Hosea:

Hosea 6:6

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

What God wants from us is love and mercy, not just doing religious duties. A desire to know Him and not just following ritual. There is a certain bondage to triviality that comes from being too pharisaic. True religion is not in shows of sanctity or theological disputations, but in doing good to the bodies and souls of others and seeking after Him, in righteousness and peace. God would rather have right hearts full of truth and mercy than sacrifice.

I've often asked myself: Is my motivation a sincere desire to accomplish God's will? Is my worship and service in Christ true? Or am I just going through the motions? Do I just want to be looked at admiringly by others? Is there real faith and obedience in my heart? To be honest, it has been on both sides. There were times of true joy in serving God and others, and times where service was contaminated with bitterness, pride, or other sins. Perhaps you have felt the same. But I trust in the Spirit's work in our hearts to make us more aligned with Christ and more desirous of true religion.

Although I still have much to learn, I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as one of your coordinators. It has been so, so joyful and even more humbling. I truly have grown in love for each of you as I pray for and think of you all, not just in planning Large Groups or events, but also in my personal quiet times. I continue to pray the Prayer of Spiritual Strength that outlines the CBS vision this year for you all, that you all may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Loving and praying for you,  
Alice Zhao '20

# coordinator letter: raymond

Dearest CBS,

It is a surreal experience writing you this letter. Before I sat down to write, I was flipping through past BoL editions, marveling at the faithful work of God in the lives of brothers and sisters of years and even decades past in CBS. In reading these articles, I am thankful and encouraged, yet paralyzed in examining how God's sanctifying work has been making its mark on my life. At times, I wonder to what extent I have been bearing fruit in my personal relationship with God and in ministry compared to my fellow brothers and sisters.

And there it is, the demon of comparison. We live in a world that tells us that our worth is vested in the act of comparing. For if we are smarter, harder working, *better* than the person next to us, surely, we would be acknowledged, and we would be *valued*. The culture at Cornell unhelpfully magnifies this, so it seems there is no escaping from this mindset wherever we go.

I confess that I have been struggling with this at times within fellowship. Even if I know better, I find myself subconsciously feeling inadequate in my theological understanding or even in my faithfulness to God. On the flip side, I am quick to cringe towards and judge trifles in doctrine or my perception of other peoples' faith in God. This is discouraging and pharisaic.

But our value or standing with God does not come merely from correct doctrine, emotional response to Christ, or our good works done in His name. Only through belief in Jesus Christ, in His crucifixion for our sins and His triumph over death in resurrection, do we have certain and everlasting identity and salvation. Then, will comparison become irrelevant. For when we compare our judgements requires ourselves to be the reference point. But in light of Christ's perfect goodness, faith and love for God and man, He becomes the center of our life. So, brothers and sisters, I challenge you to cling desperately to faith in Christ in all aspects of our lives as students at Cornell.

This brings us to the fellowship vision contained in Ephesians 3:14-19. Alice and I felt this passage was a beautiful reminder that in the midst of the bustle of life, the deluge of coursework and our personal doubts and worries, we are continually **strengthened** by our Father through the Holy Spirit. This strength doesn't just let us endure and overcome daily obstacles but enables us to strive towards a visceral comprehension of "*the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge*" (Eph 3:19). For in this we realize that even our faith in God is

not to our merit, for HE is the one who first lovingly began the work of faith in us - "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*" (Ephesians 2:8).

Therefore, CBS, I ask that you contend with me in growing towards our Father's vast and rich love for us such that we become like His love in temperament - "*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things*" (1 Cor 13:7). Meditate upon throughout winter break - How can we love our Christian brothers and sisters, the local Ithacan community, our church, the church, our friends, family, professors, strangers in word and deed?

Enough with my rambling. I want to leave you with a Psalm of David. I pray that as we sojourn through Cornell together (the dry and weary land where there is no water), that we may truly taste His living water.

1 *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*  
2 *So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.*  
3 *Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.*  
4 *So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands. (Psalm 63:1-4)*

To God be the glory,  
Raymond Zhang '20

# reach ministry

Hi CBS,

As Reach ministry, we are known to organize a lot of things: O-Week Outreach, ACEs (After CBS Events), fellowship dinners, outreach opportunities for the fellowship on campus and in the local community, and more. In all of this, rather than checking off a list on how to serve the fellowship, we pray that we served in alignment with our vision verse for this year:

*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 the 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, ESV)*

Over the summer, we prayed a lot for this vision verse. We looked into the Bible on what God envisioned for His community. A big question on our minds was: Why do we need a different vision verse every year? Throughout various communities in the Bible, God has shown His unique calling and purpose for each one, so what is His will for us this year? Romans 15:4-7 explains how our love for one another (our living in harmony) is based on the foundation of the relationship we have individually with God. His character of endurance and encouragement equips us to love one another. We hope to encourage a deep love and reverence for His Word that naturally leads to an outpouring of Christ's love both within and outside the fellowship. Most importantly, we hope to ground our identities as not just students, but people placed on this campus to be witnesses for God's Good News and His glory.

During the fall semester, we hoped to cultivate and strengthen relationships within the fellowship so that we may encourage one another towards Christ based on our vision verse, which would prepare us for outreach efforts next semester. Reach meetings and prayer partnership pairings have been a good way to put Romans 15 into practice, and we are still learning and praying

how to live out this vision as an entire fellowship. As we grow in love for one another and for God this semester, we hope to seamlessly transition into more outreach during the spring semester (like the Ephesus church we have been studying this semester!).

Reach has historically been known as a challenging ministry. To be perfectly honest, we didn't experience this as much as we expected to (are we doing ok?). This has only been possible by God's provision and the prayers and wisdom of alumni and brothers and sisters. God has shown us that Reach ministry is something everyone is a part of – you don't need to be gifted in speech, music, or prophecy because as children of God, He has equipped us to share the Good News. While we're figuring out what Reach looks like, He has already blessed this ministry with CBS members in prayer, discipleship, praise, and bible-study (just to name a few!) It's reassuring that God's sovereign plan is not limited by what we can do ourselves, and we praise Him that His strength is all the more shown through our weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9)! All glory be to God!

**Jessica Yuen '21 and Louise Xie '21**



# praise ministry

Dear CBS,

Going into this year, I thought long and hard about the purpose of Praise Team, and about the purpose of worshiping in song in general. We see many examples in the Bible of how worship is a direct outflow of the heart. Alongside praise, we see two other functions of worshiping in song: rejoicing (Ps. 5:11) and thankfulness (2 Chr. 5:13). It was this feeling of thankfulness that I wanted to stress this semester. That's why I chose our vision verse:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:15-17)

One thing that was clear to me was that the most important part of serving on Praise Team is to serve in love. In Amos 5:23, God shows what He thinks of hollow praise:

Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

I'm also reminded of Paul's essay on love: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal (1 Cor. 13:1)". In the classic hymn, "Come Thou Fount", we sing, "Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above". What we realize, though, is that without love, even our angelic songs are worthless. They are noise, the sound of a clanging cymbal.

Our songs of praise are manifestations of our love to God. And yet, I wonder if there is something otherworldly about music in general. After all, why does God rejoice over us with singing?

(Zeph. 3:17). Regardless, there is something intrinsic about music and the human heart. And what's more, we also see the inverse: singing helps us rejoice in God. I've experienced this most recently in the Night of Worship. The week leading up to it was stressful, maybe the most stress I've experienced. But when we started singing, I felt a sense of comfort, and of peace. I've heard others say the same. The reason, I believe, can be found in Ephesians 5:18-20:

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What we see is that when we sing and make music from the heart, we are filled with the Spirit, and we speak to one another in the Spirit. All it takes is a reminder of who God is. The Colossians verse says the same, that we teach one another through songs. When we remember God, we give thanks of His incomparable mercies, and we are filled with the Spirit, ready to show our love to others.

Praise Team, at its core, is about following the most important commandment: to love God and love others. When we do this, we can truly let the peace of Christ guard our hearts and do everything in Jesus' name. For the next semester, I'm excited to see how much further we can grow.

Chris Qian '20

# bible study leaders

## To our brothers and sisters in CBS,

This has been an interesting semester for Bible study at CBS. As always, we're gathering to dive into God's Word and really discern what He has to say. Our purpose is still to understand the breadth and length and height and depth of God by examining the riches of what He has revealed to us in His Word. To take this knowledge of God, this theology, and allow it to transform not only our beliefs, but also our actions. And, ultimately for these actions to be our witness to the world and our worship to God. This has been our vision, and this remains our vision to this day.

However, there also has been a shift in how this vision is carried out. While in recent years Bible studies have been held throughout the week in small group settings, this year these meetings have been moved to our Friday night large groups. Knowing that Friday night is the main gathering of CBS, we have decided to focus on Bible study during that time because studying God's word is so integral to our identity as a fellowship. For if we are not here to grow in our knowledge and love for God, then what are we really here for? It is no mistake that Jesus commands us to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33), speaking about all our worries and needs. Certainly, we gather to enjoy friendship with one another and to encourage and build each other up. We spend time studying together, working together, even living together. But all these things must be built on the rock that is God. And thus, we come back to Bible study, one of the key ways we receive God's very own words, and place it at the center of our time together.

This is not to say these plans are perfect or fully thought out. There certainly have been drawbacks to holding our Bible studies on Friday nights. Not everyone can always make Fridays. There are now inherently fewer weeks of Bible study each semester once we account for weeks where we have a speaker. Perhaps we'll look back and realize there's a better way to structure our time to fulfill our vision. But we have faith not in our own abilities or our own decisions, but rather in God's faithfulness and perfect wisdom. With much prayer, and much continued prayer, we have made decisions and continue to make them, knowing that all these plans are ultimately in God's steadfast hands. Thus, we pray, and ask you also to pray, that we would continue to be humble servants of our God who has and is and will be upholding CBS.

With much prayer and love,  
Ray Zeng '19

## Dearest CBS,

This semester, our study of Ephesians has highlighted the spiritual blessings we have from God through Christ, how our belief in the gospel and salvation by God's grace through faith drives our walk with God. What a blessing it has been to be seeing and taking to heart the truths God speaks to us to be united as the Church in Christ's love for us, to be encouraged to be Christlike in our speech and actions. What a blessing it has been to be listening, teaching, and learning as we study God's word and encourage and exhort one another to persevere in walking in light and love, pursuing God's righteousness and holiness. Through studying Ephesians, we are reminded of the truth and blessings of the gospel and God's calling for us as believers, which has led to many thought-provoking and rich sharings and discussions even outside of our Bible studies.

Although I did not initially plan to be leading a Bible study this semester, my motivation to lead a Bible study and serve God in this ministry stems from a continued desire to seek to know and understand God, His will, and His wisdom. Facilitating a group study of God's word and discussion has been a great encouragement to me, a space where God is revealing to us who He is, and how we are all experiencing and desiring to know God. Serving in Bible study ministry this semester is a continued reminder to me of how we glorify God in all that we do not because of our own knowledge and capacity but because of God's immeasurable grace and love for us. As I reflect on this semester of Bible study, I am encouraged by the thoughts and takeaways that have come from this rich and blessed time and encourage you to be immersed in His word, grounded in His love, and I pray that we may all be desiring to know and love God all the more with every day as we study His word.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

In Christ,  
Stephanie Deng '21



# bible study members

Dear CBS,

I didn't really know what to expect when I first came to Cornell. It was like being a freshman all over again, except not really. I had a lot of fears and insecurities, but God led me to you guys. During the first few large group meetings, I realized that yeah, almost all of you were strangers, but somehow, it still felt like coming home.

Bible study in particular has been very enjoyable. Especially the ice breakers. Tell me, dear reader, does the toilet paper go over or under? Chalkboard or blackboard? If you were to lose a body part, which one would you decide to lose?

Though I try to read the Bible during the week, it's never quite the same because I'm always thinking about other stuff that I could be doing. So, you can probably imagine how unfocused I am. But during bible study, led by Stephanie and Jackie, we have time set aside to solely focus on the Word. It's always so amazing to hear what everyone has to share and be reminded over and over again that God can be experienced in so many different ways, that other believers are not just brothers and sisters in Christ, but also living testimonies of the works of God.

Over the past semester, we've covered Ephesians 1-5. We discussed Apostle Paul's words to the Church of Ephesus and shared about applying his messages to our own lives. (Slight tangent: it's really amazing how timeless the Bible is. We live in a world two thousand years later, yet those words are still so applicable.) Paul really emphasizes the differences between how believers should live versus non-believers, reminding his readers that our faith shouldn't just be something inside our minds, but something that people can see through our actions. We also touched upon the juxtapositions present in Paul's messages. For example, he simultaneously spells out the gravity of our sin and its cost while illuminating just how perfect God is to love us enough to give us His Son as our ransom and our life.

Once again, thank you, Jackie and Stephanie, for leading us in our discussion, prompting us with thoughtful questions, and always having a spare pen to lend out. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with our leaders and all our brothers and sisters who's willing to learn more about You together. Let's keep walking together in Christ!

In Christ,  
Alyssa Gao '22

Dear CBS,

As you all know, this semester saw a big change in our Bible Studies, now held as a part of large group every week. Bible study after an evening of worship, sharing and prayer? What better time to learn and reflect on God's Word? That's what I would think as our group huddled around the table of our admittedly chilly room in Goldwin Smith. As we read and discussed our passage of the week, the bonds unifying us as a body of Christ felt stronger than ever.

This semester we are focused on the book of Ephesians, written by the apostle Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome. Throughout this letter, Paul talks about how we should conduct ourselves in order to mature in our faith. Thus, our study of Ephesians has been one of inspiration and application – full of reminders of God's immense love and His intentions for us. Over the weeks, we learnt that God predestined us for redemption and adoption as His children through Christ. We also learnt of the new life God has blessed us with, and how we should live it with honesty, compassion, righteousness and holiness.

I couldn't have asked for a better group with which to unpack and absorb these important lessons. With an even mix of experienced upperclassmen and lively underclassmen, we were sure to hear from a variety of perspectives and ideas about how we can apply Paul's words to our lives. Sometimes, before these deep discussions we would also play some... interesting... icebreakers, like sharing whether we preferred sweet potatoes or regular potatoes (no idea how Felicia thought of this one LOL). Overall a lot of fun and insight was had during these sessions.

Thank you, leaders Stephanie and Jackie, for all your diligence and thoughtfulness in guiding our exploration of what it means to be Christian. Thank you to the co-leaders who stepped up to try leading our bible studies, and thank you to everyone who came to learn about the Word. Finally, thank you Lord for your endless love and steadfast presence in our spiritual walks. As the days get colder, may our understanding of God's greatness and our love for each other be a source of warmth and comfort :)

Love and blessings,  
Grace Jia '22



# prayer group

Dear CBS,

The prayer meetings we held this semester were a time of growing our faith in quiet communication with God. While CBS has held prayer meetings both fellowship-wide and within each class, this year was the first year that prayer meetings took the form of small groups that met in different places and on different days during the week.

There are many reasons why we chose to serve the fellowship by leading these weekly prayer meetings. Looking at years past, we saw the importance of small-group settings through Bible studies and fellowship-wide prayer meetings. They represent a time for people in the fellowship to get together and grow closer to each other as well as closer to God. Meeting in small groups provides us with a space for support, sharing, and accountability. Moreover, we saw the necessity and power of prayer and the importance of God's will in our lives: "And this is the confidence we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us" (1 John 5:14).

Each prayer meeting and group brought something new each week. Apart from sharing about our weeks, prelim schedules, sleeping schedules, and trials we were undergoing, we read and analyzed pieces of Scripture that reveal the importance of prayer. We sang God's praises and listened to His word through podcasts and sermons. Another important aspect of prayer meetings was branching out, because we are called to pray continually, regardless of place or time. The West Campus group took the time to pray over situations happening in other countries to stay aware of issues happening outside of Ithaca and lift these situations to God. When God blessed Cornell with beautiful weather, the Collegetown group went on prayer walks to pray for both the campus community and the Ithaca community. Furthermore, each week, we prepared a slide of prayers and opened up a time of prayer during Large Groups, so that during the time of prayer everyone could pray for each other, for other communities, for current events, and for blessings that God provides.

The prayer time this semester was undoubtedly filled with blessings that encouraged personal and spiritual growth; yet, it would be unfair and untrue to think that prayer groups existed without day-to-day challenges. In fact, we often prayed about the challenges we saw in our prayer groups — in attendance, in action, in encouraging one another throughout the week —

during the prayer time.

Continuing the spirit of small groups and prayer during the week was hard. Our vision at the beginning of the semester wasn't for prayer group to happen as a static once-a-week event. Rather, we wanted prayer groups to encourage the personal prayer lives of attendees and the fellowship at-large, as well as to act as a springboard for accountability and follow-up conversations. Many of us did not (and do not) have the habit of praying with each other in mind during the week. Prayer journals and the group messages helped with consistently praying for one another, but we required even more strength from God. Continuing and growing this spirit of accountability and interpersonal prayer is something we must continue to work on within CBS.

Another challenge we keenly felt was ensuring that prayer groups reached a broader swathe of CBS. Small groups should be an inviting time, for we are all members of one body with a shared inheritance in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:6). Keeping this "inviting spirit" was difficult, both in terms of logistics and the pure act of reaching out to others we didn't know as well. It's too easy for prayer group leaders to be insular about who we invite. This pattern of thought was not glorifying to God and limited who was involved in prayer groups this semester.

We want to increase the accessibility of prayer groups. We will continue to be prayerful about this, but here are two ways we can increase small group involvement. First, logistics could be better communicated in terms of the timing and location of different prayer groups. Second, we should remind ourselves and prayer group participants of the "inviting spirit." Let's reach out to a broader array of folks within CBS, knowing that individual and group prayer are critical elements of our Christian lives.

Despite these challenges, a remark that we heard was that prayer time was "rich." For us as leaders, the richness of prayer time developed from Biblical guidelines and vignettes of prayer. For example, Jesus prays in John 17 for the disciples and all believers just before He is crucified. When we internalize these principles of how we should pray and what we should pray about, our prayers will be filled with spiritual riches. We hear the Lord speaking through our prayers. We discover not only the love of the fellowship but also the love of Jesus for us. We are reminded of the importance of having a lifestyle of prayer.

As Paul wrote to the church, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12). Because God is steadfast in His love for us, He desires us to be steadfast in praying to Him for our spiritual walks, for one another, and for issues outside of group prayer time. This might mean praying when thoughts of these things or people pass through our minds, as we wake or go to sleep, or during time intentionally set apart during the day for prayer. In doing so, we turn our hearts back to God, acknowledging that He is our only refuge and strength, as well as the Father of every good gift (James 1:17).

By casting our anxieties and presenting our requests to God, we also allow our hearts to be filled with the peace of God (Philippians 4:6-7). It’s hard to believe that such a holy God would long to hear our every prayer — no matter how insignificant or desperate or redundant — and comfort us beyond understanding. Yet this is His power and His love for us. It is this love that we give to our fellow brothers and sisters when we continue to pray for them and follow up with them after hearing their joys and struggles. Even if we are not naturally inclined to remember, look after, and keep each other accountable, we have the capacity because we are completely cared for by our heavenly Father: “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

Once again, we are encouraged by how God guided all of us in leading prayer groups this semester. He used these prayer groups to bring the fellowship together and strengthen our understanding of the power of prayer and our faith in Him. Looking back, we realize that each of us felt called to lead in different ways and that each group turned out to have different dynamics, but through it all, we saw God’s steadfast love and His sovereign power work in us and point us in the same direction — to love Him and to love each other.

No matter what prayer groups in CBS will look like in the future, we pray that small groups like these will continue to be a blessing to the fellowship and a place where we can get to know our fellow brothers and sisters better, be vulnerable to each other, keep each other accountable, and love each other in the Lord. We also earnestly pray that prayer will continue to be an integral ministry in the fellowship and a powerful way to care for one another, communicate with God, and discern His will, knowing that He will hear and answer us in ways beyond our expectations (John 15:7).

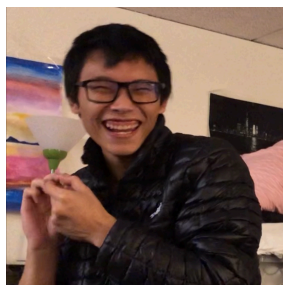
“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Let us not cease to do what Paul says in Ephesians 6:18 and remember that in doing so, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

**Grace and peace in Christ,  
Kevin Hu ‘21  
Darren Chang ‘21  
Hannah Si ‘21  
Lucy Lu ‘21**

# fall 2019 newcomers



alex li



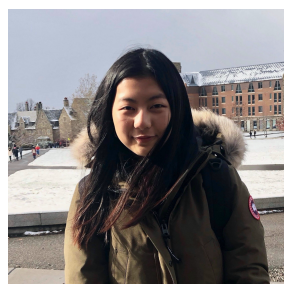
alvin chang



alyssa gao



daniel woo



dawn zee



emily gao



emily liu



felix hohne



larina fu



mandy chan



marc liu



meili bowden



micah chen



nathaniel chin



nina tang



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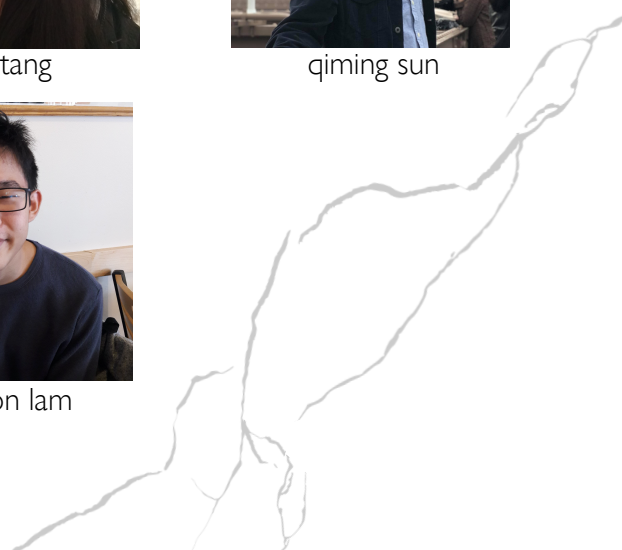
tony yang



valerie chen



winston lam



# alex li

- hometown: Highland Park, NJ
- major: HBHS

'23

After finally finding a table in Libe Café, I sat down and eagerly waited to meet and talk with Alex. As usual, I was taking my time, getting my laptop out and opening Google Drive. Not even two minutes later, Alex arrives, and I am completely unprepared (again, not uncommon for me). As I hurriedly start preparing my interview document, we introduce ourselves and have some fun chatting about random topics.

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: \*laughs\* My first word was sad because I was thinking about high school senior class. I guess nostalgia. Actually, for senior class, can I change to welcoming?
- Junior Class: Oh, umm. I'm not sure who's in the junior or senior classes. I'm bad at this. Exciting.
- Sophomore Class: \*shakes head\* Warm? Like open arms.
- Freshmen Class: Friends
- Ithaca: Bubble tea
- Winter: Cold
- Bubble Tea: UTea

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

I guess my first impression of Cornell is that it's so big, so overwhelming, so much going on all at once. CBS... Super close knit. Because we went to someone's apartment after large group. We played a card game. It was so nice - I felt included even though I was a new member. Very warm and fuzzy good memories. Opposite from O-week which was a lot of chaos. Also, I liked the bubble tea. \*laughs\* Typical asian.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Mmmm. How quickly it started to feel small. After a couple weeks, I started seeing people I met. I thought I would lose people in the crowd, but as it went on, I started to see more people I know.

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

I really like photojournalism.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Okay. I'd bring... I love ice cream. Mm. I've been asked this question

so many times, but I never have the right answer. Can I bring a helicopter? Is this one of those? [Uh, maybe?] A good book, sunscreen and ice cream. \*proceeds to have a long, off-topic conversation about how good Dairy Bar ice cream is\*

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

I would rather be in— Oh god, these are such weird questions. Too indecisive for this yo. I'd say zombie apocalypse. And my weapon of choice would be a tank.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

OH. I actually have two favorite quotes, and I remember them because they were the two contenders for my senior quote.

"There are no happy endings. Endings are the saddest part, So just give me a happy middle. And a very happy start."

- Shel Silverstein

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Umm. I guess what I hope to accomplish is... Serious or funny? Or whatever angle? [Either or both] I guess personally, I'm able to find a happy medium between what I want to do and... I guess the reason why I came to Cornell is because I want to find a balance between medicine and public health.

Funny: get every drink at UTea. Because in my area of New Jersey, we don't have UTea, but we have a KFT.

I had a really great time talking with Alex, and before we both knew it, we had talked for almost an hour and a half. We had lots of really important conversations like what ice cream shop was the best and the differences between Cornell Dairy Bar and Purity Ice Cream. I can't wait to get to know Alex more, hopefully make ice cream runs together and see how God will work through her during these next few years!

-- Joy Thean '21

家 away

from 家



What Cornell is starting to become for me



# alvin chang

- **hometown:** Corvallis, OR
- **major:** PhD in Materials Science

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*As a fellow graduate student, Alvin seems to have quite a lot of free time these days. We got some good, old-fashioned, delicious and nutritious Panda Tea Lounge bubble tea, and then guessed who we would find in Eddygate 1G. After placing our bets, we rolled through the 1G door and found many juniors sitting at the table post-prayer meeting. We set our things down and I remembered that I was assigned to interview Alvin! So, I started asking questions.*

---

## Word Associations

- **Senior Class:** Wait who's in the senior class... It's Raymond, Ray, [these are word associations] Raymond.
- **Junior Class:** Who's a junior... Darren.
- **Sophomore Class:** Who's a sophomore. Is Kim a sophomore? Is Kevin a sophomore? Ok it's a mystery. Wait a second I know the sophomores! Jasper. Alex. Attilus.
- **Freshmen Class:** \*hesitates\* Tony
- **Ithaca:** Cornell
- **Winter:** Cold
- **Bubble Tea:** \*looks down at Panda Tea Lounge drink\* Panda

---

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

I would say scenic. I came during a good time, visited really nice places. First impression of CBS? Asian.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

One thing that surprised me about Cornell is that people are so hardworking. I thought there would be a good distribution of work.

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

Nothing. [Really] Let's say travelling. Ok, so I would start with Asia. And then afterwards, I would probably travel to Europe. Then after that, I kind of want to go to Australia, I've never been there. And then after that I'd probably do South America. Then after that, probably Africa. Then after that probably... I don't want to go to Antarctica, let's go to Canada. Then after that I'd want to go to Hawaii. Wait no before Hawaii, I'd go to Alaska because I'd already be in Canada. Oh, by that time you know we might have space voyages. It'd be cool to visit the moon or something.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Wow what do I start with? It depends on what I want to do on the island. What's the location? [Up to interpretation] I kind of want a blade of some sort, maybe like a knife or a hatchet. And I'd probably want some rope too. And then maybe a huge piece of cloth or fabric or something.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Oh, I mean definitely zombie apocalypse because there's no way that could actually spread worldwide. Like that could be contained pretty easily right? I'm just going under that assumption. And I don't need a weapon, I'll just hide.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

I don't have one.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years?

In the next five years? Get my PhD. [Is that it?] Yeah. I guess I want to know what to do with my life.

---

*It's been very fun spending time with Alvin and witnessing all of the shenanigans he instigates throughout the Eddygate apartments. Whether it be to play a new game, try something spontaneous, or bring up a random conversation topic, Alvin seems ready to try it all. He is also unafraid to ask to eat your food, so watch out. Hoping for a great experience throughout the many more years he has at Cornell with this CBS fam!*

-- Melanie Lim '19



Um what does the "C" look like?  
Here, let me sign it.



# alyssa gao

- hometown: Summit, NJ
- major: CS

'22

*The memories of West Campus really hit me hard as I walked down Libe Slope to meet Alyssa at Cook House for dinner. I didn't have to wait long once I got to Cook to meet up with Alyssa and enter the dining hall. After gathering our couple plates of food, we dug into our dinner and chatted about classes, CS and other topics. Because I was on a bit of a time crunch, I started the interview while we were still wrapping up our dinner.*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Emily
- Junior Class: Darren
- Sophomore Class: Victor
- Freshmen Class: Dawn
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Snow
- Bubble Tea: \*squints a bit\* Passion fruit

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

Cornell: Very nature-y. There's like a lot of green. Also, at night, it's very dark.

CBS: I felt like even though I didn't know anyone there, I still felt like it was home. Everyone's very nice.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

\*does a thinking pose\* I think I would say the structure of residential areas. Because at UCLA, everything's in one congregated spot: food and living areas. But at Cornell, there's north, and there's west, and to me it felt disorganized. \*laughs\*

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

Hmm. I feel like I would want to be a missionary. In 7th grade, \*laughs\* in Sunday school we did this thing where we like... almost like a personality test but a lot more detailed. So, after I took it, I was talking with a teacher, and he said "oh, based off of this, you could become a missionary doctor." It stuck with me. Even though I'm nowhere close to being a doctor. \*laughs\* I guess the idea of going out and being on a mission has been on my mind a lot. I feel like it's important to focus on my own spiritual life with God as well as outreach.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

What kind of deserted island? Like tropical, like coconuts and stuff? [maybe, a barren island?] I think I'd probably bring a very sharp, big knife. \*laughs\* A tent \*laughs\* for shelter. And – uh barren island –

one of those things where you like push it and there's like fire. Not like a lighter but like a blow torch. [What are you gonna do with this blowtorch?] You can make a bonfire with wood, so people can see I'm there. Also, it'd be nice if I find anything to cook, I can just blow torch it. It's a lot more robust than a lighter.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Wait, actually, I used to be obsessed with zombie apocalypse. There was one time I was in Costco, and I thought, "Costco would be a great place to be in, in a zombie apocalypse." Hmm. I feel like I'm thinking too much about it. Like what kinds of abilities do these zombies have? I feel like maybe a zombie apocalypse. Because in an alien invasion, there are so many unknown variables. For a weapon, I feel like I'd want either a sword or a spear sort of thing.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

"It Is No longer I Who Live, But Christ Who Lives in Me"  
- Galatians 2:20

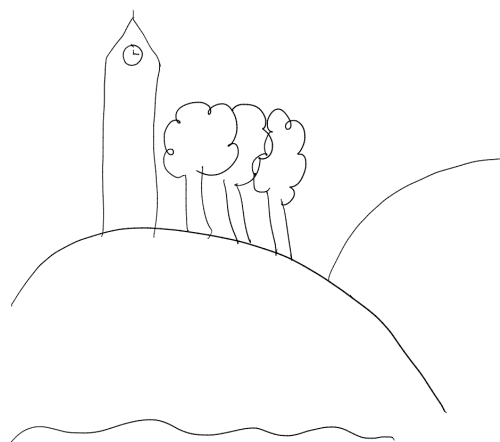
### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Hmm... Become more involved in CBS. And then hopefully, know what... I guess like know what I want to do or know what God is calling me to do. \*nods\* Like especially, with yesterday's sermon, it's so easy to say "my career is the most important thing to me," but yesterday – life and Christ is more important than a career, and I am really blessed to be able to develop my relationship with God in college, but I want that to continue throughout my entire life.

*I had a fun time meeting up and talking with Alyssa. I can't wait to see all the amazing things she'll do at Cornell and how she'll grow in the Lord. She has such a bright personality, and I'm so excited to get to know her better over the next few years.*

-- Joy Thean '21

A place where you  
can see the sun set.



# daniel woo

- hometown: Basking Ridge, NJ
- major: Civil Engineering

'23

Daniel and I had a nice lunch at Café Jennie and really bonded over knowing people from Basking Ridge. Long story short: my roommate of three years is best friends with his older sister! I learned a lot of really cool things about Daniel even before we started the interview. Like how he wants a Civil Engineering background but wants to go to graduate school for Architecture!

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: \*laughs\* That's gonna get such a bad response. Kind, funny, smile.
- Junior Class: They seem more like the senior class. Oh boy.
- Sophomore Class: Rambunctious
- Freshmen Class: Chill
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Cold \*laughs\*
- Bubble Tea: Expensive

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

CBS: I really liked the format—the regular Friday format—and especially the bible studies. I find them to be the most fruitful and rewarding. I also like the discussions that come out of the bible studies.

Cornell: It's hard, but literally 99% of it, you have the skills to do it. We just need the motivation. Everyone who goes to Cornell can handle the work, it's just the motivation part. I've been unmotivated since the first day which has been pretty hard, but it's ok :)

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Um. \*laughs\* Oh gosh. \*sits in silence\* I can't think of anything. Wait, hold on for a second... How many Christians there are. In my church, I was the only one of my class. There were churches in the area that were huge and had large youth groups, so I went there. But I didn't grow up with strong Christian friends. I had one or two in school, but I'm not used to it. I was a bit overwhelmed that there were this many people in CRU, CBS, etc. Church hopping was also interesting.

### 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or-

Oh, carpenter. Duh. That plus debt equals cannot support family or self. I love it so much... if money wasn't a problem. I would be inventing new projects all day. That would be the life. Hopefully, if I make enough bank, I can do that later in life. But gotta do it when you're young, because ideas! Hopefully. When I found out there were no woodworking classes at Cornell, I literally died. I should've

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Like besides the bible? Food, boat, fishing rod. So that I can escape. If I'm not allowed to escape, I'll just bring the bible, pen and paper. OH, not just a bible. One of those study bibles \*laughs\* that's much better.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Uh. Wait can you say that again? [repeats question] \*thinks really hard and stares into the distance\* Hmm... \*shakes head\* They both sound terrible. I don't understand the point of this question either. \*laughs\* Let's just say alien invasion. I don't know, they don't really mean much. [Weapon of choice?] The gospel. Try that one on for size. \*laughs\* If it were a zombie apocalypse, it would be too late, they'd be dead. Wait, but they're not human, they weren't created in God's image. Then I guess my weapon of choice would be a gun. I don't really understand the point of this question. \*laughs\* Let's move on.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

OH wait! I have a list! Hold on. Where's my phone. Oooooooh. See, that's a meaningful question. But that's just me. Ooh, there are a lot. Can I choose more than one? [Yeah, of course] Ok, I'll choose two.

"Even if it's a little silly and everybody laughs it's alright."

- Bob Ross

"We have forgotten that the path is narrow."

- Paul Washer

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Closer relationship with God where I don't really care about the things of this world. Yeah. Like it doesn't faze me.

*I could practically feel Daniel's judgement on my choice of interview questions (haha!). But I hope that looking back at this, he'll laugh and see why it's so important to ask these nonsensical questions. (Obviously, for my own entertainment!) It was super fun interviewing and chatting with Daniel. He has some amazing goals, and I can tell he's gonna kill it here! I'm really excited to see how God will work through and grow him over the next few years. Side note: if y'all see a woodworking class or club pop up at Cornell, we'll know it was all Daniel's influence! :)*

-- Joy Thean '21



OOH drawing session! Bonus Round!!

# dawn zee

- hometown: Hong Kong
- major: Human Development

'23

*It was a brisk morning as Dawn and I walked to have lunch. Everything was blanketed in a beautiful white, the day after the first snowfall of the winter season. As she smiled while admiring the picturesque scenery, I reminded her to cherish this beauty since it is merely the calm before the storm ;-)* Gusts of snow and frosty air flurried into us as I tightened my scarf and as she zipped up her brand new Canada Goose® jacket, both of us trying to stay bundled up and warm. Finally, we made it into the warm foyer of Appel. Welcome back, winter.

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Memorable
- Junior Class: Exciting
- Sophomore Class: Old friends
- Freshmen Class: New experiences
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Nice
- Bubble Tea: UTea

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

I think it's beautiful. CBS is warm. Cornell is really new, it's so different from home! And. It's not really what I imagined, but it turned out good. \*Thumbs up\* 👍

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

That there are so many fellowships. Good food. I don't know. 😂

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

I'd be opening a daycare. Go on a short mission trip and travel the world.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I'd bring my dad, food, and water. Wait, does the island have water? Yeah, that's it. My dad does everything. HAHA 😂

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

\*Almost immediately replies\* Alien invasion. A gun. Why not? \*shrugs and looks at me as if to say that's the obvious answer\*

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

"Let go and let God."

Because it's better to let God take charge instead of doing everything yourself. 😊

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Fulfill all my credits. And join a baby lab. Also, travel around the US.

*Although Dawn felt drained having just finished a busy week with four prelims, she took to her room to prepare for her classes later in the day. She is disciplined, after all. We know each other well, yet it was refreshing to listen to some of her answers to these icebreakers. I get the feeling that she would have given lengthier answers had she been asked these questions by someone she doesn't know as well, though :) I'm happy that she's had a fulfilling first semester here, and I'm sure she will continue taking advantage of all Cornell has to offer and certainly grow in her relationship with God in the coming years.*

-- Victor Leung '21



Where I pass through everyday

# emily gao

- hometown: Summit, NJ
- major: CS

'20

*This night saw the first falling of snow in Ithaca's fall 2019 semester. As I crossed the street from Eddygate to So Poong in snow boots, I found Emily sitting at a table in a winter coat. Winter is seriously here. After we ordered our food and waited for our buzzers to beep, Emily asked me if she was going to be interviewed because she had heard that I was her interviewer. I was shook but played it cool and eventually whipped out the questions as we ate our noodles.*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Old
- Junior Class: Less old
- Sophomore Class: My sister!!
- Freshmen Class: Babies
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Cold. Wait Mandy told me about this, I think she also said cold. I'll say Snow.
- Bubble Tea: Yummy

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

\*Gasps\* Oh my gosh wow. I don't know I don't remember anymore. My first impression of Cornell? I can't remember... Of CBS? I think friendly. You guys all seem so friendly and open, which I really like.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I'm trying to conjure up freshman year Emily right now. At least for the people I've run into, I'm surprised at how collaborative everyone is. I feel like I always hear about how cutthroat and competitive Cornell can be, but I came here and at least the people I've met are very nice and they'll help you out.

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

This is a hard one. I think I would still be doing some kind of CS-related thing. Haha I'm such a nerd! Oh, I know, what I think would be really cute would be to teach kids. I love kids. I might teach kids programming, maybe! I can also see that being really annoying, but it's hard to come across good computer science teachers in general, so I think I would like to teach programming to kids.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I'm trying to think both practically and entertainment-wise. I guess an axe because I could go hunting and cut down trees? An axe is pretty multipurpose. And then oh my gosh a cell phone so I could

call someone to get me. A cell phone with signal. I'm bringing signal with me. I guess that's conditional on whether or not there's signal on this deserted island. I feel like I should say a Bible. I want to say I'd bring a Bible because I would need a lot of hope. I would need to read like Job or Jonah - he was swallowed by a whale, so if he could get out of that... \*says more quietly\* Oh lowkey, I would bring a BTS member. No, I'm kidding I wouldn't do that. Hehe a BTS member.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Alien invasion. A machine gun. Hmm, wait it depends though - do they come in peace? Never mind, you never know. I still want the machine gun. If I'm carrying a machine gun, maybe the aliens would be more inclined to come in peace.

*[Emily actually paused mid-sentence and exclaimed that they (So Poong) were playing a BTS song that she loved. She then proceeded to apologize for her raving but forgot her original thought. We moved on.]*

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

I think my favorite saying/quote is "Everyone lives at their own pace." It's something my mom said to me when I was having a hard time sophomore year.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Well, what do I hope to accomplish by graduation in like a MONTH? I hope to accomplish graduation. Being able to graduate. I think that'll be mine.

*Getting dinner with Emily was so great, we talked about everything from what upcoming work life would be like to our bonds with our younger sisters to Alice's Danganronpa 2 excitement. There is so much more to learn about Emily, but I just learned that she's graduating early this December!! Praying for her continued growth and love for God and wishing all the best for her final semester at Cornell!! We love a fellow Jersey sister.*

-- Melanie Lim '19



Because my time here  
has been both a comedy  
and a tragedy

# emily liu

- hometown: Marlboro, NJ
- major: Biological Sciences

'23

*After taking a disastrous "coffee nap" (0/10 would not recommend) the day of our interview, I walked into Cafe Jennie my body exhausted but my heart rate somehow through the roof. Funny enough, she had a bit of trouble finding me at first, which given the last time we saw each other made sense. Nevertheless, I was confident that this interview would improve my mood and have a chance to catch up with Emily.*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Raymond
- Junior Class: Tests
- Sophomore Class: Old
- Freshmen Class: Wild
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Christmas
- Bubble Tea: Asian

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

First impressions of Cornell were a lot better than I expected, I went to POST, the pre-orientation thing and I got to know a few friends. Classes are more manageable, and it's been easier to make friends. I thought CBS was really welcoming and everyone was really tight knit.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It snows before Thanksgiving

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

An actress, I'm not that great at acting but I feel like it'd be cool to embody someone you aren't.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

- Headphones
- Blanket
- Phone

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Zombie apocalypse.

My weapon of choice would be something that could fly, that has unlimited food supply.

(This doesn't sound very much like a weapon haha)

But if it has to be a weapon would be anything with a gun

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

"Sometimes, the smallest things take up the most room in your heart"

- Winnie the Pooh

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope to learn how to study in an efficient way.

*I started feeling a bit better after our interview, so if y'all are feeling exhausted after a long day, I'm sure talking to Emily will have a positive effect. I was really impressed with Emily's personal outlook on her future as well as her interesting answers in the rest of the interview :D. You should all grab a meal with Emily when you get a chance, as well as never drink coffee and take a nap immediately afterwards.*

-- Alex Xu '22



Cornell reminds me of snow which reminds me of Christmas and prelims.

# felix hohne

- hometown: Vancouver, Canada
- major: CS and History

'23

I arrive at Cafe Jennie after my first class of the day to get some work done. As I sit at a nice large table, I think to myself, "wow, what a nice, peaceful day." Not for long. Quickly after, I became a target to everyone desperately looking to share a table with someone, anyone. "Can I sit here?" "Can I just use this seat?" "Is it okay if we share this table?" "No," I answered bravely, "I'm waiting for someone." And I was: Felix. When he arrived at last, we enjoyed sandwiches and conversation, both equally good in quality, before starting the interview.

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Very knowledgeable
- Junior Class: Open
- Sophomore Class: Where are they?
- Freshmen Class: We're all in this together
- Ithaca: Really gorgeous
- Winter: Uh-oh
- Bubble Tea: I wish I could have more of it

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

Cornell: Beautiful and well-funded

CBS: Everyone is really open

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Even when stressed everyone is really open and not very competitive, especially CS.

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

Probably become a historian.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Probably a swiss knife, just cause... That's the thing with a whole bunch of things attached to it right? [yes, swiss army knife] Yes. You never know what you might need so having it with you definitely might be useful. A spear to get food and a watch so I know how long I've been stranded.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

I would say zombie apocalypse because an alien invasion would by definition mean the alien race would be significantly more technologically advanced than us so we would probably die really fast, but zombie apocalypse is probably a disease or mutation or something our cells did so we have a better chance of surviving.

[Weapon of choice?]

Well-secured bunker

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

Psalm 27:1

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

One thing would be to no longer shiver at the words "expected to be familiar with proofs".

After my last question, I took about 10 pictures of him and told him to pick one. Not only did he do that, but he cropped it as well, explaining that photography is one of his hobbies. Amazing! So please take note of the tasteful cropping of his photo. This was actually the first time I've met Felix, and I'm thankful to have had the chance to learn a lot about him! I'm excited to see how God continues to work in his life throughout his time here.

-- Emily Jacobsson '22

The Emotional State of Cornell Freshmen

July: Pre-Enroll I CAN DO THIS! I GOT INTO CORNELL AFTER ALL!

September: Prop Deadline ALL MY CLASSES ARE REALLY EASY!

October: Prelim I I WILL DO BETTER NEXT TIME!

November: Prelim II LIFE IS NOT GOING AS PLANNED!

December: Final TBD

I can't draw so I'm trying to make a meme, but I've never done this before.

# Larina fu

- **hometown:** Cherry Hill, NJ
- **major:** Information Science

'23

Larina got lost in Macs while trying to find me at Terrace. That was the first clue. Upon finally locating each other, we discovered that we were both Infosci majors. The second clue. Then we both ordered honey mustard with our salads. The third clue. When she told me that she liked writing short stories but not novels because she didn't have enough patience for something that long, I knew I had found The One. This interview would go well.

## Word Associations

- **Senior Class:** Old
- **Junior Class:** Slightly less old?
- **Sophomore Class:** Where I'm going to be next year
- **Freshmen Class:** Me, my year
- **Ithaca:** Middle of nowhere
- **Winter:** Cold
- **Bubble Tea:** The ones in New Jersey are better

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

CBS is really nice. I really like the community — everyone there is just super passionate. As for Cornell, I would say that I didn't expect there to be so much walking. I also did not expect it to rain every single week. Coming in, I didn't think that carrying an umbrella every week would be the status quo.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Okay, well, the rain thing. I also didn't expect it to get so dark so early. I walked out yesterday at 5:30pm and it was nighttime, so I was like, what is going on? I guess fall back time also made it earlier too.

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

Writing! [YES] I love writing. It's too bad that the job market isn't very great. [What do you like to write?] Trashy YA fiction. Although, I also want to delve into dystopia and slice-of-life books. I wish I could write fantasy, but I think the amount of work that goes into building the plot is insane and I don't have the time or the creativity for that, so I just stick to what I know.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

I would bring a phone, although that would probably run out a battery within a couple days. Should I bring a charger? I feel like that's a waste of something to bring. Wait, actually no. I'd bring a boat so

I could get off the island, and then a paddle so I can paddle myself away.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

I would say a zombie apocalypse just because you don't know what aliens look like. Like we sort of already know what zombies are, but you don't know what's out there for aliens. As for weapons of choice... I don't know. I don't really condone weapons. I'd probably just hide. [Where would you hide?] Where a zombie would not find me. Probably dig myself a hole and hide myself there. And then put a bush — wait, you can't move a bush. Maybe get one of those grass things and roll it over the top. But then maybe someone could walk over me.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

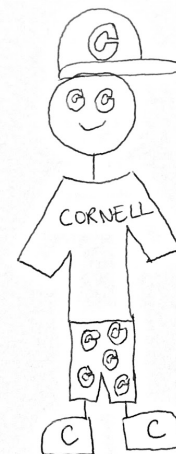
Proverbs 31:25. [I get really excited and we both start reciting it to each other] "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Find a job. Not fail at that job. My plans are very minimal at the moment. I'd want to learn something new, but the problem is I want to try everything, but then you never get really good anything. So, I want to find something and stick to it, so by the time I graduate I'm a master at something.

Needless to say, Larina and I had a fabulous time chatting over our honey mustard salads. Larina is a fearless, friendly hater-of-tomatoes (same, gorf!) with a quick mind full of thoughts and questions. I look forward to getting to know her better and seeing how God will shape her over the next two and a half years.

-- Emily Kam '22



"I go to Cornell"

# mandy chan

◦ hometown: Stewartsville, NJ

◦ major: Biological Sciences

'20

*Mandy and I decided on a breakfast at Starbucks on a chilly Saturday morning. To my surprise (probably because I had never visited Starbucks on a Saturday morning), Starbucks was fairly busy at that time. After finally getting seats where the bright morning sunshine would not blind our eyes, we got coffee, talked about our busy/chaotic weeks, and jumped right into the interview.*

## Word Associations

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| ◦ Senior Class:    | Graduation   |
| ◦ Junior Class:    | Busiest year |
| ◦ Sophomore Class: | West campus  |
| ◦ Freshmen Class:  | Free bus     |
| ◦ Ithaca:          | Cold         |
| ◦ Winter:          | ColdER       |
| ◦ Bubble Tea:      | Diabetes     |

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

This wasn't a school I really wanted to go to, because I wanted to go to a small school. And I came here and thought to myself this is great on the first day. However, after the first day and after I took the swim test, I just physically couldn't. I couldn't walk or even get out of my bed. It was so tiring to go around here. So, I thought this was not what I wanted and was pretty worried in the beginning. I was able to meet a group of people and become friends with them, but at a certain point we broke into small groups and I was not close to many people anymore.

I joined CBS because I already knew people from alt breaks. I try to be part of a Christian community on campus every year, but a big issue was accountability. I would only go if someone went with me. But at CBS, I felt comfortable. It is such a close-knit community. Everyone knows each other and is so welcoming, and that made me want to keep going and learn more. Originally, I was not comfortable about speaking up and asking questions and was afraid of saying something wrong, but in CBS I was comfortable to ask questions and speak up more.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Everything here is expensive. No free gym, free printing, free bus or free laundry. You have to pay for everything.

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

I think I would still want to be in healthcare, so I would either

become a doctor free of debt from med school or do some food-related stuff like cooking and baking.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

A lighter. Practically, to start fire. Wait how long am I stranded on this island for? Oh, forever? Maybe a lighter will not be sufficient. A useful friend with knowledge of the wilderness, and something I can build a boat with to get out - maybe a thing to cut down trees like an axe.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Zombies don't die and aliens - I don't know how to kill them because I don't watch sci-fi movies. Maybe a flame torch thingy to burn them? [She didn't say but my guess is alien invasion]

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

It is from a song I really like. "Glass half empty, glass half full. Well either way you won't be going thirsty. Count your blessings not your flaws."

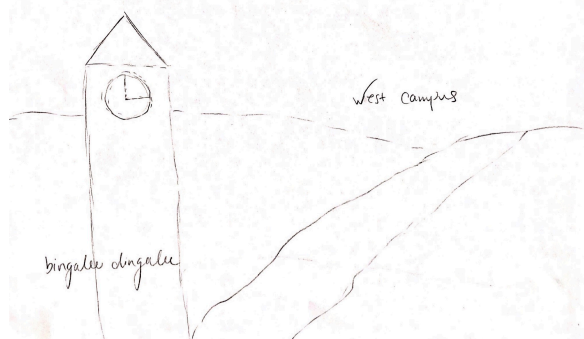
- King by Lauren Aquilina

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to be able to finish everything I need to do for school and leave the rest of the time like a few months or so to be able to catch up with people that I only see once a semester, because during school we are so stressed and are never able to sit down and talk. Time before graduation would be a good time to get together.

*Mandy said the interview was nothing like what she expected for an interview (I know she was hinting at questions 4 & 5), but we enjoyed the coffee and the conversation that helped us know each other a bit more. I am really glad to hear how God has been using CBS as a comfortable and welcoming place for Mandy to know more about Him. I am excited to see how she will continue to grow her knowledge and understanding of Christ during her time here and beyond.*

-- Lucy Lu '21





# marc liu

- hometown: Chengdu, China
- major: (DEA) Info Sci and Philosophy

'23

*As I entered the Ivy Room, I kept checking my phone, knowing I was running a bit late after oversleeping that day. Thankfully, Marc appeared to be aware of how CBS time worked and showed up around the same time. (No, this is not an endorsement of being late... but life happens).*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Bruh (and best friends).
- Junior Class: Don't know. Do I even know who the juniors are?
- Sophomore Class: Lit, dope, meme. It's so homogeneously colorful!
- Freshmen Class: Kids. We're just kids.
- Ithaca: Green. I bought a beige tote bag with a green "Ithaca is Gorges" logo.
- Winter: Two layers. I'm not ready. I literally only have one thin down jacket.
- Bubble Tea: Overrated. Can you believe that coming from an Asian?

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

I liked it a lot. When I got here, the chemistry clicked. It happened when I left the hotel to go to CTown to grab ramen at Oishii Bowl. It was dark coming back and seeing the silhouettes of the buildings made me think I could study here. It just seemed very tranquil.

I saw the fellowship chalking and was going to do some shopping, but I somehow only took a picture of CBS's information. Then I grabbed dinner with Liam. He asked me about fellowships, and I learned about CBS, so I came. I'm usually pretty shy about sharing, especially about faith. But, then on the first night I stood up and there was no going back. Overall, it was a really, really positive experience.

## 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How cold it actually gets... I feel like I'm bad at noticing what's surprising. Last summer, while back in China my family asked me what my four years of American high school taught me, and I was like I don't know. It seemed to have happened so quickly and I just didn't notice the change in my life.

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

Elementary school art teacher. If money were an issue, I'd be really, really good at investing and spend my time as an elementary school art teacher. I feel like a lot of teachers teach art wrong, and yet at the same time it's a really important process. But sometimes I doubt myself and wonder if I'm good with kids.

## 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

One giant book (compiling lots of things, like the Bible and something fun... like A Hundred Years of Solitude). A solar cooking device. That covers fire and cooking. A nice machete, a Japanese artisanal machete. Those things last forever.

## 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

I imagine a zombie apocalypse quite a bit. I think this one is more survivable. *[The weapon?]* It's not going to be the artisanal Japanese machete. I hate melee combat, but there is no infinite ammo... but probably I'd pick an assault rifle. I have some theoretical knowledge with firearms.

## 6. Favorite quote or saying?

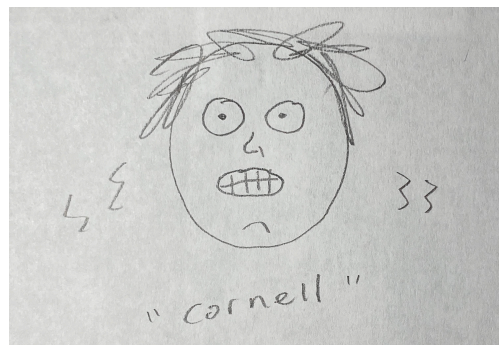
Honestly, I think quoting the Bible would be really cheesy but here is my favorite: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:32. Every time I read it, it makes me want to cry. Philippians 4:8 also speaks to me, especially as a designer. Also: "Dissatisfaction and anger motivate so much of what you do." - Marc Newson (paraphrased a bit). It really does take dissatisfaction to move things forward. There is no humanly possible end to the meaning of life and finding contentment (outside of God).

## 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

That I would be ready to learn. That's honestly the greatest value of higher education: that you get ready for learning after it's over. Four years ago, I was really certain about what I want to do, but now I'm less and less certain as I see the landscape of what I want to do changing so fast. The only way to keep up is to have the tools to keep on learning about the human condition and expression. I don't think it's wise for me to do anything too specific right now.

*As the sun began to set and the Ivy Room grew draftier, Marc's interview drew to a close. Truly I was blessed by the time we had shared. Although the digressions were many, the depth of Marc's thoughtfulness and quirkiness (of the good kind) really shined through all the topics we discussed. I'm excited to see how God will be growing him in faith, knowledge, and maturity during his time here with CBS while also maintaining his delightfully unassuming curiosity and energy.*

-- Ray Zeng '20



# meili bowden

- hometown: Silver Spring, MD
- major: Mechanical Engineering

'23

If Meili leaves her physics discussion (Clark Hall) at time  $t=0$  sec and walks at a steady velocity of 1.3 m/s toward the engineering quad, and if Kevin leaves his physics discussion (Clark Hall) at time  $t=200$  sec, how fast will Kevin have to walk in order for them to spontaneously find each other at Statler, 650 meters away? Will they be able to change their Appel plans and meet at Terrace?

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Role models
- Junior Class: Funny
- Sophomore Class: Goofy
- Freshmen Class: Outgoing
- Ithaca: Pretty
- Winter: I like it
- Bubble Tea: Yummy!

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

The people are very friendly, and I forget that it's an Ivy because people don't talk about it. CBS: it was extremely welcoming, and everyone was just open to talking to me and other new members which made the transition a lot easier.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How big it was - I actually never visited before and I didn't get to walk around campus until classes started. I was shocked by how big it was and how many resources there were.

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

I would want to be an illustrator or comic book artist - not sure what I would be doing but I would want to have my own comic strip in the newspaper.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

My comfortable shoes \*points to sneakers\*, my Bible to keep me sane, and a fidget spinner!

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Zombie apocalypse, because we don't know what the aliens have in store, and zombies are more expected. I saw a meme that showed how to prevent zombies from attacking you is to put treadmills around you so they're walking forever, so my weapon of choice would be a treadmill.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

From Winnie the Pooh - you're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope to have experience in MechE, and just be more set on what I have to do after graduation. Also, to have a set of friends I can go to and reach out to even if I don't see them afterwards.

Conclusion: Kevin walked 2.167 m/s in order to find Meili at Terrace. They were able to change their Appel plans and had a meaningful and fruitful conversation right where they were and as they were. Kevin is excited to see how God will work in Meili's life throughout these next few years, and prays that God will give Meili guidance, inspiration, and rest.

-- Kevin Hu '21



# micah chen

◦ hometown: Danbury, CT

◦ major: Civil Engineering

'23

*I met up with Micah at Terrace and to my surprise he's never been there before :o I was happy to introduce him to the variety of burritos and pho bowls that may be a bit overpriced but well worth a try. We both complained about the cold weather (very typical of Ithaca) since it dropped 30 degrees from the day before. But as we quickly began to warm up, we dived right into the interview...*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: They know what they're doing but not really
- Junior Class: There's so much energy
- Sophomore Class: They're probably enjoying their life right now
- Freshmen Class: Always lost
- Ithaca: Brick
- Winter: Also, brick
- Bubble Tea: I love it in moderation

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

Cornell: Everybody is really accomplished. And I knew coming in I was average but now I know I'm really average.

CBS: Really welcoming, very low key, and chill.

## 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I was kinda surprised how midwestern it felt coming here. I've never been to the Midwest but this is what I would expect it to be like.

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

My dream job is working in the middle west like working in the oil rich companies like Qatar. I've always wanted to go to Greenland like it's mad expensive, but I've always wanted to go.

## 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

My phone so I can play games on it, a sleeping bag, and some books to fill in my time.

## 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

I would definitely be in an alien invasion because I wanna see what they look like. I feel like zombies for sure don't exist but aliens we don't know so I wanna see what they look like.

I feel like nothing would work... maybe kindness.

## 6. Favorite quote or saying?

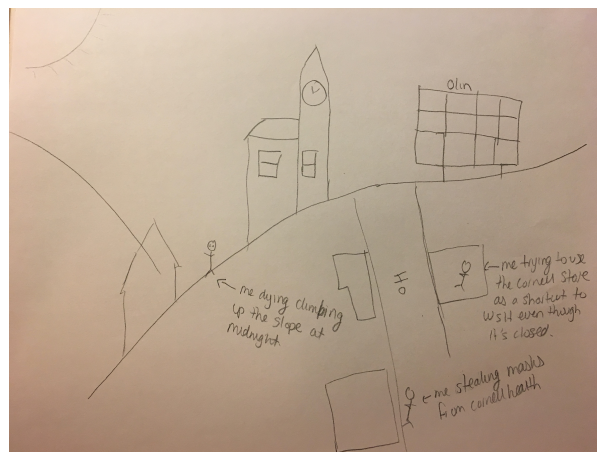
My coach always used to say, "Do what needs to be done when it needs to be done."

## 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Land myself a decent job, preferably somewhere close to here so that I don't have to move too far away. Just be satisfied with my life senior year.

*I really enjoyed chatting with Micah. He really brings off a positive energy and great vibes. He was smiling and laughing throughout the interview which made it really fun! He's very driven and knows what his plans are for the future which is awesome. I hope that as he starts his career as an engineer that God can work through him to allow him to grow and pursue his dreams!*

-- Kimberly Yap '21



# nathaniel chin

- hometown: Manhattan, NY
- major: CS and Robotics minor

'23

*Ok I'm gonna be honest, I may have almost forgotten that our interview was today, but nonetheless we are all here. Nathaniel and I actually went to the same high school, but we didn't meet until this year at CBS. I've really enjoyed getting to know him through Large Group and Retreat. I'm looking forward to getting to know him more and more as well as introducing Mac's Cafe to him for the first time!*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Fun
- Junior Class: Darren/Knowledgeable
- Sophomore Class: Helpful
- Freshmen Class: Relatable
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: Sad
- Bubble Tea: Water

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

Of Cornell, I really like the campus and I thought the environment of freshman in a certain area, and engineering in another. Wherever you are you'll have people that are like you in terms of interests and passions. It is really competitive; you wonder how some people are so smart and you find that study rooms tend to be really busy. People are here to compete and do the best that they can

I really liked it, they were really welcoming, and everyone was trying to talk to me, I didn't know many people coming in and I liked how willing everyone was to open up and start a conversation. I liked how we split up in small groups and have conversations and not be so general in terms of faith.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I was surprised how social everyone was, even though we are graded on a curve, I thought everyone would shut themselves up in a room and study. I was surprised people made time for extracurriculars, go to the gym, and make time for other

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

I would want to be a SWE working on drones, working with AI and sensors.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

- Bible
- Friend
- A phone

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

- Alien invasion
- Sniper rifle

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

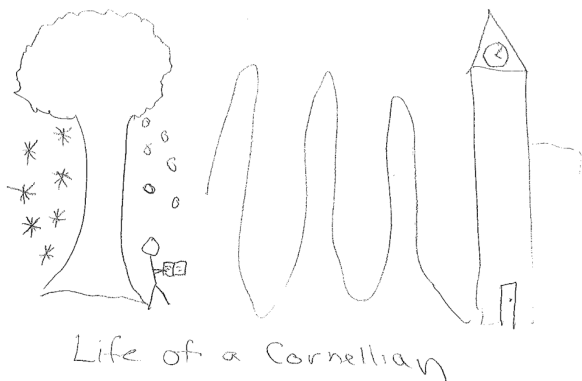
- "You're not perfect but you're not your mistakes"
- Kanye West

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to be able to stick with going to church and large group and keep up with my faith, I don't want college to distract me in that aspect. I want to work on projects that are meaningful to me, either through project teams, classes, or workshops. I also hope to earn a job already, I'd also like to be able to bench a plate. I want to progress spiritually, academically and physically

*I'm happy to say that I've completed this interview pleasantly surprised by our encounter. Although I haven't talked with Nathaniel too much outside of school, I'm really encouraged by his goals for the future as well as his commitment to taking care of his spiritual and academic lives and not treating them as separate things. I encourage everyone in CBS to get to know Nat better through a meal. I'm personally looking forward to being in fellowship with him and watching him grow over the next few years.*

-- Alex Xu '22



# nina tang

- hometown: Germantown, MD
- major: CS

'23

*Entering the lobby in Willard Straight, I found Nina sitting on a bench patiently waiting for me. As we headed downstairs to Okenshields, which was unfortunately extremely crowded, we were just barely able to find a mediocre location to sit across from each other. But on our way back from getting food, to our surprise, we spotted an entire empty table! We quickly shifted all our things over to our new location, and after eating our food and catching up with each other, we began the interview!*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Intimidating
- Junior Class: Old but not that much older
- Sophomore Class: No opinion
- Freshmen Class: Me
- Ithaca: Too many hills
- Winter: Yay
- Bubble Tea: The bubbles make my stomach hurt

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

My first impression of Cornell was that there wasn't a lot of flatland. Does that make sense? And the streets are sort of cramped. Like there are a lot of people but it's sort of small. My first impression of CBS was that I knew a lot of people from FICCC there.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How difficult it is and how early it snowed. Because in Maryland, it gets this cold, but in December. But now it's November and it's already snowing, so it's really early.

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

I'd be a makeup artist. Or an elementary school teacher. Or I wouldn't be working at all.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Water, a fan, and my best friend.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

\*long pause\* Ummmm I'd be in an alien invasion. What weapon fights aliens? I don't know. I wouldn't have a weapon of choice. I would talk to them and ask them not to kill me. Would they kill me? Is that what an alien would do? I would ask them to not take over? What happens when aliens invade? *[I don't know, I guess they kill everyone and take over the planet]* But if all of my friends have died, what's the point of me trying to fight? You might as well become an alien too... right?

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

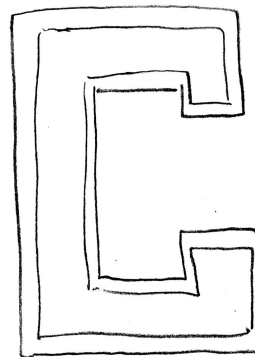
I'll give you a favorite poem instead. Actually, no it's okay because the poem is a bit sad. I don't know, I don't have a favorite quote or saying. But I do like words related to sparkling things. Like I like the words sparkling and glittering.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Getting a job. Do you accomplish that by graduation? I guess. I want to get a job.

*It has been such a joy getting to know Nina this semester, and I'm so happy I got the chance to meet up with her again! I know that she will do so many great things during her time here, and I pray that she will continue to grow in her faith and stay strong in the Lord, especially through the highs and lows of college. I'm super excited to get to know her even better in the future during our time here together, and I look forward to seeing how God will use her in different ways to do His good work!*

-- Jackie Peng '21



↑  
the cornell C (supposed to be)

# qiming sun

- **hometown:** Shandong Province, China
- **major:** Transportation Systems Engineering, CEE

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*It was a Saturday night. Qiming and I caught up over a nice dinner at Koko before we walked back to Eddygate for our interview afterwards. Since the moment I told him I would be interviewing him for BOL around a week before we met for it, he had been flustered by what it would entail. Although he felt nervous about what questions he would be asked, I reassured him to not take it too seriously. :-)*

---

## Word Associations

- **Senior Class:** Graduation
  - **Junior Class:** Rising senior
  - **Sophomore Class:** Young
  - **Freshmen Class:** Newbie
  - **Ithaca:** Secluded
  - **Winter:** Snow
  - **Bubble Tea:** Unhealthy
- 

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

Cornell is... mmm... Hilly, there are so many slopes. Hilly but beautiful school. CBS is a lovely and full of glory, warm community. And I thought everybody speaks Chinese, because the name is Chinese Bible Study, I assumed everyone speaks Chinese, but no. It's also my first time to see so many American Born Chinese gathering.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Definitely in the middle of nowhere. The winters are like murder.

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

Travel all over the world, and \*thinks\* help poor people in developing countries. Rescue wild animals and wildlife.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Mmmm... bible, wifi, and laptop.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Say that again? Zombie what? Weapon... Hm... You know in Harry Potter, the thing that makes you invisible. \*pulls out phone\* Oh... Invisible cloak. Alien invasion.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

Mmm... can we come back to this?

\*After coming back to this\*

I want to see the translation of my quote.

It's in Chinese.

Never mind.

"Anxiety ways down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up."

Proverbs 12:25.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

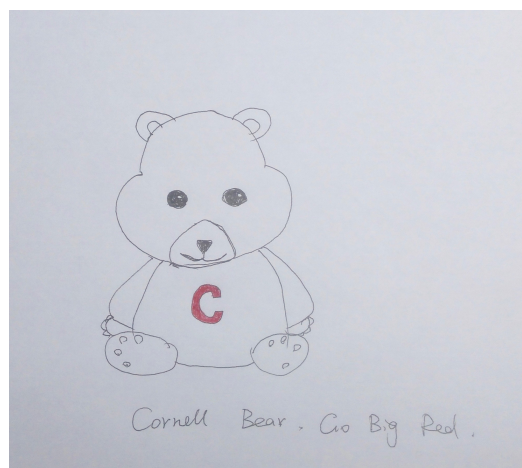
Should it be religion related? I think it should be very serious. Hmm...

I want to go to Africa, at least one time before I graduate. My wonderland in my mind is Africa.

---

*Qiming gave a sigh of relief when I told him there were no more questions. He left and trekked through the brisk night back to Olin Library, his go-to spot on campus to do work. He is often busy with his grad school engineering coursework. He takes his education very seriously after all.*

-- Victor Leung '21



# tony yang

◦ hometown: Ithaca, NY / New Haven, CT '23  
◦ major: CS

*I have no idea why Joy thought it was a good idea for me to interview Tony – maybe she thought the memes that came out of would be funny or something. Having known Tony for pretty much a year, the conversations we have is usually nonsensical. Well, we did have a nice heartfelt conversation before the interview, but I'm pretty sure everyone was expecting this interview to be... slightly incomprehensible.*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Small
- Junior Class: Large
- Sophomore Class: Me
- Freshmen Class: Nonsocial
- Ithaca: Bland
- Winter: Get me out of here
- Bubble Tea: Hot stuff

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

Cornell: Very big. Very good during the Spring. Pretty trees.

CBS: Family.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Cornell has too many events every day. *[How so?]* Basically, every single, like college, has associated events. *[And do you go to them?]* I try to go to some.

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

I'd be coaching a basketball team. *[What would that team look like?]* That team consists of my son and his friends. Ok fine. My son in Middle School. Nononono delete this no it's not a profession -- I'd be like... I feel like I'd be a... delete the entire response. Please press the space button.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Brain. Snow. Fire. *[What would you do with those items?]* Create new elements. Hashtag mat sci minor. *[What new elements would you create?]* Nothing. *[You would create the void?]* Yes.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Alien invasion. Because I can join the aliens and contribute to their conquest of earth. *[So, you're a defector?]* Yeah. *[What would be your weapon of choice?]* My hands. I'd punch people. *[People?]* Yeah! *[And not aliens?]* Yeah! I'd help the aliens. Beat people up.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

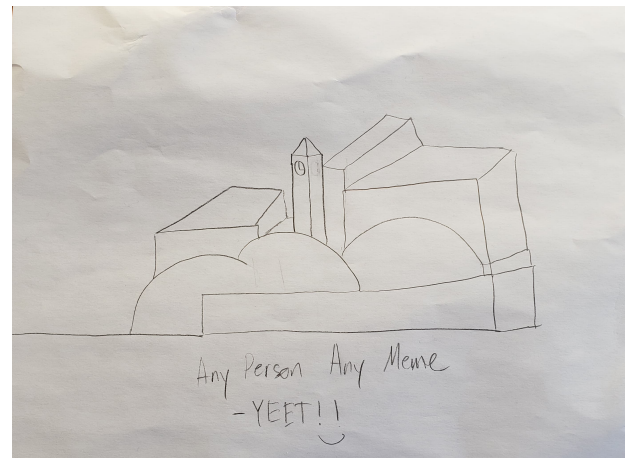
Philippians 4:13. "I can do all this through him that gives me strength." And my favorite nonbiblical quote is "One thing that I know is that I know nothing." *[Is this from an anime?]* No, it's Socrates.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Freshman negative 60. *[What does that mean?]* It means I'll lose 60 pounds by graduation. *[What will you do to accomplish that goal?]* Live on soylent? and decide whether I'm more of a fruit or vegetable.

*If the reason Joy decided that I should interview Tony is for the memes, then I think we can agree that the interview did not disappoint -- well, I think he tried to give serious answers at first, but I don't think he really succeeded and eventually just gave up and decided to go with whatever he got. But you know. Regardless of how much you try, you can't hide how much of a meme you are.*

-- Attilus Leung '22



# valerie chen

- hometown: Ithaca, NY
- major: Biological Sciences

'23

*I was sitting in Duffield with Tony and Meili on a cold, cold day. Winter in Ithaca has finally arrived :( I was delighted to turn my head and see Valerie approaching while holding a green tea matcha latte (my favorite!!) We grabbed a table among the sea of other engineers and started the interview.*

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Raymond
- Junior Class: Stephanie
- Sophomore Class: Attilus
- Freshmen Class: Tony
- Ithaca: Home
- Winter: Cold
- Bubble Tea: Love

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

Cornell: Big. Very diverse. Very pretty. Nice buildings.  
CBS: Fun. Welcoming. Good community.

### 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I've met people who work really hard but also play really hard. It's a little surprising but not very surprising.

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

I think it'll be cool to be like a criminal profiler like FBI...like in criminal minds haha.

### 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

My phone, a good book, and water.

### 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Alien invasion! A taser.

### 6. Favorite quote or saying?

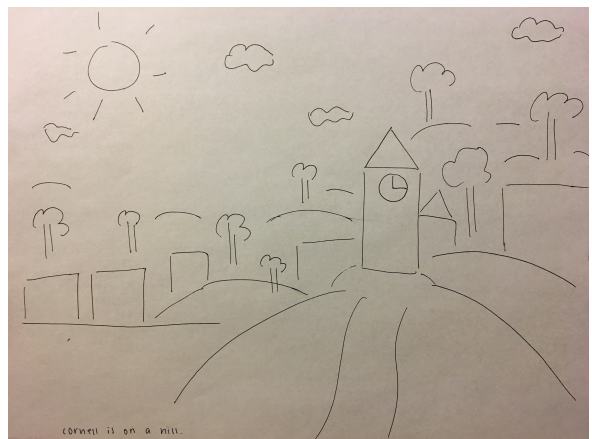
"There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs."

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope to have gotten into a med school.

*After the interview we hung out in Duffield for a while with the other freshmen. It's truly amazing to see the fellowship grow and the love everyone has for each other. As Valerie starts her journey at Cornell, I pray that she finds joy and excitement in everything that she does. I hope that CBS can walk alongside her in her faith and encourage her in many ways!*

-- Kimberly Yap '21



*Cornell is on a hill.*



# winston lam

- hometown: Miami, FL
- major: HBHS

'23

Winston and I met for lunch at Appel on a Saturday, which made me realize how popular this establishment was. After waiting in lines for a while, squeezing between people on their phones, and finally finding available seats next to the froyo machine (which is TOTALLY underrated), we dived straight into the interview. This man (Winston) was on a mission: to get straight to the juice of this interview and avoid unnecessary small talk.

## Word Associations

- Senior Class: Wholesome, but that's CBS in general. Can't tell who's a senior and who's not.
- Junior Class: Is Raymond a junior? [No] Chill
- Sophomore Class: I don't think I know a single sophomore. I thought Atilius was a grad student. I guess fun.
- Freshmen Class: Crazy, mainly because of Marc.
- Ithaca: Cold
- Winter: I guess snow
- Bubble Tea: Awesome. I don't know. I really like bubble tea.

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

I didn't exactly expect it, but I am not overly surprised. I expected it to be bigger, city-wise. I went to here during Cornell Days, so it was nothing new. [Wasn't that your first impression?] Hmmm, I don't know. I don't know what I can say about Cornell that I couldn't say about another school. On CBS: They are like really friendly. Short. [Just because the females are short?] I think the guys are short. I think I am short. Will people get offended?

## 2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I guess classes. I come from a pretty small high school so going to class with 300 kids is weird. Also, for some reason I thought it would get easier, because I struggled a lot in high school. I thought it would be better later on in life, but nah.

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

Oh snap. That's kind of hard. I have no idea. I'll probably like do music making, since I really like music. Or I don't really know. I'll probably to a foreign country for a few years because I want to do that.

## 4. Which three items would you bring with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

Does a deserted island have cell service? [No, but you could bring a

router]. I feel like it should be three items that you hold dearly, but for me just my computer so I won't get bored for the rest of my life. Router, charger, and laptop, I guess. [How about electricity?] Is there no electricity? [It's a deserted island.] There could be an abandoned building that has electricity, I guess.

## 5. Would you rather be in an alien invasion or a zombie apocalypse? What would be your weapon of choice?

Zombie apocalypse! Alien invasion you wouldn't know what technology they had. But in zombie apocalypse you know they are kind of dumb and predictable. Also, they can't climb stuff from the movies I've seen, so it's easier to stay safe. Weapon of choice would be Jesus. Because he's God so yeah, so if I have Him, I'm vibing and good. [Why only Jesus of the Trinity, and not God with three persons?] Ok, I change my answer to God.

## 6. Favorite quote or saying?

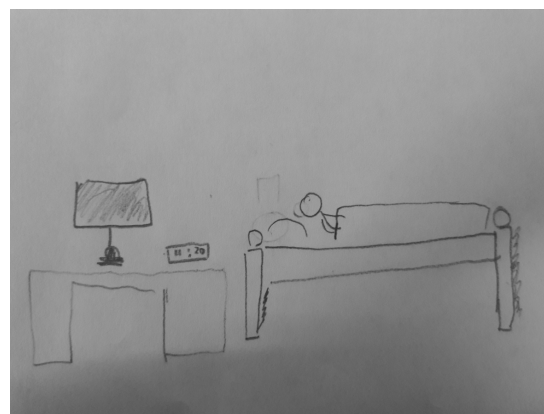
I can't really remember any. I guess "Cs get degrees"

## 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

The only thing I really care about is whether I am happy when I graduate. Right now, being happy. I guess that would mean getting good grades and being a good person in general. So that's probably going to stay stagnant until I graduate. [What are you getting good grades for?] I want to get into medical research to help more people.

After I took his picture, Winston immediately left me to finish my lunch alone. Something about hanging out with his friends and listening to Billy Joel. Sad feels but this is who Winston is: funny, wholesome, and unconventional. While I wish he wouldn't just immediately zoom away all the time, God is certainly keeping up with him and steering him. Hopefully Winston will give us a better chance to catch up to him too during his time at Cornell!

-- Jessica Yuen '21



Oh, snap I slept through Chem again

# another look into cbs



CBS makes dumplings over fall break for community-building in Eddygate 1G.

CBS waits for Alice to drive her mom-van to Fall Retreat.



As part of O-week, CBS plays a few games of bowling at Helen Newman Hall with a mix of students from each class.



In an After CBS Event (ACE), a group convenes in Eddygate 1G for Operation Christmas Child!



Darren Chang '21, Alex Xu '22, Jasper Liang '22, Louise Xie, '21 and Raymond Zhang '20 gather at Libe Slope for some fun snow day sledding.

# ◦ from self to Christ ◦

by Alice Zhao

To give some context, there is an email list I've been subscribed to since freshman year called Grace Gems that I HIGHLY, HIGHLY recommend. Go to [gracegems.org](http://gracegems.org) and subscribe. They send a devotional every day that usually contains a 2-3 min audio devotional, a short-written devotional, and an additional reading or sermon that varies in length. Even just reading the short written devotional in the morning is a good and constant reminder to look towards God and dedicate the rest of the day to Him, and there have often been times when I had been struggling with a certain question or sin and the next morning's Grace Gems would speak straight to my heart (God's timing is on fire!).

Something I've been reminded of a lot of this semester is how the cross radically disrupts the very center and citadel of your life from self to Christ. In other words, **the life of a Christian always looks to Christ**. But specifically, what does this look like in the context of hardships? I want to share two devotionals that address this question.

One devotional begins by listing reasons we are often cast down. I'll give a snippet below:

My heart is burdened with a sense of my short comings.  
Every holy duty I perform is so imperfect.  
Every good purpose I form is so soon frustrated.  
My affections are so unholy.  
My prayers are so brief and heartless.  
My praises are so feeble and fitful.  
I do so little good.  
I live to so little purpose.  
I am dissatisfied with the world--and yet glued to it!  
I hate sin--and yet fall into it!  
I am a riddle, a mystery, a mass of inconsistency!  
Is it, then, any wonder that I am cast down?"

As I read this, I just felt each one hit deeper into my heart; so many times, I have felt these inadequacies and kept focusing on myself. The author even mentions how "One feels at times a secret liking to indulge in self-pity." I have been guilty of this more than I'd like to admit.

But if we continue to focus on our own imperfections, shortcomings, and failures, we will sink into despair. Christ did not save

us because we have none of these things--He saved us knowing very well that we are sinners! Rather than looking at my own incapacity to steer the boat of my life, I should look towards and trust in my Pilot to bring me safely to my destination.

Hope in God!  
His mercy is great unto the Heavens,  
His grace is as free as the air,  
His love is as changeless as His nature,  
His promise is as immutable as His love.

The second devotional addresses the tendency we have to complain about the hardships. He asks:

Is not Christ your treasure?  
Is not Heaven your inheritance?  
--and will you murmur?  
  
When you were dead, did not He quicken you?  
When you were lost, did not He find you?  
When you were wounded, did not He heal you?  
When you were falling, did not He support you?  
When you were down, did not He raise you?  
When you were staggering, did not He establish you?  
When you were erring, did not He correct you?  
When you were tempted, did not He support you?  
When you went in dangers, did not He deliver you?  
When you are so highly exalted above millions in the world  
--and will you murmur?

It is not that we cannot be cast down or feel sorrowful; I think we will (and should) feel pain and heartbreak over sin and brokenness. But the point is that we are not just stuck there. We have a wonderful solution and comfort in Christ. Lamentation is a prayer, a pouring out of fears and sorrows to God and trusting in Him. Practicing looking away from self and to Christ is a lifelong journey. But I hope some of these reflections may be a helpful reminder and exhortation to continue pursuing it.

My brothers and sisters, look to the cross!

Love,  
Alice Zhao '20

# ◦ don't trust yourself ◦

by Alex Xu

If you grew up in the church like I did, you probably imagined being a Christian as something you could exemplify with your actions, a model for people to follow after, and a standard that suburban mothers would scold their children for failing to live up to. After all, if you did what you were expected to (church, youth group, etc.) and if you embraced the ideals of what you thought a Christian ought to be in the Bible, is that not a fast track to the road of eventual salvation?

This is where we make our mistake: the fork in the road between resting in God's unconditional acceptance and love and slaving away to the code of Christian expectations. Too many people have fallen down the road of the latter, but it is a difficult problem to recognize, particularly because the outward appearance and image it creates is deceiving to others. The fact of the matter is, followers of both paths are traveling toward what they believe is the same destination, but the travelers on the path of Christian appearance do not know they have been misled.

Perhaps you are not convinced. You feel as if you would be able to tell apart your genuine faith from a pretender. Be warned — this lifestyle can take many forms that often utilize good things. Getting involved with ministry, Bible studies, or outreach is not a bad thing, but even good works are frowned upon by God when the mindsets behind them are flawed. The path of Christian appearance is a warped, disfigured, fake Christianity that masquerades itself as an earned freedom from sin and temptation. The root of this lifestyle is not in Christ's love and sacrifice, but in a hopeless race that is based off of our flesh.

In the race of life, we are scared and insecure beings that desire love, safety, and security. To be saved in Christ and reject the flesh and worldly desire, we need to learn to be truly satisfied in God's presence. Too often, however, we take the alternate path:

- We obey in order to get things we want from God.
- Prayer consists of petition for the things we cannot control. It lacks the repentance and faith that come with salvation.
- When things are going well, we feel satisfied — after all, who has trouble feeling good when your circumstances are favorable?
- When things turn out poorly, we are despondent and unsatisfied, unsure of why a “good Christian” could be struggling so much.

When we are criticized, we retreat and shrink away. Any flaws or objections are threats to the self-image we created for ourselves.

- Perhaps most importantly, when we turn to sin, fall to temptation, and fail to measure up to our ideals, we are humbled but not confident. This is not true humility but rather insecurity.

We are imperfect people that are fundamentally incapable of competing in the race we created. The image that we made will eventually run out of gas and collapse, nowhere near the finish line that in reality promised nothing. We are trapped in a Sisyphean loop of arrogance and failure whose last iteration ends with death. Hopefully you cannot relate to any of the above practices, but if you do, take heart, because God has overcome this broken cycle and His love is unconditional of your failures.

Maybe you are now aware of your sin and separation from what God truly is, and this is the best thing that will happen to you. When God breaks us down, we are stripped of what we feel defines us — the image comprised of our abilities and accomplishments. However, when it comes to God's acceptance and an identity in Him, we are not defined by these things. God's acceptance and renewal of us is independent of anything we have done or will accomplish. One can be the heavyweight champion of the world or picked last for basketball in gym class. Perhaps one is the preacher of the world's largest megachurch, or a teacher of two in a basement. God looks on all of us without distinction, because our abilities and performance do not matter to Him.

When the image of what we ought to be with all of our accomplishments and abilities is destroyed, when we are at your lowest, most humble point, the only thing that we have left is our heart. God is not concerned with our money, fame, or talent. Our heart is the only thing He desires from us.

If we choose to offer it to God, from that point on we are truly saved. Our trust and hope lie with God's grace, His unconditional sacrifice on the Cross, and not anything we have done. It is no longer about our flesh, our actions, or ourselves. When we turn to God to satisfy the needs that we had for love and security, the fruit of the Spirit and all of those things that we felt we ought to exemplify and espouse come forth from the transformed heart. We are motivated to obedience by joy and love, instead of fear and obligation. It is this satisfaction in Christ that brings us true peace and rest.

We can now turn away from a performance-based view of our salvation. Jesus Christ gave His life for us, so that He could give His life to us, in order to live His life through us, as us.

# ◦ living in discipleship ◦

by Darren Chang

## Introduction and Burden

Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples (followers of Christ) grow in their journey to know Jesus Christ. In doing so, we can “overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.” As such, discipleship is central to Christian living.

Both Ray (Zeng) and I had a burden for discipleship and how it operates within CBS as a topic for a workshop. Why was this so? Discipleship is a Biblical concept that’s intentional and important. Yet, there’s no guide for either the discipler or the disciplined. This essay doesn’t seek to serve as such a guide, but rather hopes to create conversations and thoughts about the Biblical patterns for discipleship and how these patterns can be applied in our lives as Christians on campus and after we leave Cornell.

Let’s begin with some questions that help us think about our discipling relationship. Hopefully, this essay helps you find some of your personal answers to these questions. For the discipler, we can think about:

- (1) who are you discipling, and in what context?
- (2) why are you discipling?
- (3) what are some practical ways you can disciple?

For the disciplined, we should think about:

- (1) how can you continue to be disciplined?
- (2) why should we be disciplined?

## Biblical Basis for Discipleship

As with many parts of living as a Jesus-lover, we must return to our foundations in the Bible to create practical methods for engaging in discipleship. I’ve divided these Bible passages into two different sections from the New Testament: The Gospels or Jesus’ Teachings and the Pauline Epistles.

*from The Gospels and Jesus’ Teachings*

**Loving one another** 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. — John 13:34-35

**Jesus and his own disciples** 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” — John 8:31-32

We draw from the Gospels to think about Jesus’ example of being with and caring for his disciples. Even though Jesus was wholly God (and wholly human), his position as a discipler was borne out of love,

instead of a position of superiority. In fact, Jesus prays fervently for each disciple in John 17, and says that loving one another is a symbol of a discipling relationship. Moreover, “[abiding] in the word” is a critical element of a Christ-centered discipleship that sets you free from our fallen humanity. The Gospels provide three different patterns of pursuing discipleship: Prayer for one another, love for one another, and focus on the Word. These are three patterns we should strive for in our prayer partnerships and discipling relationships. We shouldn’t divorce our speech and actions from the patterns and directives laid out in the Bible. We can bring passages from the Bible and other spiritual books into our meetings and as reminders for accountability.

*from The Pauline Epistles*

**Growing the body** 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. — Eph. 4:11-16

**Developing maturity** 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. — Col. 1:27-29

**Bearing one another’s burdens** 1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load. 6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. — Gal. 6:1-6

These passages are long, but they are rich and full of content that should guide us in thinking about discipleship at a larger, fellowship-

wide, and “body-wide” level. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider each individual verse, because each is relevant in thinking about discipleship. When we disciple and are being disciplined, let’s think about what it means to be “in unity,” and ways that we can elevate our fellowship with one another (not just in the structured format of CBS but as interpersonal relationships). Although discipleship often occurs between two people, the positive (and sometimes negative) effects of such relationships are not only limited to the two people.

The second and third passages specify two different methods in which this unity can be bolstered. An older one can help a younger one develop maturity in the faith, to “present every fully mature in Christ.” An important element of this is for each individual to transmit information and (Biblical) proclamations to one another. Of course, a critical prerequisite to this is creating an atmosphere in which people are comfortable sharing with one another and “[bearing] one another’s burdens.” I’ll get into practical ways this can happen in the conclusion but considering these concepts of unity in the body helps determine whether our discipling relationships are Christ-centered. If they are not, we should return to the head — to Christ.

#### Pursue a Paul; Be a Barnabas; Train a Timothy

Although some only apply the Paul-Barnabas-Timothy lineage to men, the pattern of mentorship and discipleship is applicable to all Christians. Typically, we see discipling relationships as single-gender relationships because there are some issues that are easier to discuss in single-gender conversations. But that doesn’t mean that only men need discipleship; all Christians need to be living in discipleship. The roles of Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy aren’t mutually exclusive: Perhaps you once disciplined a “Timothy” who is now a “Barnabas” to you. If you are a “Barnabas” to one, you can also be a “Paul” to another. In fact, you should strive to have people in each of the three roles in your life.

**Paul** is the mentor and discipler in your life. They are someone who has traveled further along their Christian journey than you. Often, that means they are older, but it doesn’t mean that they must be older — just older in faith. This person doesn’t have to be someone who is a pastor or in a defined and official mentorship role. But this should be someone who is seasoned in Christian living and can offer much-needed advice. I personally can’t imagine entering and going through college without a Paul.

Yet, the “Paul” in your life isn’t just to encourage you. They are also to exhort, rebuke, and teach you. In fact, Paul commands Timothy: “18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith” (1 Tim. 1:18-19). So many times, a thoughtful and gentle reminder and admonishment from a mentor

has changed my direction when I needed it most. Heed advice and show that you are listening to your “Paul” as a sign of respect. Your mentors mean well, and they have spiritual riches to offer.

**Barnabas** is your accountability partner: A person who walks with you. Barnabas introduces Paul to the Church in Jerusalem in Acts 9. They meet for an entire year to encourage each other: “and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). So, too, should you travel with your Barnabas. Although I don’t discuss accountability in detail, we can understand our “Barnabas” as someone who is in a similar place in faith. They are someone you are incredibly comfortable with; someone you can confess to and share about your spiritual struggles.

**Timothy** is someone you help guide and disciple along the road of faith. But you can learn just as much from your “Timothy” as they do from you. Paul empowers and teaches Timothy to minister and evangelize; in the same way, we must be intentional about our messages and methods of discipleship. Finally, as Pastor Dale Tedder writes, “Such a [person] is marked (or should be) by an eagerness to grow in [their] relationship with Christ and is humble and teachable enough to receive what you have to share and to interact with you on the things of faith and life.” A “Timothy” isn’t just anyone who is younger than you in the fellowship. Rather, a relationship you have with a “Timothy” is intentional and long-term. You don’t guide someone halfway to the destination and leave them on the wayside.

As Christians, we should think about pursuing a Paul, being a Barnabas, and training a Timothy. Each part is critical to our development and maturity as Christians. We have to experience each element to grow the body. Don’t neglect one area for another.

#### Concluding thoughts

After reviewing what the Bible discusses, we’ve come to a bit of a better understanding of what Christian discipleship ought to look like. There are patterns set out for such discipling relationships in the Bible. I have some thoughts and experience on how to apply these principles to our actual relationships, but it’s difficult to truly implement these principles without practice and personal experience.

Yet, there are nexuses we should cling to: Jesus must be the center of our relationships and growth to imitate Him and His love. When we don’t have the answers (which should be often), we should seek God’s wisdom through prayer and the word, based on this verse: “5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (James 1:5). Being unsure or uncertain of how to develop a discipling relationship is normal and expected but relying on the Lord to pave the way is critical.

Importantly, discipleship isn’t (only) about friendship — even if you

don't become best friends, mentorship is borne out of a love for one another and the necessity of accountability. As a result, we should be willing to share, ask questions, and be truly vulnerable about what's on our hearts. We may not be comfortable about sharing at first, but because we are open to one another and spiritually meek, we can develop this comfort. Again, you don't need to become best friends. But you need to consider that God put you in another individual's life for a deep and important reason, and you should learn from that experience, too. Meekness requires humility and obedience to God speaking through other people.

Thankfully, many generations of Christians and CBSers have had experiences with discipleship that they've distilled to the rest of us through sharing and fellowship. Some examples of starting a discipling relationship include using podcasts, books of the Bible, spiritual books, prayer requests, sending Bible verses, and sharing devotionals. Every discipleship relationship is different but starting with the "generic" methods spurs more ideas. We can't, however, fall into temptations such as people-pleasing, harshness, proclaiming ourselves, the "hero" complex, and dependence on the self. In other words, discipleship comes from and through Christ, not ourselves.

In conclusion, much of what we've discussed can be summed into reliance on the Bible and being in Spirit with one another. To many, this is a painfully generic answer to a multi-faceted question. Yet, I've come to think that this basis is exactly the foundation to answer questions about discipleship that vary for each individual and each individual relationship. Although discipleship occurs frequently and is a concept central to Christian living, we rarely think about it, and instead simply practice it without enough spiritual basis. As a fellowship, let's implore each other to think and pray more about "why we are being disciplined/discipling?" and how we are doing so.

# ◦ how to handle disappointment ◦

by Pastor Paul

*Author's Note: The following is an adaption of a sermon that I preached to new students in the beginning of the 2016 school year.*

Cornell offers its students a plethora of exciting opportunities for growth and enjoyment. The campus is one of the most beautiful in the world with its world class architecture, waterfall and gorges. The brilliant professors train students to think well, and to be qualified for a meaningful job that pays well. Cornell also offers high quality concerts, plays and sporting events. And one of the best things about your college experience is going to be the friends you will make – people with whom you will have both deep conversations and great times of hilarity.

But most importantly, Ithaca offers exciting times to grow spiritually. You can choose from a variety of quality campus ministries and quality evangelical churches to commit to. These are communities where you can explore questions that you have about God and about your purpose of life. You will have opportunities to hear from some of the best speakers in the world, and you will be given opportunities not only to serve in your local church and campus ministry, but also to go on mission trips to exotic places and impact people with the message of the gospel.

So, the good news is that there will be a lot of fun, meaningful and beautiful days ahead. But the bad news is that there are also dark days of great disappointment ahead as well. I can almost guarantee you that sooner or later you are going to be disappointed with somebody or something.

For a realistic example of a disappointing experience you may have in college, let me show you a posting in a blog of a Cornell Christian student named Zoe Chan. The title of her blog is “How The Other Half (of the Curve) Lives”:

*In college, there are three possible outcomes when taking an exam—or prelim as Cornell calls it. These possible outcomes follow the Normal Distribution (or the curve) where you can get the mean, score above it, or below it. Many students have heard the phrase “Just get the mean and we’ll be alright.” This implies that as long as you reside in the right half of the curve, you’ll be alright. But I’m not here to tell you about what that life is like. If you think of the mean like a mountain, the sun shines on the right, leaving the other side of the mountain cold and desolate. I’m here to tell you the experiences of being in that shadow.*

*I fall consistently on the left side of the curve. The part people look at and say, “Thank God I wasn’t this person.” or “At least it wasn’t as bad as this.” The side where getting c’s and b’s is*

*normal. The ones who don’t speak up who only give vague shrugs of how badly they did. Because let’s be honest, no one wants to rejoice in living in the other half. At one point, getting a C+ on an exam is no longer a surprise. It becomes a norm. But just like the left side of the curve, we hide among those who do well, using their brightness to hide our failure and imperfectness in the shadows.*

*I wasn’t always a resident of the left side. I was an A student at my high school. I had a 4.0 GPA. I was the only student in my grade to attend an Ivy League school. I thought I was set, getting into a prestigious college. A college that my parents were proud of, a college that was top 10 in engineering. I knew Cornell would be hard, but I didn’t realize how hard it would be on me physically, mentally, and emotionally. In college, I got a grade below 60 for the first time (and definitely not the last). I had to drop a class for the first time because there was no way I could pass it. I had to change my major and my dream of at least 8 years to something I’m still not sure I want to do simply because if I didn’t, I wouldn’t graduate on time, or not at all...*

*What does it feel like to be a sub-par student at a prestigious college? It doesn’t feel good. It’s one thing to say that I got a bad grade because I didn’t study. It’s another to say that I studied nights and tried really hard to do my best. But when your ‘best’ is a C+, do your efforts really matter? Is squandering my parent’s money away really the ‘best’ that I can do?*

This is just one of the disappointing experiences you could experience in college. But there’s a whole plethora of disappointments that you could also experience. It might be that you get stuck with a roommate who never does his fair share of the housework. It might be that all your good friends find a boyfriend or girlfriend, but you sit alone by yourself on Saturday nights. It might be that you pour your heart into preparing a Bible study and only one person shows up. It might be that you get to your senior year and decide that you chose the wrong major, and that you are doomed to a career that you despise.

So, the question is not if you are going to be disappointed, instead the question is how you are going to respond when you are disappointed. And though the bad news is that sooner or later you are going to be haunted with disappointment, the good news is that if you respond to your disappointments in the right way, that your disappointments can turn out to be blessings in disguise. So, the question we need to ask ourselves is, “How should we respond to the disappointments in our lives in such a way in which they will become blessings in disguise?”



We can discover the answer to that question by taking a look at the book of Philippians to discover how the Apostle Paul handled his disappointments. You see, the Apostle Paul had an unfair share of disappointments in his life. He had dedicated his life to spread the good news about how Jesus died on the cross for the sins of mankind. He deserved to be able to retire into a life of ease. But instead he was living in house arrest because he had been convicted of crime he had not done. Most of his friends had abandoned him. Most of the church were no longer supporting him financially. And he was struggling with his health.

So how did the Apostle Paul respond to the disappointments in his life? Let's turn to Philippians 4:13 to find out: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. If you have been a Christian for a while, you have probably heard this verse. But what does this verse mean?

On November 9, 1996 Evander Holyfield challenged Mike Tyson for the World Boxing Championship. Holyfield entered the boxing ring with "Philippians 4:13" embroidered on his shorts. It seems as though Holyfield put this reference on his shorts because he believed that if he claimed the promise in this verse, he would beat the tar out of Mike Tyson through Christ who strengthened him. In fact, in an interview, Holyfield said, "With God on your side, the things you choose to do, you can do."

Holyfield's interpretation of Philippians 4:13 seems like a blank check that whatever you wish for will come true if you pursue your dream through Christ who strengthens you. This aligns with megachurch Pastor Joel Olsteen's commentary on this verse in which he wrote:

*Most people tend to magnify their limitations. They focus on their shortcomings. But scripture makes it plain: all things are possible to those who believe. That's right! It is possible to see your dreams fulfilled. It is possible to overcome that obstacle. It is possible to climb to new heights. It is possible to embrace your destiny. You may not know how it will all take place. You may not have a plan, but all you have to know is that if God said you can...you can!*

Olsteen seems to be saying to the university student that if she claims the promise in Philippians 4:13, she can become a straight A student, or she can marry her dream guy, or she can be cured of her stage four cancer.

And the promise seemed to work for Holyfield, because on the day he wore his Philippians 4:13 shorts, he defeated Tyson in an 11th-round technical knockout.

The only problem is that about three years later, Holyfield wore the same Philippians 4:13 shorts to his Lennox Lewis fight, but this time Holyfield lost.

So, what was the problem? Did Christ fulfill His promise to Evander

Holyfield by strengthening him to defeat Tyson, and then neglect to fulfill His promise when he fought Lennox Lewis? Or was it because Holyfield lacked enough faith in Christ's strength that caused him to lose to Lewis? And what would have happened if Holyfield would have boxed another Christian who claimed the promise of Philippians 4:13?

Disappointed Christians need to ask similar questions. What would happen if all the students in a class were Christians claiming Philippians 4:13? Who would land on the left side of the curve? And what happens when Christians claim Christ's strength, but they still can't find their cellphone, or they are still put on academic probation, or their ministry's attendance still dramatically drops? Did Christ fail to strengthen them, or did they fail to have enough faith in Christ's strength?

Or is there a third possibility? Is it possible that Holyfield and Olsteen are misinterpreting Philippians 4:13 and that Christ never promised to strengthen them to have their every wish fulfilled?

We can find the answer by taking a look at the context of Philippians 4:13. As the saying goes, a text without a context is merely a pretext. So, let's take a look at the context of this verse by reading Philippians 4:11-12 along with verse 13 in the NIV: *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

By reading verses 11-12 along with verse 13, we can see that Paul is not saying that Christians have a blank check in which they can wish whatever they want, and Christ is obligated to strengthen to make their wish come true. If that were the case, whenever Paul was hungry he could just claim God's promise and he would become well fed through Christ who strengthened him, and whenever he was in want he could claim God's promise and then he would live in plenty through Christ who strengthened him. But that doesn't seem to be the case for the Apostle Paul, because when he wrote Philippians he was living in a jail in poverty.

So, what's the deal? What do these verses mean? Instead of saying that Paul would never live in hunger or poverty, these verses indicate that Paul had learned the secret to be content in the midst of his hunger and poverty. But how in the world could Paul be content in these circumstances when the natural response to hunger and poverty is bitterness, envy or discontent? The answer can be found in verse 13. The Apostle Paul was able to be content even in the worst of conditions, because Christ was giving him the strength to be content.

In other words, Philippians 4:13 does not teach we can have all things, instead it is teaching that we can handle all things. For

example, Christ gives the college graduate the ability to handle the disappointment of not finding a job even though it's been several months since graduation. Christ gives the 40-year-old man the ability to handle the disappointment of still being single even though all his friends are married. And Christ gives the parents the ability to handle the disappointment that their child drops out of church during his college years even though they did their best to train him to love Jesus. Why are these Christians able to handle this disappointment? It's because as the Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:12, they have learned the secret of being content.

So, the first way that we should respond to our disappointment is by being content. But how can you be content when you fall on the left side of the academic curve, or when it's taking longer to finish your PhD than you thought it would or when your parents don't support you when you want to change your major? The Apostle Paul indicates that it doesn't come normally. Instead he had to learn to be content.

So, what is Paul's secret of being content in the midst of disappointing circumstances? I think the answer can be found in Philippians 3:1: "Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you." I believe that the secret of contentment is to rejoice in the Lord. To rejoice in the Lord means to find your joy in who the Lord is and what He has done for you. The word "content" means to believe that you have enough. That you don't need anything more to experience joy. So, when you rejoice in the Lord, you are indicating that you don't need any other accomplishment, any other person or any other circumstance in order for you to be joyful. Paul says that rejoicing in the Lord is a safeguard. That's because rejoicing in the Lord protects from falling over the cliff into discontentment and misery and resentment and envy and bitterness. You see rejoicing in the Lord, means that nothing can steal our joy.

So, does that mean that a good Christian won't be heartbroken when the girl of his dreams breaks up with him? Does that mean that a good Christian won't be angry when she's falsely accused of cheating? Does that mean that a good Christian will never struggle with clinical depression? No, good Christians can be heartbroken, angry and clinically depressed, but in the midst of these emotions, there can still be a deep abiding joy because they are grateful for who the Lord is and what the Lord has done for them. As the old hymn goes, "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."

But does being content mean that we don't try to make any changes to our situation? Let's take a look at the Apostle Paul's example in Philippians 3:10-13: *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this or have already arrived*

*at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* Though the Apostle Paul was content, he was not complacent, because he knew that if he were to be able to fully rejoice in the Lord, he would need to strain toward the goal of knowing the Lord, experiencing the power of His resurrection and participating in His suffering. He knew that he would have to give it his best effort.

In the same way, when we experience disappointments in life, we should remain content, but we should not be complacent. And in particular, we should not be complacent about our relationship with the Lord. College life is a great time in which you can grow by leaps and bounds in your relationship with the Lord. So, I encourage you to do everything you can so that you will be much closer to the Lord when you leave your time in college than you are to Him now. I encourage you to pursue the Apostle Paul's passion of knowing the Lord, and the power of His resurrection and participating in His suffering.

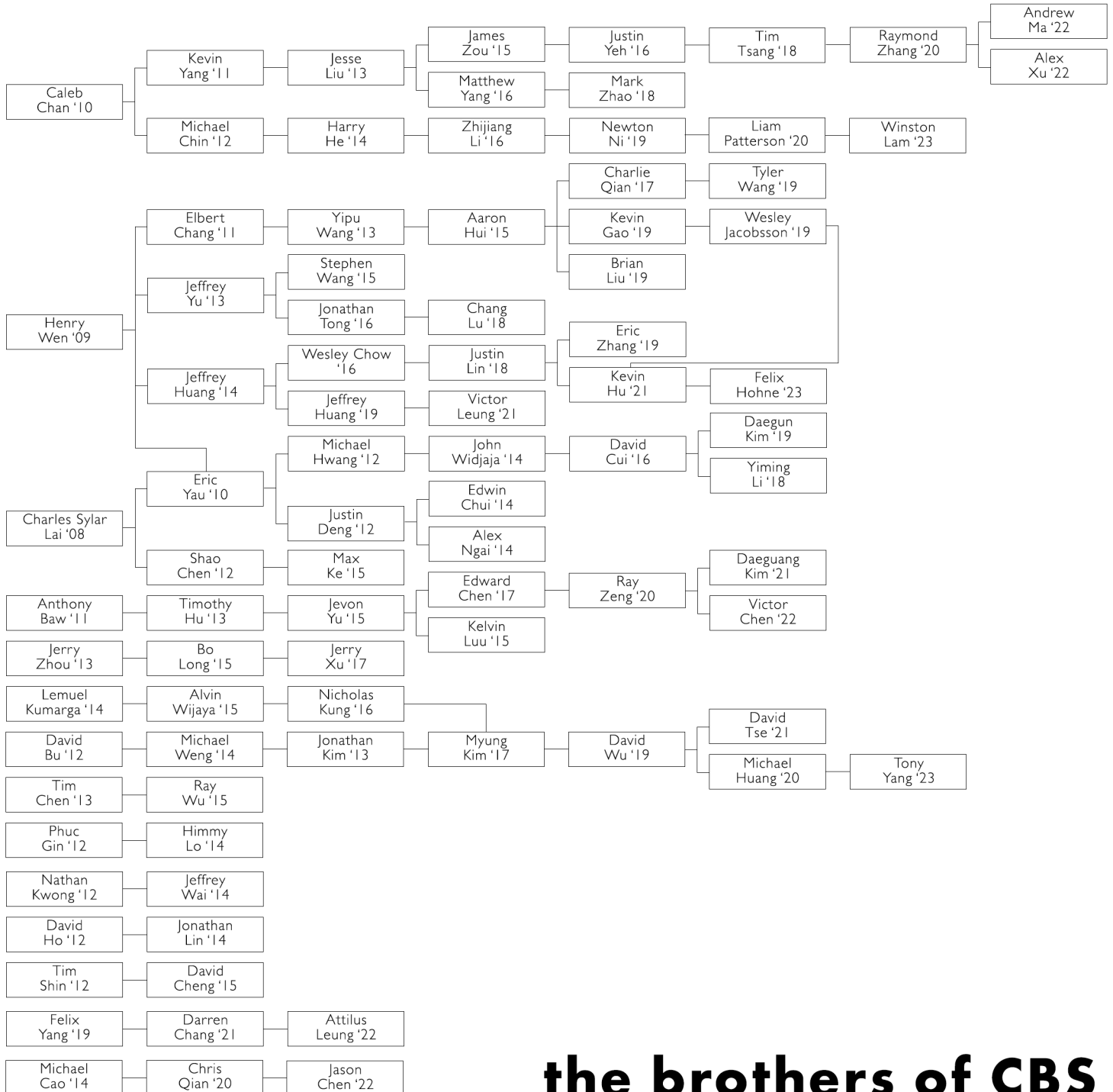
And I believe there are two spiritual disciplines that are extremely important for you to do this. First, it's important to read your Bible and pray every day. If you have not had the spiritual discipline to do that while you were in high school, it's time to grow up and do that now. Second, it's important to get involved in a Christian community. And it's not enough to just go to a large group meeting to listen to a pastor preach. If you do, it's likely you'll just be a face in a crowd, and nobody will help you in your quest to rejoice in the Lord. Instead, it's important to get involved in a small discipleship group where people can detect whether anything has stolen your joy in such a manner that you no longer are experiencing it, and they can also detect whether any idol has replaced your joy in that you are finding your greatest satisfaction in it rather than in the Lord. Also, it's not enough to get involved in a campus ministry. Instead, it's also important to be committed to a local church. I think it's wonderful to get involved in a campus ministry as long as your love for your campus ministry enhances your love for the local church rather than replaces it. So, make it a point to attend your church's worship service and discipleship group every week. Even when you are in the midst of your prelim tests, take a break from your studies and spend quality time rejoicing in the Lord with your Christian brothers and sisters.

But there's another important spiritual discipline in which you should not allow yourself to become complacent. And that spiritual discipline is described in Colossians 3:23: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.* Another way that we should rejoice in the Lord is that we should do our work as acts of worship to the Lord. And students, your work now is to study for the Lord. Don't put a half-hearted

effort into your studies. Instead work at it with all your heart. It's OK if you get worse grades than you did in high school as long as you put in your best effort. You see, you don't have to be the best, but you should do your best. God is more pleased with the student on the left side of the curve who is faithfully studying and doing it for His glory, than He is with the student who is getting straight A's but seeking his own glory and wasting countless hours playing video games rather than putting his best effort into his school subjects.

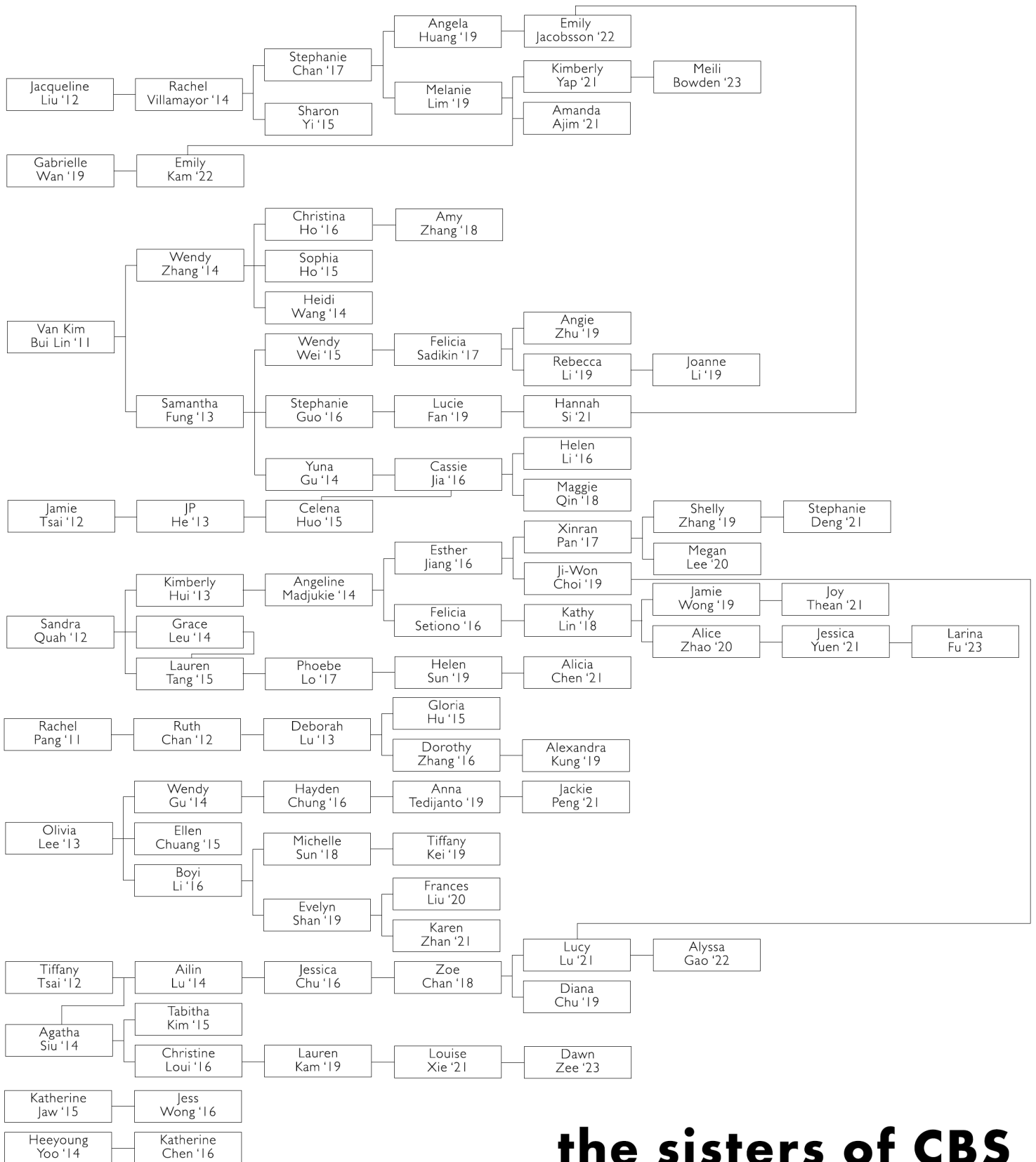
I hope that your days in college are filled with laughter, love and learning. But I also hope that there are enough disappointments in your life so that you will learn the secret of contentment and you will learn not to be complacent in pursuing after the Lord. Because if you learn these two important lessons, you will also learn to rejoice in the Lord, instead of any pale substitute – whether it's rejoicing in riches, fame or academic success. If the disappointments in your life inspire you to truthfully sing, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything," then the disappointments in your life will become blessings in disguise.

# prayer partner tree



the brothers of CBS

# prayer partner tree



**the sisters of CBS**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in Him.”

◦ LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24 ◦