




Bread of Life

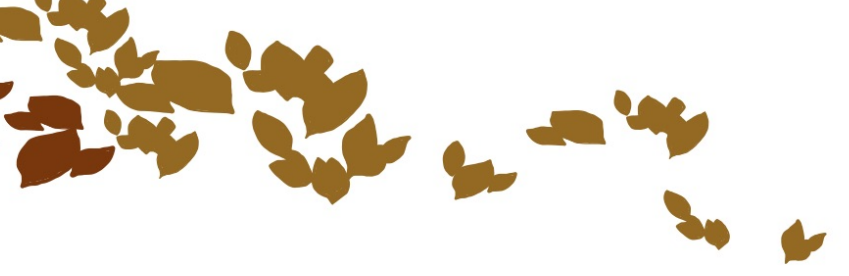
CBS FALL 2020

CBS Vision Verse



I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9



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

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Class of 2021 at virtual Sophomore Picnic



Cynthia Wan '23, Jason Chen '22, and Stephanie Deng '21 at an apple orchard after a hike



Dae Guang Chung Kim '21 and Stephanie Deng '21 chalking on Ho Plaza



Darren Chang '21, Kimberly Yap '21, and Daniel Woo '23 chalking on Ho Plaza

Victor Chen '22, Jasper Liang '22, and Attilus Leung '22 at virtual Sophomore Picnic



Editor Letter

Dear CBS,

As I hold the position of editor longer and longer, I've noticed that my ability to publish an "on-time" BoL has diminished drastically. I've come to realize that while I ask and remind others to hit the deadlines I give, I'm quite terrible at holding to my own personal deadlines when it comes to BoL. They seem to exist in one moment and then completely disappear in the next. Very hypocritical... I know. And something that I'll be working on for the future.

Anyway!

With our first full semester in a virtual setting, things may have been feeling strange, challenging, lonely, disorienting and a plethora of other emotions that aren't all positive. Even though there are probably many more months of virtual and distanced life ahead of us, I've felt really encouraged by the amount of determination this fellowship has put forth to help make both new and old friends feel like the semester wasn't completely lost. Everything from bible studies and the sophomore picnic over Zoom to simple prayer partner meet-ups has just shown that we have amazing strength through God's endless grace and support. I thank God for everything He has done through and for CBS in all the ministries this semester.

As we go into what is hopefully our last full semester online, I hope everyone really, deliberately focuses not only on seeking fun and community in all parts of the day but also true comfort in God and His plan for what lays ahead. This next semester, keep thinking that things will be exciting, social, lively, and many other emotions that are positive!

Thank you all for being patient with me through my procrastination and forgetfulness of deadlines. I hope that amongst all the craziness of our current situation, the many hopeful words compiled within this BoL can help you find at least a small sense of peace and encouragement. With another virtual semester ahead of us, I pray that everyone can find comfort in their long-lasting relationships with God and the people in this fellowship. If you're ever feeling down, bored, or in need of company, feel free to message me or come by my apartment (after your surveillance test, of course)!

The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121:7-8

As always, praying for everyone's continued health and safety. I'm looking forward to a great next semester with everyone!

With love in Christ,
Joy Thean '21

Coordinator Letter: Darren Chang

Dearest CBS,

When the COVID-19 pandemic started all the way back in March, I had no idea what the fall semester would be like. In fact, many questions remain unanswered all the way up until the beginning of the semester and some questions are still outstanding (not the least of which is how we should “do ministry” in this weird hybrid environment). Juxtaposed with our unanswered questions, though, are the riches of God’s mercy in this semester. We still have our Bible studies. Our large groups. Our prayer meetings. Our retreats (kind of). Informal(ish) fellowship. Discipling. Most importantly, we still have the Body and Jesus who guides us day by day. God is still faithful — in year 56 of CBS.

A few weeks ago, I stumbled upon this verse: “If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” (Acts 11:17 NRSV). What a relevant passage for serving and coordinating in this year! It’s already been so easy to make excuses for uninspired ministry tainted by the flesh and the overbearing weight of the pandemic. Maybe one day we just claim Zoom fatigue. Maybe on another day we’re just “not right” with the Spirit.

At the root of these, though, is simply wanting away from God — many times because I haven’t taken the time to be properly alone with the Lord and instead sought to lead and be with brothers and sisters with my sinful nature. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes in *Life Together*, “let him who cannot be alone beware of community.” Yet, whatever we do away from the Lord is nothing compared to God and His power (of course, we shouldn’t be purposefully disobeying God; as Paul might write, “by no means” should we seek to live in sin any longer). I was at once exposed and assured by this passage; exposed in the knowledge that I think so much of myself but assured in the knowledge that God has a calling for Chinese Bible Study in Ithaca on this campus in this year.

As we reach the halfway point of the year, I wanted to again bring attention to our vision verse (1 Cor 1:4-9). Although we emphasized it frequently at the beginning of the year, it’s easy to forget the importance of having a vision, for it is what the Lord has set on our hearts to focus on for the year. Specifically, I’ve been reflecting on the role of college fellowship in preparing us to be Christians throughout our lives. In 1 Corinthians 1, Paul writes:

6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This portion of the vision verse really gestures at protracted preparation in being a disciple (i.e. a follower) of Jesus Christ. College is perfect for this preparation. In this transitory time, your faith becomes your own, no longer controlled by parents or serving ones. You begin to enjoy the Lord by yourself. You grow a relationship with Christ. You seek and crave teaching from others. But none of this occurs without forethought, prayer, and a vision of your life in and with Christ. No one is suddenly a perfect or even a useful disciple of Christ. That is why we continue to consider and pray over our vision from 1 Corinthians 1 and why discipleship and the realization and use of our spiritual gifts are critical elements of what we seek for CBS this year.

In my conversations with alumni and other Christian friends who have graduated, Christian life after undergrad isn’t exactly easy. With the vision verse in mind, I’ve been thinking: are we preparing ourselves and our brothers and sisters to be soldiers for Christ in the world? Can we survive and struggle for the Lord when we aren’t enveloped by the love of the fellowship? Or are we complacent and purposefully see past sin? Do we think “it’s enough” just to have faith without going any further with Jesus?

So, consider this: since you’ve come to college, how has God sustained you? How have you sought preparedness for being a follower of Christ after college? If you don’t have answers to these questions, or you’re feeling particularly exposed by these questions, take winter break to think about how you can be a faithful disciple in this next semester and the rest of your time in college. It’ll come quicker than you know (I can barely believe I’m graduating soon).

Blessings,
Darren Chang ‘21

Coordinator Letter: Kevin Hu

Dearest CBS,

I write this letter to you all from a time and a place that I know all too well by now - alone in my room, on my computer, with a million other things to do. The setting probably sounds familiar to all of us, especially in this time of isolation.

This semester and this year have been tough on all of us in some way, and the story is no different for myself as a co-coordinator. The day-to-day grind has made it difficult for me to find time to reflect on what God has been teaching me this past year, let alone in all my years here. While I could write pages and pages that detail the lessons I have learned, here are two distinct yet related “themes” that resonate well, given the context of this year:

Turning Toward God

Times of isolation can often be accompanied by tough times, whether they be internal situations or events happening in the outside world. But God can work through these trials. We are called to count it all joy when we face these kinds of adverse situations, as they are a test of our faith in Him. It is said in Scripture, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (James 1:2-4 NIV). Moreover, we are able to rejoice in the fact that God is present in our lives; we are never truly alone, even when we may feel alone.

But how can we face these trials? How can we get through the difficult situations in our lives? Short answer: it is only through our union with Christ Jesus. Not long ago, I was thinking back to last spring semester’s Bible studies when CBS went over each of the “I am” statements in the Gospel of John. John 15:5 says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” This passage tells us that we--the branches--are connected with Jesus, the true vine. If we are removed from Him, we are unable to bear the fruits of the Spirit. We are unable to properly serve or honor Him in what we do. We are connected to Christ Jesus by our faith in Him; this is how we are able to do the difficult things that are placed in front of us.

Brothers and sisters, whatever struggles you are facing, whatever battles you are fighting, I encourage you to think about God’s presence in your lives. We’re all facing uncertain circumstances these days. However, it is only Jesus (to whom we are connected by faith) who will carry us through. We are not bearing the burden alone!

Meeting with Others

Establishing Christ-centered relationships with others is one way that we can grow in our faith in Him, and can even help us recognize God’s omnipresence in our lives. The relationships I have built with my prayer partners and with my older discipler have been instrumental in my spiritual growth. They have taught me the importance of being vulnerable, helped keep me accountable, and demonstrated to me the importance of a personal relationship with Christ. Overall, I have learned that building relationships with others is especially important during this time, as it is easy to get caught up in the isolation that is imposed on us. It is said in 1 Corinthians 12:12, “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” We are more than just individuals. We are each members of the body of Christ, and it is our calling to build one another up.

It has been super valuable for me to reflect on these relationships in the context of CBS’s vision for this year. Our calling into fellowship connects with this year’s vision of creating a disciple-making culture in CBS, in which we form intentional, God-centered relationships as well as teach each other and learn about Christ. As Christians, we are all called to be disciples of Christ, as well as to make disciples. No matter where we might be in our spiritual walk, let us take some time to reflect and pray on, and carry out this calling that we are given.

It has been quite the fulfilling experience serving CBS as co-coordinator this semester, and I’m looking forward to seeing what God has in store for next semester! Praying for each and every one of you!

In Christ,
Kevin Hu '21

Reach Letter

Dearest CBS,

This semester has been different and challenging for all of us. When we were prayerfully considering our vision verse for Reach ministry this year, we feel that with lots of in-person fellowship opportunities stripped away, what remains at the core of our faith is our personal relationships with Christ and how we build each other up into the image of Him no matter the circumstances. We came across 2 Peter 1:5-7:

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

In his letter, Peter exhorts us to press on in increasing these qualities, because they keep us “from being ineffective or unfruitful” (2 Peter 1:8). It is easy to be isolated from the world these days and to feel that our ministry, whether in community or personal, is not bearing fruit. However, these verses remind us that the effectiveness of our ministry is not determined by how many people we reach out to or how much time we spend “doing” ministry. While these are important means, the effectiveness of ministry springs from our inner, godly qualities.

Now is a great time to spend more alone time with the Lord and grow these qualities by meditating on His Word and seeking to understand what’s happening around us from His perspective. Is He training us to be more steadfast in our faith? Does He want to increase our knowledge of Him, which is knowledge that only comes from an intimate relationship (Genesis 4:1)?

We can also pour more into a few fellow Christians or other friends in one-on-one or small group settings. These qualities, sometimes hidden below the surface, often show up in closer relationships. Do we seek and think godly things, even when no one’s around? Do we strive to show brotherly affection and love, even if it needs more initiative and is sometimes inconvenient? God has put these questions on our hearts, and we hope they can bring conviction and help all of us grow closer to, not farther away from, Him during this time.

Reach ministry, as the name suggests, reaches people. That happens a lot under in-person circumstances — large group tabling, ACE, welcome picnic, felly dinner, workshops. We started the year not really knowing what everything would be like, but we strived to keep as many of these components as possible, not for the sake of “tradition,” but for creating a welcoming atmosphere that invites everyone to engage with what the ministry does: reaching out to people and showing God’s love for them. In addition, we hosted a few Bible studies and workshops throughout the semester, one on our vision verse, 2 Peter 1, and two on the topic of spiritual gifts.

We praise God for bringing together members of CBS to host online games and prayer meetings for new students during Orientation Week. We also praise Him for pointing us to new ways of reaching out and giving us opportunities to meet and know new students. It’s easy to feel like we may labor in vain, or be pessimistic and think, “no one will come to this anyway,” but God lovingly humbled us as the fellowship came together to have fun and worship. We should always do our best for God, but He is the one who moves people (especially to get on Zoom!).

God also blessed us with Mountain Streams, a team of people from Cru who were going to do evangelical work in East Asia this year. Their cheerful attitudes and depth of biblical understanding blessed us in our ministry, and they were instrumental in helping CBS develop a closer understanding of what it means to disciple each other in the body of Christ and make more disciples in the world.

Dearest CBS, as school wraps up and we enter into winter break, we encourage you all (including ourselves) to continue to embrace 2 Peter 1; don’t become lazy or complacent in the familiarity of home, but make every effort to pursue godly traits wholeheartedly, lifting each other up with love from Zoom to Zoom.

In Christ,
Emily Kam '22 and Lucy Lu '21

Praise Letter

Dear CBS,

During the summer, it became apparent to us that Fall 2020 would be a very different semester for Praise Team. Our typical worship sets in Goldwin Smith could no longer happen, our long-standing tradition of moving heavy equipment would have to be put on hold, and our song and praise would have to be broadcast over the internet. In spite of these changes, we had faith that God would empower us in this unfamiliar territory.

Though our medium of worship would be completely different this semester, our purpose would remain the same. Before the semester started, we had decided on a vision verse together, from Ephesians 5:18b-21:

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

In Ephesians 5, we are told to be filled with the Spirit, sing songs to the Lord, give thanks to the Father, and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. We hoped to do all of these within Praise Team, and also to encourage CBS to do the same. It would certainly look different in our virtual semester, but our vision and our heart would still be set on the same goals.

In light of our vision for Praise ministry to encourage fellow brothers and sisters in understanding better what it means to truly worship God both corporately as a body and personally, our first Praise Team meeting of the semester focused on discussing some fundamental questions: Why do we worship God? What does it mean to worship God? Why do we have Praise Team? These discussions pressed on our hearts the reminder that knowing and believing the gospel is central to our worship of God,

to worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Praise Team has put this into practice to encourage the fellowship in corporate worship by making our time of virtual worship more accessible during every large group, providing Scripture references and gospel-centered messages when introducing and explaining songs and themes chosen for worship sets. What a blessing it has been to be reminded in songs and psalms of the truth God speaks to us in His Word, to be encouraged by Praise Team members thoughtfully and prayerfully choosing sets and themes to introduce to the fellowship. To encourage personal worship, we held open Praise Team meetings to discuss what worship is, and how to analyze lyrics and messages of worship songs. We also held a virtual Night of Worship with prayer stations (Google Slides and Zoom rooms) -- praise God for growing faithful, servant hearts among our Bible Study and Prayer Group leaders in preparing prayer station prompts and in Praise Team members in faithfully and diligently serving on set despite the challenges of virtual worship sets.

After a challenging semester with surprises at every turn, it is our hope that CBS would continue to worship God personally and corporately, no matter what things look like in the near future. We have many things to look forward to in the coming semester, and after seeing how God provided for us this semester, we can be more confident than ever in praising and worshiping Him. It is our prayer that we would continue to persevere in love and good deeds, that we would continue to obey God and rely on Him for our strength, and to be a witness to His name in our daily walks. As we find peace and rest in this Christmas season, let us reflect on the Gospel and be grateful for the blessings that God pours out onto us. It has been a long year for all of us, and we look forward to the day that we will be able to physically meet once again and shout to the Lord in praise and worship.

Blessings,
Stephanie Deng '21 and Jasper Liang '22

Discipleship Letter

Dear CBS,

Discipleship ministry isn't the flashiest ministry. We aren't constantly putting on events and we aren't on set each week. Heck, we don't even have our own leadership external to other ministries. Yet, our focus on discipleship this year has meant that discipleship ministry sits at the spiritual core of CBS.

Vision for Discipleship

Although discipleship has been integral to the vision of CBS from the very beginning of the summer, finding a vision that would fold into while existing separately from the overall vision of the fellowship wasn't easy. But praise God: the verse we chose (Heb. 12:1-2) has been a guiding light as we've weathered growing disciples and building discipleship this semester. The verse speaks to "[running] with endurance the race that is set before us." Amidst the late nights putting together the workshop presentation and hours of prayer that we needed as we paired prayer partners, we've been able to run this race with God-given strength and endurance. Amen for that!

Our heart for this ministry is to create a disciple-making culture. We want to follow Christ and to make followers of Christ. We want everyone in this fellowship to be equipped and prepared to be a disciple and to disciple others. This might seem like a big ask — for everyone to be involved with Christ in this way — but it is the basis of our relationship with Him and with one another in the Body.

As we were thinking about our vision for discipleship, we found ourselves asking what discipleship is and what a culture of discipleship means for CBS. We felt the need to clarify what prayer partnership is — another CBS term we throw around so much that its original meaning starts to fade away. As a result, the ministry decided to have a discipleship workshop where we look for answers in Scripture.

Discipleship Workshop

While the Bible clearly defines who a disciple is (Matt. 4:19) and how we should be a disciple of Christ, it is not clear what discipleship means in the context of our relationships with other people. However, we've found examples throughout the New Testament. In the Gospels, Jesus intentionally and extensively disciplined the twelve. In his letters to Timothy, Paul wrote about how he disciplined his "true child in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2). In the book of Acts, the apostles exhorted early Christians (Acts 11:23) and taught them in the church (Acts 11:26). Scripture reveals to us that discipleship includes intentional, living relationships in three directions. Upward is between us and the Lord, whom we follow and obey; inward is between us and

other believers whom we teach and learn from; outward is between us and the world where we share the Gospel and make more disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). As we struggled with a clear definition of the word "discipleship," we realized that it actually covers the basis of our faith — a personal relationship with Christ — and calls for all that God provides, teaches, and commands us. It is a way of living.

Praise God that He has led us to this deep conviction and has given us the opportunity to share it with CBS. We were encouraged by the prompted discussions in breakout rooms during the discipleship workshop, and we pray that this is just the start of our conversations about discipleship.

Prayer Partnerships / Disciplers

Prayer partnership is one way of getting involved in intentionally discipling and being disciplined by others in CBS. More prayer partner pairings were made this year (check out the prayer partner tree!). We are thankful for upperclassmen stepping up to be older prayer partners, and for the eagerness of younger prayer partners to learn more about God through a sisterly or brotherly partnership. We also encourage all of us, especially upperclassmen, to be disciplined by an older member of the Christian community. This year, we were blessed to have people from the Mountain Streams Team disciple some of us as well.

Exhortation in Pandemic Times

The pandemic has caused us to be more physically isolated from one another and has placed limitations on in-person meetings. This has impacted our discipling relationships in different ways—perhaps we don't meet as often or are limited to seeing each other from the shoulders-up in a Zoom call. But God works through these challenges that we face; He reminds us that He is made strong in our weaknesses, and that we can place our full confidence in Him.

While we may be lonelier or feel wearier because of COVID, we should continue to meet (Heb. 10:25) and turn one another toward God, show His love to others, and grow together in our faith. Whether that looks like a Zoom call, a socially-distanced meetup, or times of fellowship with other brothers and sisters, let's continue to build one another up. The circumstances around us can change but the God we love and serve never changes. We pray that, through our discipleship relationships, we may continue to draw near to God and listen to the Spirit's leading.

In Christ,
Darren Chang '21, Emily Kam '22, Kevin Hu '21, Lucy Lu '21

Prayer Group Letters

Dear CBS,

This year's Monday Prayer group was a wonderful blessing to me and so encouraging to be a part of. Even though we couldn't see each other in person, we had meetings on zoom and explored a variety of topics throughout the semester. In the beginning, we looked at examples of prayer in the Bible and talked about how we should shape the way that we pray. We explored how Hannah's prayer in 1st Samuel and Mary's Magnificat in Luke both shared similar expressions of praise and joy towards the Lord's perfect providence, and how Solomon understood the seriousness of repentance in his prayer of dedication to the temple. We then looked at excerpts from devotionals, from Spurgeon's devotionals about the power of prayer to Chamber's reminder about the living hope that is Christ. We discussed as a prayer group whether or not we agreed with their points about the Word, and how we should live our lives differently after hearing their words of encouragement. Finally, we moved onto a time of pure sharing and praying. We shared the things that made us smile or worry in the past week, and any prayers that we had for ourselves, our communities, and the world.

It is truly by God's grace that I have been able to be with the Monday Prayer Group this semester. Even though we were restricted by zoom, every Monday night I was constantly met with

sincere prayer and blessed fellowship with my dear brothers and sisters of CBS. As the semester continued, we shared less of the niceties in our lives and more of our personal concerns and our joys. While I know that this year brought a lot of obstacles into our lives, it did not stop us from praying, comforting, and rejoicing with each other, and it did not stop the Lord from answering countless prayers and bringing peace into our hearts. Truly, truly, the Lord is faithful and abundant in His grace- even when we are not faithful to Him. I pray for each and every one of us, that we would continue to humble ourselves before the Heavenly throne, trusting our Father with our needs.

Psalm 37:3-6

Trust in the Lord and do good;

 dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord,

 and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;

 trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

-- Daniel Woo '23

Prayer Group Letters

Dear CBS,

A passage from the Bible I've been reminded of lately is Psalm 133:

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

While the Wednesday prayer group this semester was far from "living together", with members Zooming in from multiple states and countries, by the grace of God we were in unity. And because of our unity with Jesus Christ, we know our virtual gatherings were good and pleasing to God, like precious oil and refreshing dew.

But that is not to say that everything was perfect. Having led a prayer group last fall and participated in one virtually last spring after the COVID-19 lockdown, I thought I'd be prepared to lead another prayer group this semester. To my surprise, I encountered new challenges over Zoom and sometimes a lack of inspiration for what to do and share during meetings. Also, for everyone in the prayer group, the lack of one-on-one interactions we normally have in in-person meetings made the necessity and difficulty of reaching out to each other become more apparent.

So praise God that he doesn't waste a single trial, but always works for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28). This semester taught me the importance of spending quality time, well in advance, with God in preparation for a prayer meeting. Most of the times that I felt frustrated at not having a verse or plan I felt confident about sharing or following, I realized I had not patiently asked and waited on God in prayer. When I did, he was faithful to draw near (James 4:8) and provide, through readings and/or support from the servant team. The beauty is that he responds to our prayers not because of our own merit or eloquence, but because Christ has cleansed our hearts and opened for us the way to the Father (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Together, the Wednesday prayer group also learned the value of consistently building one another up and holding each other accountable, especially while physically distant, because Christ said, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20) This could look like rejoicing over each other's blessings, offering words of comfort or advice for each other's struggles, sharing verses with another person throughout the week, or checking in periodically on someone's prayer request. Just as iron sharpens iron, so the Word of God from another brother or sister in Christ sometimes speaks more clearly and applicably than it could from ourselves (Proverbs 27:17).

Aside from being built up by fellowship and accountability, it was always encouraging to simply see others who had made a commitment to come to prayer meetings, as well as those who couldn't always make it but added their prayer requests to our ongoing Google Doc. At prayer meetings, we were often uplifted by each other's' insights on scripture passages, reflections on application questions, and updates on prayer requests. It was especially joy-giving to see some prayer requests turn into praise reports, and humbling to see other requests needing more patience and perseverance.

If we could concisely phrase our main takeaway from this semester, I think it would be how essential fellowship is to prayer and prayer is to fellowship. As mentioned before, each believer brings the presence of Christ to another, and since Christ is life (John 11:25), it's no surprise that in fellowship God bestows "life forevermore". Hence, fellowship that stems from our identities in Christ refines and strengthens our own spiritual lives and private prayer. Likewise, genuine unity and brotherly love should involve caring about each other's needs and bearing each other's' burdens (Galatians 6:2), including praying for one another. And we know that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

I hope this letter encourages you, wherever and whenever you are, to not give up meeting with other believers and to pray continually (Hebrews 10:25, 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Both of these are disciplines, as well as delight. Let's ask the Holy Spirit within us to help us find ever more delight.

Grace and peace in Christ,
Hannah Si '21

Prayer Group Letters

Dear CBS,

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

Phil. 4:6-7 new International Version (NIV)

I'm really grateful that we made it through a very challenging semester for everyone. Though we were able to only meet up a few times in person as Stephanie and Lucy so graciously offered to host us in their apartment, together we experienced God's help, blessings and grace in the midst of this semester with its many unique trials. God encouraged us to come before him through the ups and downs of the semester.

Thank you all for coming week after week, through despite crazy political events, midterm exam season, and the switch to remote. This was my first time leading a prayer group, so I

hope you all forgive me for the many mistakes I made all semester. By focusing on the good things that happened in our week, I hope we all continued to realize the good that has been doing in each of our lives. Looking through our 15-page Google doc filled with God's blessing each week, it has really become clear to me how much God has worked in our lives this semester, as God responded graciously to our thanksgiving, prayer, and petition by giving us new strength, energy, and hope to keep moving on during the long weeks.

As you recharge over break and start a new semester, please continue to pray for yourselves, our fellowship, our university, and our world, knowing that we may not see God's will immediately, but that God listens and will answer them according to His will and His amazing plans. God is with us even in the valley of the shadow of death, when so much seems lost and so much is broken. He is our Savior, our Father, and our God, so have confidence in His love for you.

Love,
Felix Hohne '23

Bible Study Letters

Annyeong haseyo CBS ^u^,

This was our first time leading Bible study and what a blessing it was! As you know, this semester we all faced a ~plethora~ of challenges, especially adapting to our new virtual environment. Nonetheless, our Bible study had many fruitful conversations over our Friday Zoom calls, meeting new friends and reading deeper into Scripture together. Each Bible study was even spiced up with a fun ice breaker... would you rather have fingers for legs or legs for fingers? Would you rather find your missing sock or \$5?? All very important questions that transitioned us into very important discussions.

This semester we wanted our group to focus on the basics of the Bible while reading through Scripture. What is the Bible? Why do we read it? How can we best apply it in our lives? These questions seem trivial on the surface, but beginning on day one of Bible study, we wanted to look closer at our answers to those prompts. We pray that this discussion was effective in shifting our group's perspective on what the purpose of the Bible is and why we hold Bible studies as a fellowship. What our group concluded is that the Bible is the truth, the Bible offers guidance, the Bible solidifies who we are as Christians, and the Bible is God's way of communicating to us. And it is the Bible that gives us the history of Jonah and Malachi, the two minor prophets whose stories we studied together this semester.

We read about how Jonah did not immediately follow God's orders to go to Nineveh to save the Ninevites, but instead fled to Tarshish to escape the Lord. But as Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, he says a prayer and asks for forgiveness from the Lord. Jonah then goes to Nineveh and gives them the proclamation and turns the Ninevites from their evil ways. God saw what they did, relented, and did not bring them the destruction that He had threatened. One of the key truths that we learned was that Jonah's reluctancy reminds us of our hesitation to follow God's will every day. God has a will for each and every one of us and we should obey this calling when we hear it. We should not flee from the Lord for He has a purpose for us. We should submit ourselves to the Lord and follow His commands. God will bring us bountiful blessings and joy for what we have done according to His will.

It was truly encouraging that our Bible study group was so eager to ask tough questions, respond in ways that added to our understanding of historical context, and spark connections between Biblical events and our current lives. We marveled at God's consistency over the centuries-- how He is willing to use those with hardened hearts (@Jonah) to follow through with His promises and demonstrate His infinite mercies. May we soften our hearts so that we hear His calls promptly.

Because it was difficult for most of us to feel socially connected to others this semester, we left a chunk of time after our discussion for one-on-one prayer, which reminded us that our unity in Christ can withstand physical separation. Combined with our Bible study, this prayer time is what encouraged us to apply lessons from Scripture into our lives and support fellow brothers and sisters in doing so.

We hope that everyone who participated in our Bible study was able to learn a lot from the Word and from the thought-provoking discussions we've had. We pray that our Bible study group found that our time reading Scripture together was not only enlightening, but encouraging so that they may live as willing servants of the Lord. We pray that our Bible study members keep asking questions and seeking answers and to continue to have that hunger to learn more.

In Christ,
Kimberly Yap '21 and Meili Bowden '23

Bible Study Letters

Hi CBS,

I know everybody is probably sick of hearing this again and again, but it truly is unfortunate that we were not able to meet in person. I would have liked to be able to meet up with everyone, or perhaps have that fun hangout event that I keep talking about, even if it hasn't happened (yet). Hopefully, our online Bible studies were still able to be interpersonal, and we were still able to bond and connect with each other despite the limitations -- At the very least, I know I enjoyed our time together. And being online has some perks as well -- I appreciate all the fun icebreaker responses on our google docs, as well as all the comments we left on it.

Jonah is my favorite book in the Bible. It's a short, self-contained story that has clear and easy to understand messages both in its individual chapters and as a whole, and yet every time I read it I discover something new within its pages. And this is true for this semester's Bible study as well. We've learned that God is sovereign in all things -- He remains powerful in our weaknesses, where His will will be done regardless of our rebellion; and he has authority in His judgement, where He will pardon and judge as He deems as wise. This is an especially important reminder nowadays, where uncertainty looms and injustice runs rampant --- we know that God is in control, and He will judge according to His Wisdom, which is so much greater than our understanding.

As for Malachi, I will admit that it is not a book I am as familiar with (especially compared to Jonah), and it is perhaps not the easiest to read. But if we are to only take away one thing from our reading of the book, it's the idea of pursuing holiness and sacrificing the best to God as a response for His love for us. We often talk about this idea of a "God centered life", especially as a part of the gospel. Malachi reminds us that these are not just empty words or just keeping up appearances. We truly have to put God first above all else.

Our time together in studying the Bible has been very fun -- I hope that everybody learned as much as I did. And I pray that these truths would be an encouragement to everyone in their walks with God. We know that Salvation comes from the Lord -- How will we respond to that knowledge?

-- Attilus Leung '22

Bible Study Letters

To my dear brothers and sisters,

What a blessing it has been to have had the opportunity to study His Word with all of you this semester! It has been so encouraging to get to know all of you and see you all grow in your faith and knowledge of Him through studying His Word. Thank you all for your enthusiasm, boldness, and bravery in sharing your thoughts and ideas each week and allowing God to work in your hearts and speak His truth through you to encourage those around you. It has been so wonderful leading this fantastic group this semester—I will be honest, at the beginning of the semester I was kind of nervous to lead a Bible study by myself for the first time, but by the grace of God and because of your positive attitude and open hearts, leading the group felt almost effortless on my end!

Although we were not able to meet in person this semester, God has been good in allowing us to still be able to connect with each other online! Of course this was not an ideal situation, but I am thankful that God has still given us this wonderful community with so many encouraging brothers and sisters that when we were discussing and praying together, sometimes I would almost forget that many of us were miles away from each other, because it almost felt like we were in the same room, and that really just comes to show how the Holy Spirit really transcends space and time and whatever circumstances we may be facing in the world right now to bring us together united as one body in Him.

This semester in diving into Jonah and Malachi we have had so much fruitful discussion and have learned about trusting and obeying the Lord, God's provision and faithfulness, His good plans for us, and what it means to honor Him as God of the universe and Lord of our lives. These are not easy books to read and understand and maybe immediately be able to find meaning from, but as I hope you have been able to see from our studies this semester, there is so much meaning and so much to learn in every part of the Bible. Sometimes in order to grow even more in our faith we need to dig into the difficult passages in the Bible, for as 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly

equipped for every good work." Every word in Scripture is good, and I really encourage you to not shy away from these difficult passages, but to really study them (commentaries are great at providing some guidance on confusing passages!) and see what God might be trying to teach you through them!

As we bring this semester to a close and as we head into winter break, although we will no longer have regular Bible study sessions during this period of time, I encourage you all to still dive deep into His Word regularly, because it is so good, always true, and so vital in order to maintain and grow in our relationship with God. Grab a friend and go through a book of the Bible together and keep each other accountable, and/or find a Bible reading plan (if you aren't using one already) to give you something to read every day. I can't promise that it will always be easy and that you will always be in the mood to get into His Word every day, but I can promise you that God will use His Word to bless you in ways you would have never imagined before, and that you will grow so much stronger in your faith and it is so worth it!

I love you all and will be continuing to keep you in my prayers as we bring this semester to a close, that He will continue to draw you closer to Him and that even when challenges arise, that you will cling to Him because He loves you and cares for you. Feel free to reach out to me anytime with any prayer requests and/or if you would like to talk about anything. Keep being awesome friends and I will see you next semester!

In Him with much love,
Jackie Peng '21

Bible Study Letters

Dear brothers and sisters,

It has been such a blessing to read the Word of God with everyone and walk together towards our Lord Jesus! This semester has been quite unique and unforgettable. There were numerous challenges each one of us faced, but our God is unfaltering. By His grace and blessings, we were able to endure and have a fruitful semester together. Praise the Lord for His Word in the books of the minor prophets! I especially appreciated the reminder to reflect on the state of my heart. Do I obey half-heartedly? Or have I surrendered all to our God? Am I willing to repent and turn back to the Lord? Glory to Him who returns to us when we return to Him!

Every Bible study discussion was so good and encouraging. Although I had some worries about dealing with awkward silences (I am not great at leading conversations), each member of our group had so many insightful contributions. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to serve the fellowship and learn more about what it means to lead in Christ. Shout out to Alex for co-leading with me this semester and serving together. Both of us are not perfect, but together, we learned that God is gracious and He is more than enough to cover for our shortcomings.

I pray that the Lord will continue to watch over us this winter break and into the next semester. He is our sure supply, our faithful refuge, and our good, good Father. The future will bring more uncertainty and challenges, but with our God, we have nothing to fear.

In Christ,
Alyssa Gao '22

Dear CBS,

This has been a challenging semester and time for many of us, in many different ways. Over the course of the year, I have faced some new and unexpected trials of my own that have tested my faith and resolve. If you were to ask me a year ago if I could see myself leading a bible study, I probably would have said no. Yet here we are.

Admittedly, there was a lot of reluctance in taking on this role, but throughout the course of the semester I have learned so much about how God has been able to work through myself and all of you, even if we're not completely aware of it sometimes. As Christians, we can face each day with confidence, living in the assurance of God and not of our own abilities. I may not be the best orator or interpreter of God's word on any given week, I'll be the first to admit. But I'm praying and hoping every week that we can all work together, not for ourselves but so that Jesus Christ can live his life through us for His Kingdom.

I'd also like to thank Alyssa for leading this new and exciting experience with me as well as all of you that take the time to share and grow with us through a difficult time in our lives. I look forward to seeing you all soon, maybe in person for the first time in forever. Like actually.

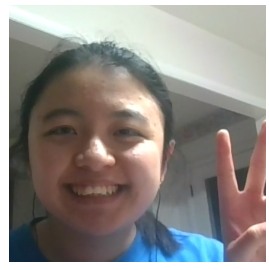
-- Alex Xu '22

Fall '20 Newcomers

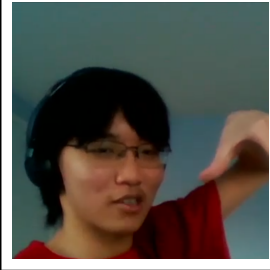
Adri Kooms



Alice Hu



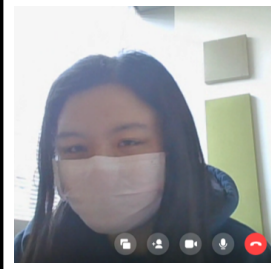
Ambrose Yang



Bailey Gong



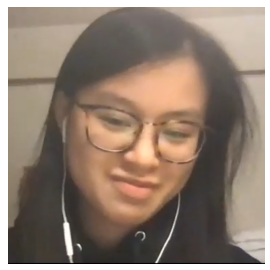
Bella Hu



Cynthia Wan



Elisabeth Kam



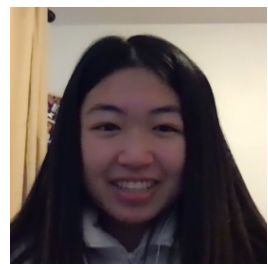
Elton Zhong



Jaylen Keith



Judy Ng



Karen Ma



Olivia Bragg



Nicole Thean



Adri and I scheduled to meet on Zoom rather than in person, which is how we have been meeting this semester, because both of us are pretty busy around Thanksgiving time. It was really refreshing and fun to see her face even virtually. Adri is such a bright and sweet person that you just want to be around her all day. She brings you so much delight and joy. Her faith in the Lord always encourages me to reflect on God's redeeming love and my relationship with Him. With Adri eating a bag of Cheetos and me typing loudly (as usual) on my keyboard, the interview begins, and I can't wait to learn more about her!

Word Associations

Cornell: waterfalls/students
CBS: Lucy (because she's the first person I met from CBS)
Class: boring
Zoom: sick of it (no I'm just kidding)
Worship: woo my favorite
Bubble Tea: (:ooo oh my gosh is there even a word to describe how good bubble tea is? ...thinking...) I don't know, China, maybe?

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

Cornell: My first impression was that it's beautiful! I love the campus. There are a lot of hills — that was a thing. People seem nice here, like, they wanna talk to me.

CBS: This is a really fun group of people that really love each other and wanna know each other. The way you guys talk about Jesus was really refreshing and fun to hear. I was impressed with your ministry.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I really thought there were gonna be one or two waterfalls but they are literally everywhere and I love waterfalls.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

I would open a circus around my elephant and I would teach it to do tricks and have my own show. That would be really fun.

4. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?

(First reaction: I would save it because it shouldn't be in the freezer!) I would probably first run away because I would be scared. Then I would probably call animal control and say why there would be a penguin in Ithaca. Then I would befriend it and give it a name. [Lucy: what would you call him/her?] [Adri: First thing that came to mind was feet because I liked Happy Feet.]

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

There's a comedian called John Mulaney and basically anything he says is really funny and I quote him all the time. (But I'm afraid people might not get this...) For example, "Look at that high-waisted man he's got feminine hips!"

Right now I think my favorite worship song is probably The Longing by All Sons and Daughters. It's just really an awesome song. It talks about this longing that we have to be satisfied and the only thing that satisfies us deeply is to know Jesus and be known by Him!

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

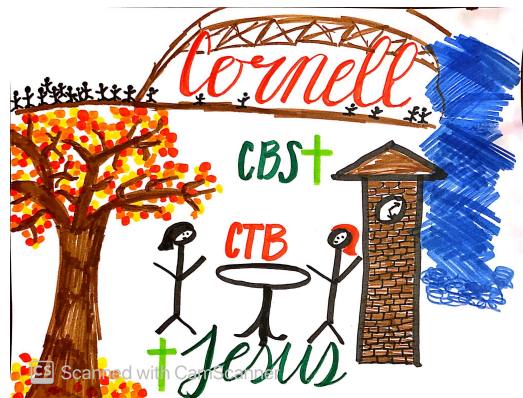
I hope to be in full-time missions work, probably with Cru. I don't know what I'd want to accomplish specifically but I know I wanna be able to look back and see the ways that the Lord has used me to expand His Kingdom. I'd want to see people I left behind stay faithful and multiply their faith. I'd like to grow closer to the Lord and help other people grow closer to the Lord. I also want to learn how to juggle!

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

(Goodness, that's hard! because there are benefits to both) but I'm gonna say the future because it'll be really interesting to see how technology advances and that'd be really cool like flying cars and time travel [something related to Meet the Robinsons, which is out of Lucy's knowledge base...]

The interview finished in the blink of an eye, but we had so much fun and laughter. It is great to learn more about Adri, and like I said, I am once again encouraged by how committed she is to missions ministry and how obedient she is to God's calling for her. What a blessing to have her around us this year! Pray that she will have a safe trip, and a restful and peaceful winter and Christmas season at home. I can't wait to see her again next semester!

-- Lucy Lu '21





hometown: Ithaca, NY || major: Biological Sciences '24

I had to reschedule our date at the last second, but Alice was gracious enough to be interviewed later in the day. Logging onto zoom for our scheduled interview, I was instantly met with Alice's bright and warm smile! And thus began her short but sweet interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: Home
 CBS: Family
 Class: Stressful
 Zoom: Boring (I get distracted very easily)
 Worship: Something I should commit more to!
 Bubble Tea: Eh - Overrated!

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

It's a lot harder than I thought, and it's a lot busier. A lot of people say that it's a fake ivy, but I don't think that it's a fake ivy after doing all the work!

Welcoming! You guys are welcoming, and you guys are a pretty fun and weird group of people. Also I see all the food on messenger - you guys are pretty good cooks too!

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Nothing so far! I really haven't had an in-person experience at Cornell, but nothing yet! But I probably will be something yet at some point! I go on campus sometimes to study, but one thing that did surprise me was their facilities! They're really nice! (Especially Mann!)

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

Keep it! Yeah, like raising it - I would buy a plot of land for it to roam around on, and then I could tell everyone that I own an elephant!

4. If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

That's like a harder question! I don't know.. Hmm... I don't want to be a historical figure or anything! That's so boring!... I would be God! God has a lot of power and control! And it would be so cool to see the whole world from up there.

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Research is what you do when you don't know what you're doing!

I like them all! They're all pretty good, all worship songs are pretty!

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Oh, that's interesting! Hmm... hmm... I don't know! Right now, my hope is to graduate, so make it to graduation! I think to also make more friends that are not from Ithaca!

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I would say to be reborn in the Renaissance period! I want to see the culture - I've never been to Europe before, so I want to see how Europe came to be so culturally innovative!

I'm very blessed to have interviewed Alice and learn more about her! Even though we weren't able to meet up in person, I could sense her kind heart and her bubbly personality right away. I have no doubt that her warm personality will brighten up the campus (it certainly brightened my day!), and I pray that she would continue to seek the Lord in all of her ways!

-- Daniel Woo '23



I feel like Cornell is very research based, so anything that you do now will affect what happens in the future.





hometown: Potomac, MD || major: ECE '24

Only in a time like this would I have the pleasure of chatting with someone living in Maryland. It was truly remarkable to see how well Ambrose has done at Cornell and how he has been involved in CBS, even when he is doing everything from home. I was really looking forward to getting to know Ambrose more through our interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: Remote
CBS: Community
Class: Schoolwork
Zoom: Every day
Worship: Praise
Bubble Tea: Tasty

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

Of Cornell: It's hard for me to say since I'm not on campus, but I feel like there's a lot of people, and I haven't gotten around to meeting them yet. Professors are good -- they are really passionate about what they teach, and are open to helping students.

Of CBS: You guys are, like, really close. It's more than just fellowship -- you guys seem to do life together. It would be good to know you guys better.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Nothing too surprising, partly because I'm not even on campus. Classes seem normal, like what I thought assignments and lectures would be like. One thing is that it seems like homework is graded more strictly now, and it feels like exams count for a lot. Also the semester just seems shorter, since high school would end the first semester in late January.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

I would keep it in my backyard. Maybe I would just figure out how to treat it like a normal pet, and feed it and stuff.

4. If you could get rid of one US state, which would you choose and why?

Maybe some state in the midwest -- it seems like all of them

are kind of the same, so you could just combine them into one. Or maybe Delaware; you could just connect it with Maryland.

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

There was this CS professor at CMU who was dying of cancer, and in his last lecture, he said that "people are more important than things". Our 8th grade CS teacher told us about him. For a Bible verse, right now it's Isaiah 40:28-31 -- the one about soaring on wings of eagles. One worship song that's special to me -- it's in Chinese -- is "Your Love" 【你的爱】.

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

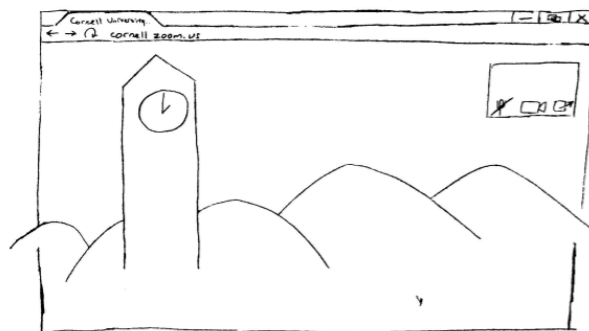
Besides the usual "getting a degree" and "getting good grades", I guess building relationships, and in general having a positive impact on other people. I feel like I just want to be the person who you would trust enough to call up at 3 in the morning when you really needed help.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

Probably the future. I can kind of know about the past, but no one can really tell you about the future. Probably not too far into the future, though -- not more than 100 years or so.

Talking to Ambrose made me realize just how much I miss talking to new faces in person. It was refreshing to hear about his experiences and his background, and I am super eager to meet him in person at some point should he come to campus in the near future. I was encouraged to see his maturity in character and in spirit, and look forward to seeing how God will grow him in his time at Cornell and in CBS.

-- Jasper Liang '22



Cornell Zoom First Semester

The end of online classes and the start of the semi-final study period did not stop us from logging onto zoom (once again) to have a short but wonderful interview. On a breezy Sunday afternoon, we talked about our research endeavors, as well as our initial thoughts about staying in Ithaca for online classes, before diving into the interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: Red
 CBS: Chinese Bible Study [then asked if it counts]
 Class: Food Science
 Zoom: Blue
 Worship: Jesus
 Bubble Tea: Boba

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

It's really nice! Like, I really like the campus, it's really pretty! It's funny though, I came from a state school before this, and it's fun to compare the types of students and types of people. For state school, people don't try that hard, people are chill; but here, people are try-hard! But that's good, because that means that people here take their education seriously.

I liked how it was like a family! Like how everyone was tight knit, and how everyone knew everybody. And I also liked how during the bible studies, everyone shares applications and prayer requests and prayer with each other. That was really cool.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Umm I don't know if I was surprised by anything... *after thinking for a bit* yeah, I really can't think about anything off the top of my head that I was surprised by!

[After sharing many questions with him and asking him to answer two: "What if I give you an answer to something and you have to guess the question that I answered?" *I laughed and he proceeded to give me two answers]

3. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?

I would thaw it out, clean it and cook it!

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

I would be an orphanage baker because you get to make bread to feed the orphans and you also teach them life skills. *I asked him to explain this one in more depth:* So I think it would be cool if you could be a baker, but then you also had an orphanage and you take them in and feed them and you teach them how to bake, so that when they

grow up they have a skill that they can use. Kind of like an apprenticeship! At first I didn't think of an orphanage, but someone brought it up to me that that would be child labor, so to have an orphanage and bypass child labor laws, that would be cool!

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

One quote that I really like is: for every uphill, there is a glorious downhill. My friend's dad said that.

One that we've been singing in church recently, but I don't know what it's called, so I guess that's not really helpful. I think it goes like "you're the way, you're the truth... you're my hope, my prince of peace..." *proceeds to text Jasper about it* It's called Habitation by Janus Hues!

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

Well, I hope to graduate, that's one! I hope to ... see somebody become a Christian, that would be really cool too... and I also hope to get to an elementary broken conversation level of speaking in Mandarin.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I would rather be reborn in the past, that would be cool! I think being reborn in the past and being a farmer would be cool! Like you grow your own food and survive. The simple life.

I'm still unsure whether Bailey meant to answer the elephant question or the penguin question, but either way I'm pretty impressed / shocked / uneasy by his determination to make an exotic animal dish happen! It was such a blessing to learn more about Bailey, and I pray that he will continue to seek the Lord in all things, especially in all the steep uphill and glorious downhill of his life!

-- Daniel Woo '23



Cornell!



I scheduled a call with Bella at 1pm. She was very understanding even though I woke up at 12:55 and called 10 minutes late. I'm sure that her kind and accommodating attitude will bring her far in life.

Word Associations

Cornell: Home
CBS: Family
Class: stress
Zoom: online
Worship: God
Bubble Tea: yummy

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

It's big, I did not expect people to be so much more sophisticated and intelligent than I was.

I thought CBS was very closely connected, which is good.

I thought it's somewhere where I could find some new friends and stuff.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

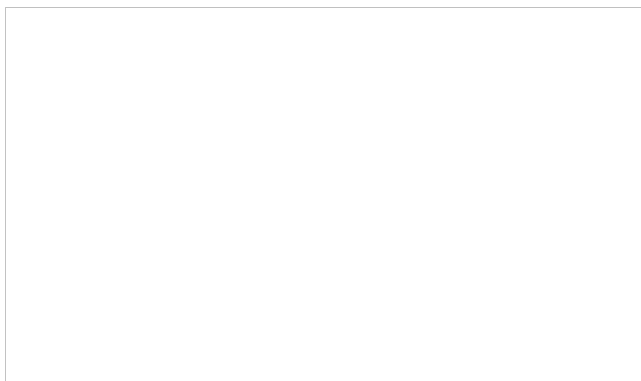
The amount of studying before lectures.

3. If you could get rid of one US state, which would you choose and why?

Wyoming, because I don't know anyone from there.

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

Designing buildings. Probably houses



hometown: Ithaca, NY || major: Info Sci '24

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Teach me and I remember, Involve and I learn - Benjamin Franklin

I don't have one I think they're all really good

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

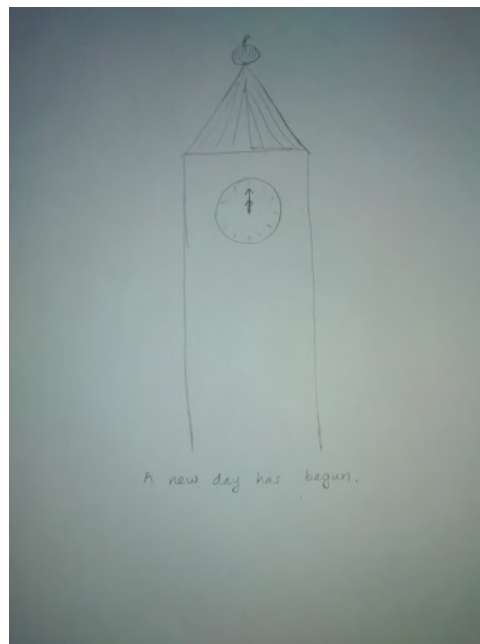
Get a degree, get some experience in info sci.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I would rather be reborn in the future because I want to see what the technology is like in the future, and I want to get first-hand experience.

It's good to know that CBS will continue to have Ithaca natives to tell people how cold it gets and show other students how to get around town. Good luck with the rest of your semester Bella!

-- David Tse '21



I can't help but smile when Cynthia pops up on my Zoom screen with her sweet smile and greeting. We chat briefly about how semifinals went for her and how adjusting to being back home has been (she just moved to Buffalo, NY this year!). These are certainly wild and challenging times we're living in, to say the least, but Cynthia's sweet spirit and persistence is very encouraging to me as she shares about life happenings. After catching up and chatting a little bit, we dive into the interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: Hills

CBS: Zoom

Class: Stressful

Zoom: Lecture

Worship: Hymns or songs

Bubble Tea: Matcha – I had a matcha bubble tea the other day, it was very good.

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

There's a lot of nature, it's a very big campus. I'd say everyone is very nice and very smart.

Of CBS - Ooh everyone was very friendly and open and willing to reach out. I feel like they're very intentional about connecting with new people.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

thinking I guess like the architecture - historical architecture. Also so many facilities, like a hotel. I did not expect that.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

Is it animal cruelty if you ride it? **laughs** I mean, I guess you could use it like a source of entertainment. You could have people pay you to see your elephant. Or you could use it for transportation, if that's not considered animal cruelty.

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

That's a good question... **thinking** I think I would still be in school. I kind of like going to school because I like having the structure. I would go to Hawaii and go to Japan, but like, I don't like traveling that much - for a little while is fine. I guess like, travel a bit and

still go to school. I still would become a doctor, I think. I don't see myself doing anything else.

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Favorite quote/saying - Ooh I'm not a big quote person, but one quote that I use to joke about is "set your expectations low and you'll never be disappointed" but that's so negative **laughs** I guess you can just put that in. Do people actually read this? **laughs**

Favorite worship song - "My Lighthouse" by Rend Collective

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

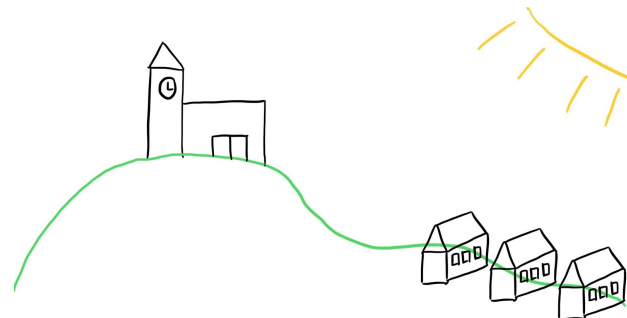
I want to try food from every place on campus because like every where's closed this year.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I would say the future so I don't know what era. I guess I just want to know what happens in the world. I'd like to see what futuristic technology is, I'm curious about that.

I first met Cynthia during a FICCC hike at Buttermilk Falls this semester and her enthusiasm in engaging in our conversations and her sense of humor greatly lifted up my spirits. Ever since, I've been getting to know Cynthia more and it has been a true joy and blessing. She brings so much light and laughter into our lives and I'm so grateful God brought her to Cornell despite the extreme hilliness here. Praying that she may continue to seek and find her strength and true rest in God, that God continually fills her with peace and trust in Him through all circumstances.

-- Stephanie Deng '21



"The only parts of campus that I really know: West Campus and the slope"



hometown: Bedminster, NJ || major: CS '24

*Why did I call Beth on Zoom? I don't know. I contacted her through Facebook Messenger, and it has a perfectly functional video chatting service. Why didn't I just ring her up there? Instead, I forced her to click on a link and open up an external application. Haven't I been complaining about constantly being on Zoom all semester? Maybe it was force of habit. Maybe Zoom feels more familiar? Have I become addicted to Zoom? *Elisabeth Kam is connecting to audio ...**

Word Associations

Cornell: Big school
CBS: Family
Class: Busy
Zoom: Tiring
Worship: Constant
Bubble Tea: Lychee jelly

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

Of Cornell: I've been here many times, so it wouldn't say it felt that odd. I guess I was thinking that this is my school now -- somewhere I belong now.

Of CBS: I felt pretty comfortable in CBS right away, even though I didn't know anyone, and most people seemed to be older than me.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It was bigger than I thought -- it takes me way longer to walk to places than I expected. It's like 15 minutes to Malott, or if I have to go to CTown, it's like 20 minutes. Now I'm used to walking, but before I was like, this takes such a long time. I thought I was a fast walker.

3. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?

I would jump back and start, but I wouldn't scream. First, I'd see if it's actually alive, and then I'd probably try and figure out where it came from. I'd avoid touching it -- birds probably carry some sort of germs.

4. If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

Key from SHINee, because he's like, really confident, and I'd like to see what it's like to be that confident.

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Well, it changes all the time, but I have two right now that have been on my mind a lot. They're both from *Pride and Prejudice* by

Jane Austen: "Nothing is more deceitful than the appearance of humility" and "My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me." Kinda wish the latter one was true for me, but it's not.

My favorite worship song is "The Steadfast Love of the Lord". There's no specific reason -- it was always my favorite one since I was little.

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

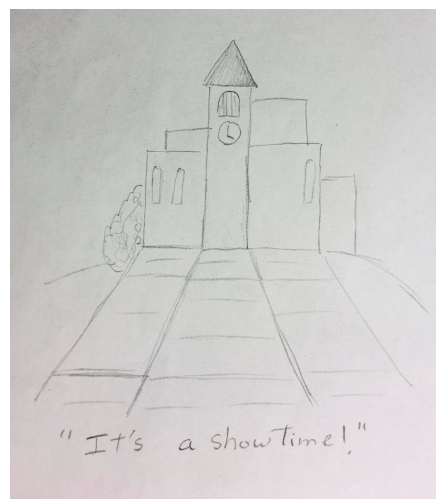
I'm hoping to really strengthen my relationship with God, and to individually think about what it means to be a Christian, as opposed to it just being my family's faith. I also want to figure out if I'm doing something I really want to do in life, or if I'm just forcing myself to do something because it's practical or because my mom told me to do it.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

Past -- there are a lot of eras in history that I'm very interested in. I kind of want to go back to pioneer times, with the covered wagons. I also really like the Roaring Twenties, because of the fashion -- but I'd probably leave before the depression comes.

This is the third Kam that I've had the pleasure of chatting with in my time at Cornell -- although it's not quite the same when it is a virtual conversation. Despite the marked similarities between them, getting to know Beth was certainly a unique and enjoyable experience. I look forward to seeing how God uses Beth at Cornell and in CBS, and I certainly look forward to seeing just how different Beth really is from her sisters.

-- Jasper Liang '22





It's very interesting having to do interviews during the middle of the night (because of time zones), but somehow, Elton and I made it work. We met up, talked a bit about staying in Ithaca, and jumped right to it.

Word Associations

Cornell: Huge
CBS: Fellowship
Class: Difficult
Zoom: Draining
Worship: First word is... God
Bubble Tea: Mango... I associated flavor so... mango.
 Mango green tea or black tea

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

Cornell, it's... ooo... The environment is more stimulating than what I'm used to because everyone wants to work hard, so it's forcing me to do more which is good.

For CBS, it reminds me of epic movement (under CRU) in undergrad... everyone's friendly and supporting one another so the familiarity was very good, it's very good that I found a fellowship that hits home.

[Is it nice that everyone is working hard?]

Yeah, it pushes me to work harder and it's eye opening and it's very tough but nice. Makes me go beyond my limit and not too much.

[What is this epic movement?]

One of the divisions in CRU -> they didn't have an Asian fellowship in undergrad for Asian American Ministries

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Honestly, it's how much better it looks in person. Last time I came here was when I was touring Colleges for undergrad (4-5 years ago) and I don't remember it being this great. I never thought I would enjoy what I see on campus because it's not what I'm used to, but now I think it's neat --- just enjoying the views and the settings.

3. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?

First of all --- if I'm living with someone, ask them "why is there a penguin in the freezer." I dunno, call animal services --- I don't know what penguin this is, what zoo did it escape from. I don't know who's taking penguins out of the environment and putting them where they're not supposed to be *[Is that not*

suspicious?] Well it's either me or whoever I'm living with... so... Well I don't see myself keeping a penguin because... they stink. Their diet is all fish, they're loud and aggressive.

4. If you could get rid of one US state, which would you choose and why?

Hooooo... one... Rhode Island. It could just merge with any of the bordering states. It's so tiny. There's no reason for it to exist. It's just a joke. You're entering Rhode island, you're leaving Rhode Island. (Sorry to anyone in CBS who lives in Rhode Island).

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

Five yearrrsss... well, hopefully I'm done starting a career and kind of stable in some position... probably some kind of design related job, it's something I'm interested in. Maybe getting married... I think it's reasonable. Hopefully living in a warm state --- selections right now is mainly Texas. *[Why Texas specifically?]* I dunno, it's on my list of goals for places to be in because the market was good for people with my degree. Also, no income tax for now. Also having lived in New York all my life, Texas is substantially cheaper. Whatever I make I keep, so I can use it to take care of my family.

Talking to Elton was really fun, even though to be honest I might not be very awake. A really great sense of humor, and just a real joy to talk to. Hoping to eventually meet in person and not just weirdly on a screen!

-- Attilus Leung '22



I have no clue



For both of us, it was our first time in the across-the-street CTB. Jaylen and I were both grateful to escape the rain (not snow!) and for the opportunity to meet in person.

Word Associations

Cornell: Cows
CBS: God
Class: Homework
Zoom: Class
Worship: Service
Bubble Tea: UTea

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

Cornell: It's a very big place with lots of different people. It's a very beautiful campus.

CBS: That everyone is very friendly and welcoming, and I'm happy to have new people there.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

There are a lot of people who are from foreign locations.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

I would keep it in front of my house as an attack dog. I'd train it as an "attack elephant" and have it protect my house.

4. If you could get rid of one US state, which would you choose and why?

I would choose California, just as an experiment to see if its economy could survive on its own as its own country.

hometown: Buffalo, NY || major: ORIE

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Favorite quote or saying: Psalm 1

Favorite worship song: Take me to the King

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

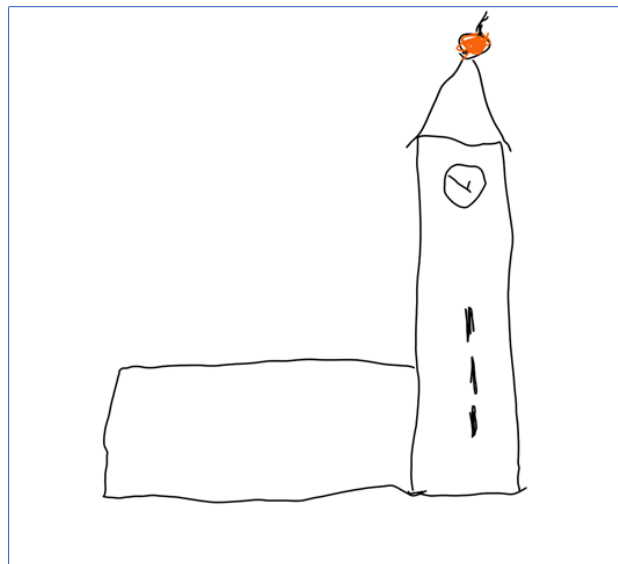
By graduation, I hope to have a defined plan for my life. I would also like to establish and keep long-lasting friendships.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I would say about 50 years into the future.

I think the food was worth the wait. But the interview was definitely worth the time. Jaylen and I were able to embrace a long mid-semester break, take some time off of our classes, and get to know each other better. I pray that God blesses Jaylen with further opportunities for fellowship as well as strength to power through his fifth and final year at Cornell.

-- Kevin Hu '21



Only a Cornellian could get a pumpkin up there.



hometown: San Jose, CA || major: CS '23

This was another midnight interview for me. Apparently, both of us scheduled this in EST, despite none of us using EST. This led to a whole conversation about staying up late, but I guess we can just fast forward to the interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: Tall [How? Where?] I was thinking clock tower, but then I thought tall, and then clocktower

CBS: Family

Class: I was thinking like, fine dining? Because classy?

Zoom: Video

Worship: Hands? You know like you put your hands up?

Bubble Tea: Good

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

First impressions of Cornell... I thought it was very pretty. It's very university like, which is cool.

Of CBS, I thought it was very open. I remember I was in LG for the first time, I didn't know there was a part you could introduce yourself and people would type in the chat, that was pretty nice.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I didn't realize how hard Cornell would be. I'm also surprised how open everyone is -- I'm surprised you can just hit someone up and just get a meal or something.

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

I would probably do something to do with design -- interior design, or graphic design, which I seem to enjoy more than just code, but... that's not where the moneys at (I mean, you could always do like UI/UX or design for tech) I like making fliers and stuff though... more so than UI/UX

4. If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

I mean, this is very heavily biased because It's the only thing I'm watching recently, but Gordan Ramsey? Because he's a

really good chef, and I want to see what that's like, and he owns all these restaurants, and I want to see what that's like as well. Also I get to yell at people and that sounds really fun for a day. [Are you good at cooking?]

No...

[That's why you want to see what that's like]

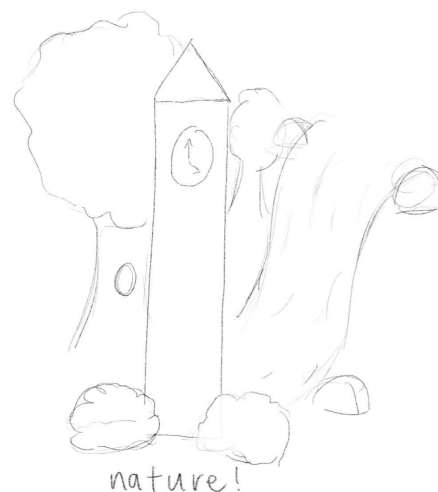
Yeah, if I'm him for a day I can come back with all these skills.

5. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

Honestly, I think we're really fortunate to be born in the current era, but I would probably choose to go... a hundred years into the future, like not too far, just to see, and hopefully climate change is not a thing because people are combating it, but I guess I want to see the efforts that people put in now, what they're like and if the iPhone is called like iPhone 100 or something. You're a CS major right? I guess if we went back 30 years, that'd be perfect for us

This was honestly one of the wackiest word associations I have ever witnessed (which is a strictly good thing -- the memier the better). Judy's very fun and easy to talk to and I really enjoyed the interview.

-- Attilus Leung '22





I struggle to get out of bed after another night of sleep deprivation. Shortly after I wake up, I create a Zoom link and send it to Karen. I sit on the Zoom call not realizing I need to admit Karen into the call. Having never met Karen before, I introduced myself and we soon began the interview.

Word Associations

Cornell: University
CBS: Zoom
Class: Online
Zoom: Technology
Worship: Songs
Bubble Tea: Caffeine

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

When I got here, the campus was bigger than I thought, and was very pretty. Everyone was nice in CBS, not a lot of freshmen.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Bigger than I thought, a more substantial answer is that I really liked my classes.

3. If you could get rid of one US state, which would you choose and why?

Probably, one with the least population, but not Alaska. So, Kansas or Nebraska because people there could just move somewhere else.

4. If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

My dog because he has such an easy life: he eats and sleeps and has fun.

hometown: Fairfax, VA || major: HBHS '24

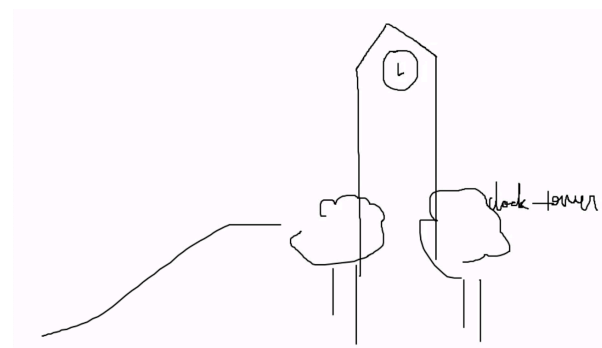
5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?
"Treat others the way you want to be treated"
Extravagant by Bethel Music

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?
Make lifelong friends

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?
Future because there is too much sexism in the past

Although we weren't able to meet in person, I still learned a lot about Karen. I am excited to see how God will work in her life during these 4 years.

-- Tony Yang '23



Having been given the opportunity to interview one of the members of the Mountain Streams Team, I was excited to hear from a fresh perspective. Let's hop on the Zoom link.

Word Associations

Cornell: Academic
CBS: Fun
Class: Work
Zoom: Tiring
Worship: Celebrate
Bubble Tea: Amazing!

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

Cornell - when I got here, my first impression was that the students were very bright. They are here for ambitious reasons. Spiritually, I get the impression that they are seeking for their purpose and meaning in life beyond just their career. They also want to dig into what their life is supposed to be and what their purpose is. They think very deeply about those things.

CBS - I love CBS. When was the first week that I got to CBS?...I think my first impression was that it was a vibrant community of people who were very welcoming to new students who are seeking. They are a group that is passionate about Scripture and staying grounded in God's Word. It's also just a small enough group so that students feel seen and connected, and the leaders are very faithful and committed to the mission of CBS.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I think how many students are interested in exploring who Jesus is for the first time surprised me. I thought that there would be more apathy - but there was less than I expected, and more interesting among students in trying to figure out what they believe.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

I would keep the elephant and ride it to wherever I needed to go.

4. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?
If I found a penguin in the freezer, I would keep it as a friend for the elephant. I'd have a little zoo!

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Favorite quote: You know if you preach the Gospel if you send people out the door dancing.

Favorite worship song: Potter and Friend by Dante Bowe

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

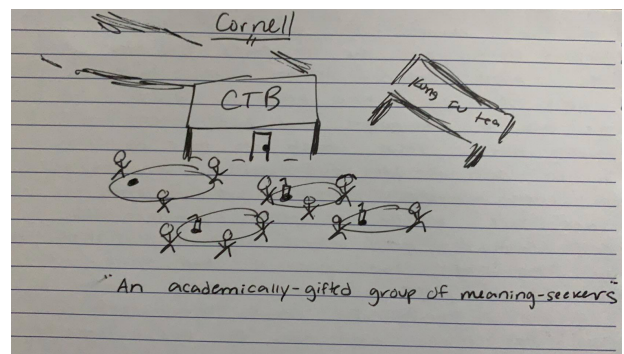
Man, I hope I get to go overseas -- it's been difficult in that regard. I hope to go to an unreached people group. I hope that I'm somewhere where I can lay down roots and build community and invest in a place and still be doing ministry even though it's not my job.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

I kinda like when I was born, but maybe if we made it to like the year 3000, but I'm not sure we're gonna make it that long.

As part of the Mountain Streams Team, Liv was certainly a blessing to have at CBS Large Groups. She is great at sharing her story, sharing about God, and keeping a volleyball in play! I pray that God continues to bless her with the gifts that she can use for His glory.

-- Kevin Hu '21





hometown: Charlotte, NC || **major:** AEP '24

It was the start of semi-finals week which also marked the end of our successful in-person fall semester. Nicole came over to 3B to take a break from studying for her physics and python semi-finals... and also to wash our dishes :) We started our interview with hungry stomachs (see the conclusion to find out what we ate).

Word Associations

Cornell: clock tower, cold, snow, friends, studying, stress but also fun, obviously college, fall leaves, walking, the slope

CBS: community, friends, bible, study, God, food

Class: STRESS, learning new things

Zoom: when people dress up their top half but pajama bottoms

Worship: songs, Scripture, prayers, a nice feeling

Bubble Tea: *OMG* LIFE, tasty

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

Cornell: I really liked the campus even though everything was far away and I have to walk but I like that aspect. Even though high school had small classes, the professors here still care about us and make an effort to connect with us which is nice. In terms of studying, the beginning of the semester was less studying than I thought and the finals are more studying than I thought. Also, with COVID-19, it didn't meet my expectations with social life.

CBS: Very friendly and you guys are all cool. I like how the actual members of CBS lead the songs and sings. And the games you guys play are fun.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

The amount of variety in classes that they have -- any person any study. And the PE classes.

3. Someone gives you an elephant. You can't sell it or give it away. What do you do with the elephant?

I'll raise it! If I can't sell it or give it away, I won't let it die. I'll feed it, I'll wash it, I'll clean up its poop -- whatever it takes!

4. What would you do if you found a penguin in the freezer?

That would be awesome! I wish that would happen! Well, I

would try to keep it as a pet but they would die in the hot weather, but I don't wanna live in a freezer. So I'd call animal control and tell them to take the penguin.

5. Favorite quote or saying? Favorite worship song?

Quote: "Pain is temporary, GPA is forever" -- somewhere in PSB

Worship song: "How Great is Our God"

6. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

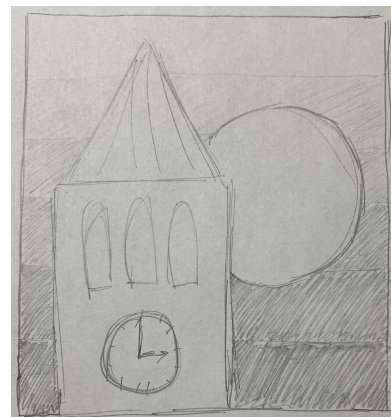
Successfully major in something and have a high GPA. Get on a project team (but that might change) or be in a research group. Get more involved in the clubs. And be in one Emotion performance team.

7. Would you rather be reborn in the past or future if you could choose the era?

The past because the future could be worse. Who knows? 2040 could be worse. I would go back to a BTS concert and get front row tickets!!

After our interview, we cooked yaki udon together with lots of chicken and fish cakes! Nicole was nice enough to wash the dishes for us as our resident 3B dishwasher. We also treated ourselves to the buy one get one free ice cream flurries from Jack's. It is always a treat to have Nicole come over for dinner with her special food requests that are always exceptionally yummy! I pray that Nicole will find community in CBS and turn to God for strength and guidance as she starts her journey here at Cornell.

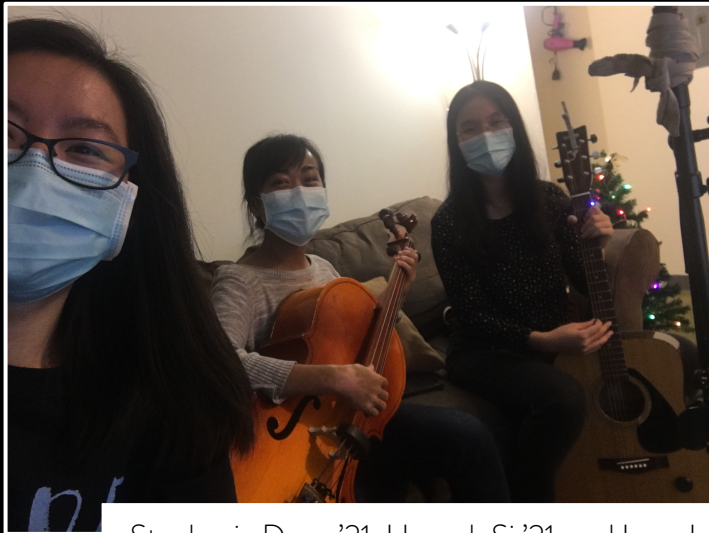
-- Kimberly Yap '21



CORNELL: Where the sun shines



Alice Hu '24, Elisabeth Kam '24, and Bella Hu '24 at virtual Sophomore Picnic



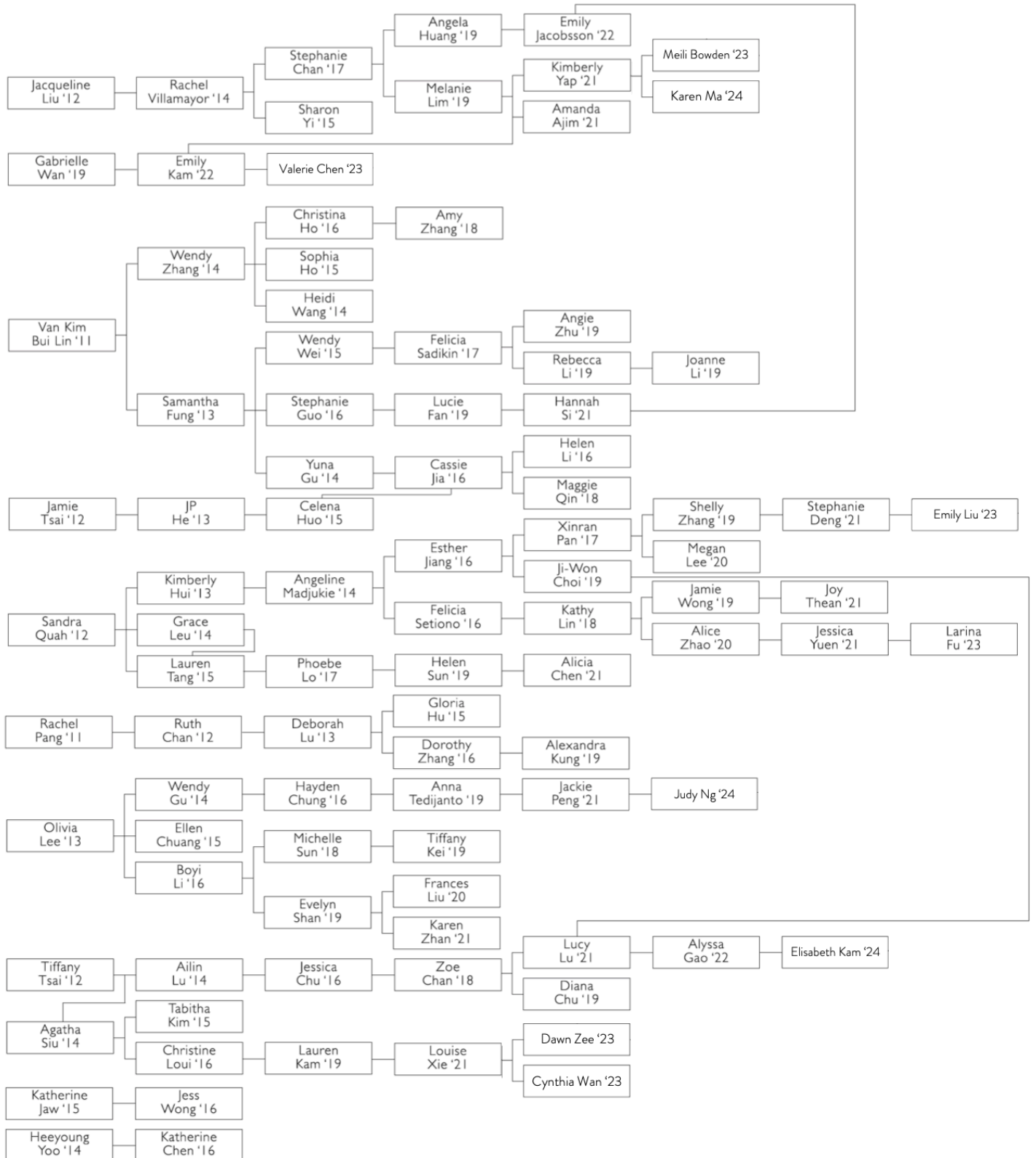
Stephanie Deng '21, Hannah Si '21, and Lucy Lu '21 practicing for Fall Retreat's Day 2 worship set



Class of 2023 at virtual Sophomore Picnic

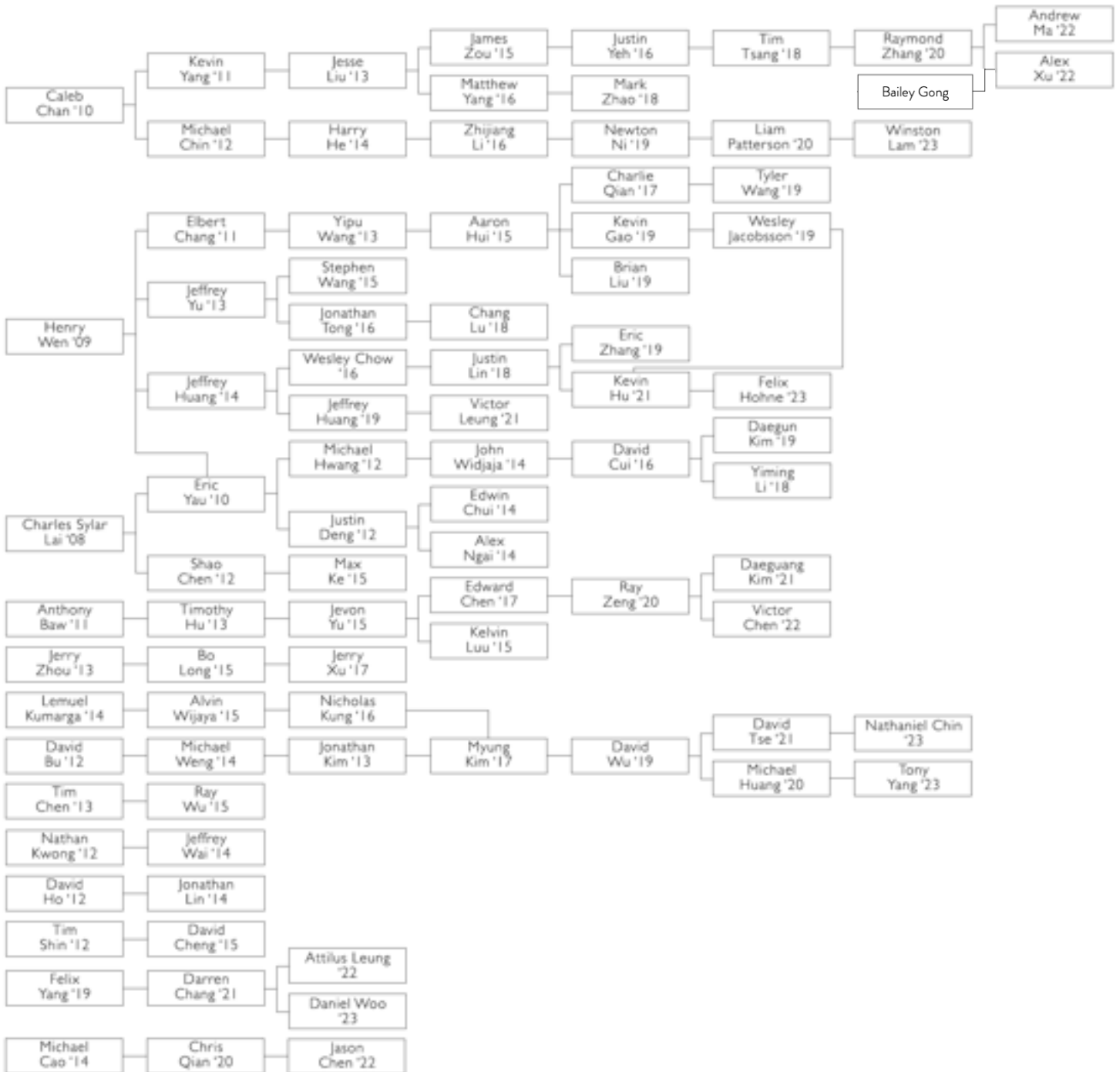
Prayer Partner Tree

Sisters of CBS



Prayer Partner Tree

Brothers of CBS





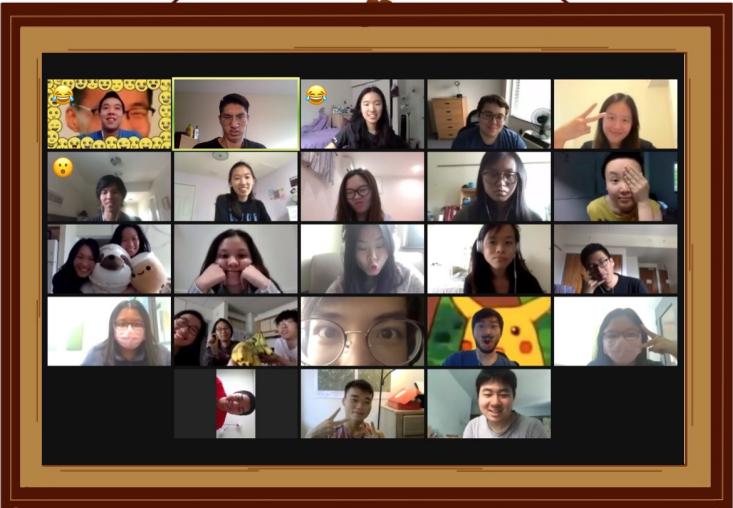
Elton Zhong, Kevin Hu '21, and Jasper Liang '22 playing volleyball on North Campus



Class of 2021 and Alvin Chang at Ithaca Beer Co.



David Tse '21, Kimberly Yap '21, and Elisabeth Kam '24 playing volleyball on North Campus



Big group photo at virtual Sophomore Picnic

