

Bread of Life

cbs fall 2021



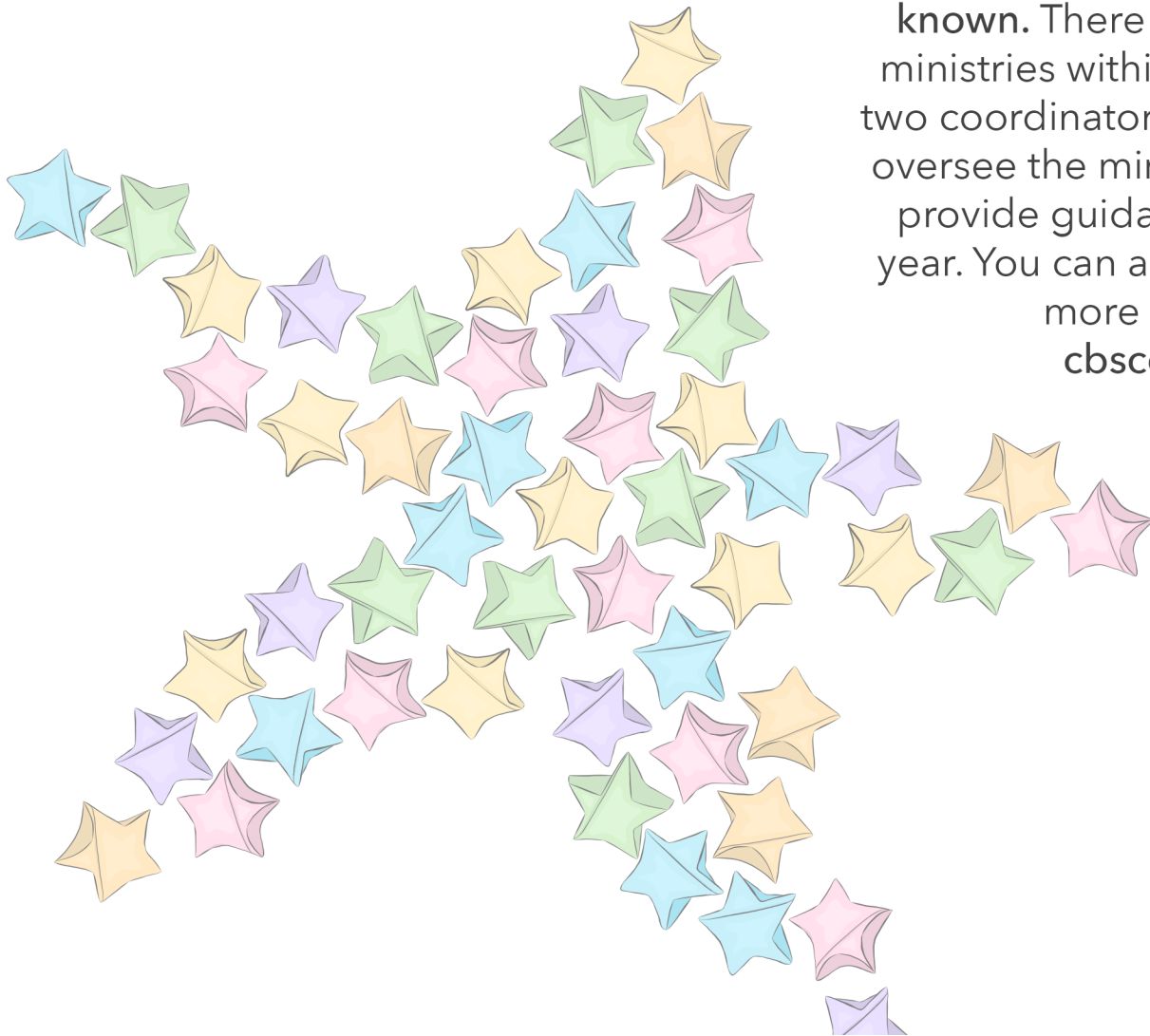
CBS Vision Verse

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.

Colossians 3:16-17



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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Editor Letter

Dearest CBS,

Apparently, the walls are very thin at Eddygate. There was a time when I was playing hymns on the piano late at night in 1G, and while I thought I was alone, I was actually not alone. Tony, who lives on the floor above me, said that it was a lovely concert. Thank you, Tony.

One of my favorite hymns to sing on the piano is "Day by Day" by Lina Sandell. I'm bad at memorizing things, but the last verse of this hymn has been inscribed into my heart. It reads:

*"One by one, the days the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land."*

So often, I catch myself forgetting how short our time on earth is. If we put our life in the perspective of eternity, then our time is just a flash of light, a blip, a dot that comes and goes. Even now, from time to time I catch myself thinking, "Wait, it's December already?" To be honest, part of me gets nervous as I reflect on how the moments in a day are truly, in some way, "fleeting." Before we know it, our college life will be completed and all of us will graduate and move on to other things and grow old. Time... is short.

Yet when I sing out that last line, all my fears seem to fade away: "Till I reach the promised land." I envision the moments "fleeting" or running

from us, and that when we reach the promised land, the moment will not be able to flee from us anymore. The moment will finally be present, here and forevermore, and it will be glorious. For eternity, we will be standing face to face with our Holy Creator, and we will worship Him as our Sovereign God. Just the thought of that is always comforting to me.

I think the reason why I found so much joy this semester is because CBS was able to meet in person (Praise the Lord!). I believe that it is so special when CBS, or any other body of believers for that matter, gathers. God tells us that where "two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20). When we come together for Bible study, small group, worship, sharing, prayer, meals, and festivities, fellowshiping in God's name, God is there with us. When He is with us, we are experiencing a little bit of what is to come. And if the fellowship here on earth is so wonderful, then how much more wonderful eternity will be! Amen.

There have been countless moments with CBS throughout this semester that I will cherish deeply for the years to come. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this semester's edition of BoL - it was only possible this year because of your continual service and dedication. And thank you, dear reader, for being a part of CBS. May God bless you greatly in the upcoming year; I know that He will. Hold fast to God, and all will be well with you.

Love In Christ,
Daniel Woo '23



CBS apple picking on Labor Day



CBS enjoying Sophomore Picnic



Coordinator Letter: Alyssa Gao

To all those in CBS who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wasn't sure how to start this letter, so I decided to take Paul's customary greetings in all his letters. Just replace "CBS" with "Rome" and you have his greeting in Romans. I will continue to emulate Paul's letter by thanking the Lord for you. Praise the Lord for bringing you here to CBS and giving us His Spirit to build a community in Him. Each and every one of us is a testament of His power and grace, and it is a blessing and an honor to serve you all as coordinator.

Before I became coordinator, I had always admired my upperclassmen for their love and care for the members of CBS. I knew I did not have it in me to be as considerate and thoughtful as they were, but I wanted to be. And I did try, at least when I remembered it. Yet every time, I found myself drained of energy and unable to truly see beyond my own life to think of those I had talked to. This is just one of the reasons why I often found myself wondering if I was equipped to be a coordinator that would lead the fellowship in God's guidance.

Was I equipped to be a spiritual leader of CBS last semester during the search? No, definitely not. Am I equipped now? Yes, because of God's grace and provision.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

The Faithfulness of God

In the beginning of the semester, EmK and I were quite stressed about the room situation for Large Groups. We were faced with issues like the campus moving to Level Yellow and not being cleared to sing inside because of COVID. Every week had me wondering if our room situation would work out, and every week, the answer was yes.

Praise the Lord! Everyday, He demonstrates to me His faithful provision, that even if things do not work out the way I expect (such as having our first LG online), God's plan will be good. Maybe not the good that the world expects, but definitely the good that will deepen our relationship with and knowledge of Him.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

In addition to supplying us with space to worship Him and study His Word, the Lord has provided me with His love and strength to love others more like how He loves me. By His mercy and grace, my love for you all has grown so much in both prayer and ministering. My own love and strength are flawed and limited, but the Lord's love and strength are perfect and infinite.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love." (John 15:9)

The Power of God

Throughout my experience as coordinator, I've been faced with many things that are not under my control but caused me anxiety anyways. In such situations, I would find myself questioning what I was doing. Was I doing something wrong? What could I do to make the situation better?

Those questions by themselves are not wrong, but the condition of my heart that made them wrong. I was fearful and anxious because I thought that if I didn't do something to intentionally address the situation, things would fall apart. And that simply is not true.

The God we follow is a living, powerful God. He created the heavens and the earth. His kingdom is everlasting. He alone is Savior. Nothing is impossible for Him.

So why do I worry? Why do I fear?

When I realized that God is the almighty sovereign, I felt an immense peace come over me. Yes, I should continue to reflect on my actions and thoughts, and ask God for wisdom and renewal, but I no longer do so with fear in my heart. There is trust and full assurance that He upholds me with His capable and loving hands.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Praise the Lord for calling me to this coordinator role and showing me more of His character! I hope the truths that He has taught me will be sources of encouragement and growth for you. Thank you for letting me serve you as coordinator! It has been such a joyous and humbling opportunity. I will continue to pray for all of us, that God would lead us in His light and renew us day by day. May CBS be a community rooted in the word of God, established on Christ the cornerstone, and overflowing with love. May the grace of God be with you.

To God be the glory,
Alyssa Gao '21



Coordinator Letter: Emily Kam

Dearest CBS,

This semester was filled with pleasant surprises and a few (metaphorical) fires, but there are two truths that have risen above the smoke and remained constant throughout: 1) God is in control, and 2) God is good.

With a new responsibility and title of “CBS Coordinator” placed on me, I’ve struggled with wanting to micromanage everything vs. trusting that God would do the actual heavy lifting. There were many days where I would question whether I was saying the right things, acting in a way that glorified God, or making the right (and sometimes executive) decisions. There were many days of asking, “Are people being cared for? Is the Gospel being proclaimed? Is the community growing in Christ?”

I think these are worthwhile questions and reflections, but in all of them I’ve been continually reminded of who I serve and why I even care about doing the right things or asking such questions. We chose Colossians 3:16-17 this year as our vision verse because we wanted CBS to center themselves on the Gospel and build the community upon it. I too had to center myself on God in order to be sensitive to His voice and be humbled and renewed daily by Him.

I don’t know what’s going to happen tomorrow or next week, or what I’m going to say or do, but God does; and I have to trust that God will guide me in everything that needs to be done or talked about. After all, God is the one in control. If something *does* go “according to plan” and people seem to be growing in the Lord, all glory to Him who is omnipotent. We must and should do our best to serve Him and His people, putting all our heart into it. But we must also remember Who holds the world, and Who will do the real heart-changing, life-giving work.

We can let God be the author of our lives because we can trust that God is good. The message of Christ shows us how good God is, and the psalms we sing to Him proclaim his goodness. Brothers and sisters, are you clinging on to Him, knowing that he pours his mercy over our failings and is continually restoring us? Are you giving thanks to the Lord in all that you do? Do you trust that God is good, no matter the season of life?

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.”
(Psalm 136:1)*

We have reason to give thanks -- because God is good. We can find comfort in trusting God to take control -- because God is good. In everything, we must look to Christ; and when we look to Christ, we cannot help but give lift songs of thanksgiving to Him.

Dear fellowship, I exhort you to give thanks in all things and ask the Lord to open your eyes to the good He is doing. Giving thanks is deeper and richer than the worldly wisdom that talks about “silver linings,” or tells us to “be positive.” The Gospel gives us a cause to hope. The brokenness of our world is so apparent that it is easy to let our hearts fall into anxiety, depression, and despair. But I thank God that He gives us a reason to rejoice. I thank God that He holds the reins, and for how good He is. I thank God for you all, who continue to encourage the body of Christ, and for Jesus, the ultimate Giver.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

In Christ,
Emily Kam '21



Reach Letter

Dearest CBS,

What a blessing it is to be back in person this semester! We really missed seeing you in Goldwin Smith Hall and fellowshiping with one another. Amidst busy weeks filled with meetings and deadlines, we've been so encouraged and energized by seeing your faces around campus and in large group on Friday nights. Praise God for that!

As we started to prepare for the semester, we prayed that God would show us how to support the ministry, and the fellowship, after two semesters online. We thought about Christian community and evangelism, as Reach coordinators naturally do. We also thought about strengthening our Biblical foundations and making sure that the center of any activity we plan is Christ. After more thought and more prayer, we arrive at our vision verse for the semester.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

The fruit of the Spirit includes nine characteristics that are a result of living a life led by God. Simple as they seem, as imperfect human beings, we'll always struggle to consistently demonstrate these things. However, we can pray that the Holy Spirit progressively displays more of His fruit in our lives and that, through that fruit, we can reveal more about God to those around us, both brothers and sisters in Christ, and to those who don't yet know Him. In studying the fruit, we've talked about God's agape love, which is a love of action and a demonstration of commitment, regardless of feeling. Together, we thought

about ways in which we could love in an unconditional way informed by the love God has for us. This is the love that is the basis of Reach ministry. Full circle!

This semester, we've started each Reach meeting with a time of thanksgiving. We are called to rejoice always (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) and are told that gratitude is medicine for our hearts (Proverbs 17:22). Praise God that He fills each day with blessings, both big and small, to be thankful for! Beyond just our meeting times, we hope you take some time for thanksgiving each day. In that spirit, we share a few of the things we've been thankful for this semester: getting to meet new friends during Freshman Orientation Week, that God has provided CBS members with hearts to serve each week as we planned for tabling and ACE, Kim's car, being able to sing together during Large Group, our first normal Felly Dinner in a while, and you! It has been such a joy spending time with and learning more about each and every member of this fellowship this semester.

Of course, there is more to be done for us as Reach coordinators. General busyness and time which seemed to pass faster than ever meant that we didn't do everything we wanted to in terms of workshops, outreach events, or fellowship activities. Looking forward to next semester, we pray that God will continue to guide us, as He always faithfully does! We pray that, as a ministry, we continue to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit and serve the fellowship with full hearts. We pray that, as a fellowship, we remain focused on our mission to know God and to make Him known.

In Christ,
Kimberly Yap '22 & Emily Jacobsson '22



Praise Letter

Hellowship fellowship,

Praise God that we have been able to have fellowship with one another in person after so, so long! One of our favorite parts about in-person fellowship is singing together with one voice to our one God, so you can imagine how excited we were to co-lead Praise Team this semester.

Before the fall semester began, we agreed that we wanted to shape Praise Team based on not one, but two vision verses:

*"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name."
(Hebrews 13:15)*

"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." (1 Peter 3:8)

These two vision verses are meant to complement each other; while the first encourages us to continually sing praises to God for His glory, the second reminds us that worshipping God is also done in unity with fellow believers. We ought to be steadfast in our worship of God, to "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God" for the simple reason that He deserves it. We ought to "have unity of mind" and "brotherly love" when we worship in a corporate setting because we are the body of Christ on earth. Praise Team's vision verses remind us that the heart of worship is God, not music. It is our prayer that we can bask in the joy of uplifting a common song to God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is a blessing to see how Praise Team members have grown not only in their musical and set-leading abilities, but also in their confidence and maturity in their faith. In our Praise Team meetings, we discussed how to effectively lead worship, the importance of choosing Biblically supported songs, how to preface worship sets with prayer and motivation, and more. Praise Team members have shown hearts that are willing to learn these things, even though they are definitely not easy. Thank you to Praise Team members for your faithfulness and willingness to serve the Lord!

One of the biggest undertakings for Praise Team this semester was our Night of Worship (NoW). Every Praise Team member stepped up to prepare for an in-person NoW, choosing songs that conveyed one of four central themes: God's sovereignty, confession, knowing Christ, and freedom in Christ. We collectively agreed that these themes related best to what we have been studying this semester in Colossians 3, as well as what CBS needed to hear and reflect on. It was a joy to see the fellowship gathered around the prayer stations put up around GSH G76, and we hope that everyone was able to deepen their relationship with God through it all.

It is hard to believe that the fall semester flew by this fast. We are thankful to God that He provided us Praise Team members who devote time to practicing and leading worship, and that He used them according to His will to bring the fellowship closer to Himself. Next semester will be even more fun-- get ready for open air worship when (if?) the weather gets nice again, more large group worship, and Felly Dinners with special sets led by you all! Until then, Merry Christmas and God bless your winter break!

In His name,
Jasper Liang '22 and Meili Bowden '23



Discipleship Letter

Hello!ujah CBS,

This semester, I realized that I am the oldest member in CBS. Although I have enjoyed making fun of some of the kiddos and have been able to impart much wisdom to you all, it's a little ironic because I feel like in many ways, I am just not spiritually mature enough to help others through the discipleship process of making them more like Christ. My favorite verse Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight.* This verse is so simple yet so difficult at the same time. "In all your ways submit to him" means that I can't just compartmentalize my life and give up the areas that I feel like surrendering to God. I have to give it all to Him. I have to let my love, honor, and trust in God permeate and fill my entire being and life. This semester has been special to me because I feel like God has been continually telling me to just let go and hand it over to Him. To trust Him with all of my heart and give it all up to Him. Although I am still not even close to being there yet, I can see the impact that serving and growing in the CBS community has on my growth as a Christian and, in many ways, discipleship ministry this semester and has helped me to really experience this verse.

A lifelong struggle of mine has been grappling with my pride and how it effects my relationship with the Lord. Serving on servant team has helped me realize the importance of a heart of servitude and humility. It has been such a blessing to be able to work with other willing servants in Christ who have demonstrated God's love and have sacrificed so much time and energy towards expanding the glory of God's kingdom. Even though I am (relatively) more advanced in age, I have been able to learn a lot from seeing how you guys all act and serve. Looking back at my conversations and interactions with everyone both inside and outside of servant team, it is truly encouraging to see so many young (even the seniors) brothers and sisters in Christ who are serious about their faith and are so wise beyond their age.

At the same time, this semester has been a series of ups and downs. I have made a few critical life decisions and have gone through both some extremely

challenging and some extraordinarily easy stretches of life. One thing that I always think about is the future. In high school, I always told myself to start worrying in college and in college, I always told myself to worry in grad school. Now that I'm unexpectedly almost done with grad school, I realize that I am running out of time and excuses. Through all the stress and anxiety, I keep ultimately coming back to Proverbs 3:5-6 and am comforted that God is greater than I am and to trust in Him with all my heart. I have had many engaging and though-provoking conversations with you all within just past few months. It seems like everyone is stressed about something, whether it be the next prelim or project, the possibility of not securing a good internship or career, or the anxieties that come with interpersonal relationships. How do I know if I'm in the right field? How do I know how much time to study? How do I know I'm doing the right thing? To those who are struggling or worrying about the future, about direction, or about purpose, I hope that you can take comfort in knowing that if you give your entire 100% to God and acknowledge Him in *all* your ways, God will make them straight for you and you can go forward in the peace and rest that comes from the Holy Spirit. The few brief moments I have done so have always given me that peace. You can trust me because I'm old.

I hope that all of you have grown in Christ as much as I did this semester and that everyone will continue to be renewed and molded every day, week, month, and year for the rest of your times here in Cornell and beyond. Participating in discipleship and servant team events has constantly reminded of my own shortcomings and I have been able to experience God's sanctification and grace many times throughout the semester. In a way, I feel like I have been disciplined more from serving than I have disciplined others in this fellowship and for that I am so grateful to everyone. I am excited to serve for one semester next year/semester and to continue and experience in the discipleship process with all of you!

Love,
Alvin Chang MS '22

Small Group Letters

Dear CBS,

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

-Habakkuk 3:17-19

A central theme to Habakkuk is faith even in times of confusion and reservation and how it can lead to spiritual growth and strengthening in God. It is about absolute confidence and faith in the Lord, even when it seems like nothing makes sense or if nothing is going your way. In this often-overlooked book, the prophet Habakkuk first laments to God about the lack of judgment on the sinful nation of Judah, but that feeling evolves into confusion over God's solution in using the even more immoral Babylonia empire to judge Judah. Throughout the first two chapters, Habakkuk grapples with God over his doubts and confusions. He openly argues with God and questions His wisdom. However, in the last chapter, Habakkuk expresses his ultimate faith in the Lord despite his lack of understanding. This leads to a final flourishing of his faith in the Lord, even through his trials.

This semester, I've been blessed to be able to lead a small group focused on topical studies. We explored a variety of themes such as gratitude, prayer, strength through Christ, and working in the Lord's rest. We looked into interesting passages (such as the one in Habakkuk above) and had thought-provoking discussions. These Monday night meetings were truly a blessing for

me this semester. I learned a lot, I laughed a lot, and I grew a lot. Looking back at it, I really valued the opportunity to be able to grow and bond over God's good word together on a weekly basis while being able to experience fellowship in the Lord in a small group setting. Although the meetings were only an hour long, I have made many memories and lessons from them.

Looking back at the evolution of highs and lows and prayer requests throughout the semester, a common theme that everyone echoed was that they were very busy and needed to get more work done. At least one person every week would lament about how busy their week was going to be with multiple prelims or multiple assignments and projects converging at once. Often times, it seemed that people had overwhelming schedules ahead of them and would have almost no rest and few breaks from work until maybe the weekend. Knowing this, I tried to base a couple studies around gratitude and joy and rest in the Lord and discussions often reinforced that God is enough and is all we need. We should take joy in knowing that God loves us unconditionally and have peace in our heart that comes through Him. Peace and joy from the Lord when things are going well and when things are not going well.

If there is one thing I learned from small groups this semester, it is that as children of God, we are loved forever by our Father our in Heaven. As someone once said in one of our meetings, "God's love is enough for me and I need nothing less and nothing more". Dear CBS, even when times are tough, I hope that you all can be encouraged and comforted by this simple yet powerful message. May peace and joy ever be with you and may thanksgiving always flow from your lips.

Love,
Alvin Chang MS '22



Small Group Letters

Dear CBS,

Leading small groups is a bit different from Bible studies, which is what I'm a bit more used to. No longer are we investigating more objective truths, but we are encouraging each other in our personal relationships with each other and with God. It's not just about the Bible, but also about our experiences, our worries about the semester, how we're feeling, and things like that. To be honest, this is a lot more challenging than nerding out about the Bible, but that probably just means I'm not as good with relational things -- there's always room to grow.

For this semester, we focused on what it means to have a personal relationship with God, and what that would look like. Personally, this is something that is important to me -- in CBS, we tend to share and talk about a lot of deep, theological truths or biblical knowledge, and sometimes it's easy to become so consumed by our pursuit of universal truths and neglect how God is personally working in our lives. We can know a lot of things about someone -- just like how I might know a lot about some celebrity -- but that doesn't make us friends. We can only develop that relationship by interacting with each other and showing our love for each other.

Obviously, this doesn't mean we stop reading the Bible in our small groups. We went through some of the Psalms, since the Psalms is the only book where it is solely man speaking to God, and not the other way around -- in a sense, it is God's way of teaching us how to pray and interact with Him. We looked at Psalms of adoration, thanksgiving, confession and supplication; and we also read psalms that are filled with mourning, perseverance, and trust. We also tried to go through a song or hymn that is somewhat inspired by the Psalm we read that day, so we could express the same love that we share to God.

This semester flew by a lot quicker than I realized -- I honestly thought we were still halfway in. This meant we do not have as much time together as I hoped -- both in small groups and in CBS -- but I hope that the time we did spend together was enjoyable nonetheless. :)

-- Attilus Leung '22

Dear "Thursday" Smol Group,

I'm so grateful that we got to meet up every week. It's been a really fun semester getting to know all of you, journaling/reading, as well as finding rest in God together.

Through our love for food, we got to share meals with our biweekly "battery" (lunch) buddies and finished our semester with a cute friends-giving potluck (we've got some good chefs over here). Through journaling and reading, we were able to reflect and share about how we can better center our lives around God through rest, prayer, and worship. Although Thursdays are usually one of the more hectic days, I'm glad we got to take a break from the week and spend time in His presence.

Smol groups may change, but the fellowship lasts forever <3 Thankful that God has given us this time to find rest in one another.

In Christ,
Dawn Zee '23

Small Group Letters



Dear CBS,

One frequent concern of many prayer meetings is that very little time is spent in actual prayer. Another tendency is only praying for select things while forgetting about all the different things to be brought before God.

The Bible addressed both of these issues for our prayer group meetings this semester. We simply read part of a passage, went around and prayed from it, and repeated. Then, we shared any personal prayer requests that didn't come up in the prayers before to pray for at the end.

Throughout the semester, two of the recurring themes in the Scripture we used to pray were deliverance and knowledge of the believers. The Lord is our great deliverer not in a superficial, magic genie in the lamp that can grant your every desire, but he delivers us from our trials with the reassurance that we are never forsaken (Psalm 23, 42, John 15) and from our sin through the blood of Christ (Psalm 19, Col 1:13-14). Therefore, as we intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we pray that they would be filled with the knowledge of God and his will given by the Spirit (Col 1:9-10), and that they would know the depth of Christ's love more and more (Eph 3:18).

Though nominal prayer group leaders apparently existed, all glory and honor goes to God and His Word for doing all of the heavy lifting in leading our prayer time. If you wanted to be really nit-picky, I guess a passage was chosen and subdivided into logical parts for prayer, and a room in the library was booked (thank God for providing when we forgot, which was quite often...), but that was it. The Word never failed in reminding us of God and His many qualities to adore, His many blessings to be thankful for, our many sins to confess, and the many needs to ask. Scripture provided to us the words to pray, so we prayed Scripture. With the Bible giving us so many things to pray for, our prayer group really witnessed how fast a time of prayer flies by.

Praise God for giving us such a sweet hour each week to come together and be in His presence. He truly was, is, and ever will be the Good Shepherd, the Loving Father, our Savior, our Rock and our Redeemer.

In Christ,
Bailey Gong, PhD & Victor Chen '22

Bible Study Letters

Dear CBS,

In Bible Study we read the book of Colossians, which proclaims God's authority, explains how we are made new in Christ after being rescued from darkness, and teaches us how to live with each other as believers.

We've been learning about what our new life in Christ means for us in our fallen world. We've been encouraged, knowing that God will give us wisdom from the Spirit to show us how to navigate false teachings and empty arguments. We talked about the freedom found in Christ, and how new life in Him means that we are no longer bound by worldly rules, but rather, bound to Christ. We discussed how love binds all the virtues of the Spirit together, and thus, love will also bind our family in Christ.

I'm thankful for my group and how they put up with me scrambling for an icebreaker every week. Even though the leaders have pre-study to prepare before Friday, I always hear something new from my Bible Study and am encouraged by the good questions they ask and insights they share. All glory to God for bringing together these fellow brothers and sisters, that we may remind each other of Christ as our Savior and foundation.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

In Christ,
Emily Kam '21

Dear CBS,

This semester we dove into the book of Colossians and learned about the richness of the assurance of salvation and the hope that we have in the union with Christ. In the beginning of this letter to the church of Colossae, Paul continually warns against those in the church who preach false doctrines - people who may even be very persuasive and eloquent in speech, but ultimately far from the truth in their teachings. He encourages us to put our trust instead in Christ, for Jesus has authority over all things, and that He has triumphed over sin and death, "cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands" on the cross (Colossians 2:14). Finally, he addresses how we should respond to our Savior, and how the Lord commands us to act in our communities and our households - doing all things "heartily for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23).

I am so grateful to God that we have been able to study the Word together on campus. Each time that we came together to read, reflect, and pray together, I was so encouraged by all of your questions, insights, and desire to grow closer to our Heavenly Father. It was such a delight to listen to you all: praise God for allowing us to meet in person and for giving us all a heart to seek Him! I pray that all of us would continue to hold the Lord's commandment close to our hearts and "do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). Thank you for the laughter from the icebreakers, the long moments of thoughtful reflection, and your sincere prayers. Thank you for your presence and your love of God.

In Christ,
Daniel Woo '23

P.S. I am so so so sorry for all the times that we were late to the response song (that's entirely on me!)! You all have given me much grace in that. God bless you all.



Bible Study Letters

Dear CBS,

Praise God that we are able to come back in person to study His precious Word! It's been so great sitting together with everyone for our journey through Colossians. It's also been a lot of fun using the chalkboard to keep notes and (more frequently) draw our answers to icebreaker questions :)

Paul's letter to the church at Colossae is a powerful reminder of the majesty of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, and the new lives we must live after dying and being raised with Him. It is exciting and beautiful to put on the "new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." (Col. 3:10) Our lives are with Christ, and in whatever we do, let us "do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)

Throughout the weeks, we have been learning about our identities and duties as children of God, to build up one another and uphold the roles He has defined for us. Above all, we know that our new life in Christ is one in submission to God, and that everything that we do should be rooted in our love and reverence for Him.

Let us clothe ourselves with love and forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven us. For as members of one body, we were called to peace.

Colossians 3 fills us with so much hope, joy, and thankfulness! It has been encouraging to study the Bible together—and we are filled with joy for the love God has placed for Him on our hearts. We are so thankful for the body of Christ—drawn fourth into His love and grace—and thankful for our Lord who loves us with an unfailing love.

To all the members of our Bible study group, thank you for the wonderful evenings we spent learning from Scripture! We are grateful for your willingness to come and share your thoughts on the Word despite this busy semester.

We are praying much for our brothers and sisters in Christ that we all will have a heart for the Lord and His holy people—serving the Lord with a deep spiritual fervor.

In all things, we will rejoice in our Lord! "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Stay warm friends, and we will see you in the spring~

Love and Blessings,
Grace Jia '22 & Victoria Franklin '24

Dear CBS,

This will have been the third semester I've been a Bible Study Leader, and I am encouraged every Friday by the continued devotion and development of CBS in knowing God. I would like to thank all of you for persevering through what I'm sure is a semester full of challenges and obstacles, and I hope that God continues to work in your lives even when we might not expect or feel it.


This semester, a common theme that myself and the other Bible study leaders have understood is the importance of denying yourself and sacrificing your comfort and security for God. This may seem serious, harsh even, but it is something that we have come to understand about God and how we live our lives for him. As an example, if you are the kind of person who cares earnestly about your academic success but struggles with anxiety, you should pray to God to take that away. Cast your cares upon him, in prayer and petition with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And you would be correct in this kind of thinking. You pray before your exam, interview, etc, and hopefully, it goes well. But afterward, with less stress, less work, and less to think about, you might find yourself thinking about God less and less as well. Perhaps you think your faith is going strong, as you're feeling good about yourself and the way your life is going. But when your next assignment is due, or your next exam is approaching, or you get thrust into a situation where you're not sure what to do, all of that anxiety, all of that worrying just comes flooding back. Right back where you started.

I suppose what I am getting at is that this is a case of *Convenience Christianity*. Is this something I just made up myself? Yes. Is it something that I think is endemic in Christians today? Also yes. What I am saying is quite often we have our own plans and goals, but when we hear in sermons or the Bible that we should "devote" our lives and attention to God, do we really stop to consider what that means? Or more importantly, do we think about what that looks like?

Going back to the earlier example, the anxiety that you may feel over school and your subsequent reliance on him is indeed a good thing. The Bible calls believers not to fret over worldly things as God will provide, as excessive worrying and fear is an indication that you are allowing the circumstances of the world to supersede your relationship and trust in God. God does not call us to act like that and relying on him is the correct thing to do.

...



But after the storm has passed, if you find yourself slipping away, not being as reliant, not thinking about God when your life is going smoothly. Were you really concerned with your anxiety out of a principle of offending God? Or were you just filled with negative emotions and needed someone or something to make it go away? Hopefully, that is not true but if it is, it is a serious matter that will affect your relationship with God and with other people.

This is what I call a *Christian of Convenience*, in other words, you praise God, follow his word, and are most devoted to him **only** when His plan lines up with yours, only when it is convenient for you. Again, I am not saying you shouldn't call out to him when you are afraid or anxious, that is the correct thing to do.

What I am saying is that many of us need to examine our hearts for the *reason* why we call out to him. If you only feel close to God or pray when you need something or feel bad, if you only care about your sin when it personally affects you, that is not true devotion, and that is not the gospel.

Prayer is not about getting God to get on board with what your plans are, what you want, and what makes you feel uncomfortable, in fact, it is the complete opposite. It is on YOU to get on board with God's plan, only for the right reasons, and sometimes that means you will have to endure pain and suffering to do so. Sometimes you will have to get off your butt and do something you don't want to do, something that is inconvenient and "unproductive" to you. When we are saved by Jesus Christ, his plan and commands become our plans, no matter the cost. That is what it means to deny yourself.

Most of us live in a cushy 1st-world democracy, most of us were born in Christian families, where going to church and prayer were something that was just a part of life for many years. I truly believe that many of you genuinely love God and wish to serve him, but this is a word of caution to truly think about why you serve God and what that looks like. In other places, people risk their lives every day to love God, they have everything to lose on **this Earth** by believing, trusting, and loving Him. It's much less of a question if their faith is from the heart and on a matter of principle when they risk so much and give up so much

to do so. What have you sacrificed for God then? If the answer is almost nothing, if it's easy all of the time, if you are relaxed and comfortable all the time, then that is something you ought to think about.

It's very easy to drag yourself out on Sunday morning and Friday nights, sit through some people talking and go home. It's very easy to say a quick prayer after hurting someone, pat yourself on the back, and go on to what you really want to do. It's very easy to view the Bible as a checklist for good behavior, just fill in all the boxes and call it a day.

Now I really hope that none of this applies to you, but if you feel a little worried or attacked even, then that is great too! Because recognizing, understanding, and thinking about *how* and *why* you serve God is something that **every** Christian needs to answer every day. Whether you're a pastor, elder, fellowship coordinator, ministry leader, Bible study leader, or just some guy. We need to ask if we care about sin as a matter of principle or do we only care when it affects us? But take heart, as even though we know that is hard, even though we know that living for Christ is difficult, the strength, assurance, and promise that we have in him, is far greater than anything we have on Earth.

My spiritual journey like everybody else's was full of bitter moments but also great lessons to be learned. I'm thankful for all of your support in my personal growth as a fellowship leader and fellow believer. In particular, I'd also like to thank my Bible study group for their insights and growth as well as the rest of the fellowship. I hope that through the ups and downs, we all continue to learn and challenge each other out of love and with gentleness.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)

-- Alex Xu '22



Interviews

Victoria Franklin

Rejoice Hu



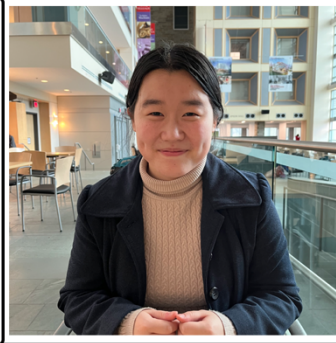
Sky Kim



QQ Lin



Priscilla Liu



Jade Lo



Maggie Wan



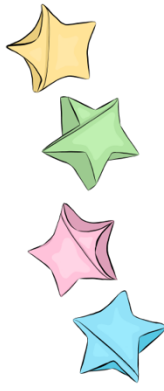
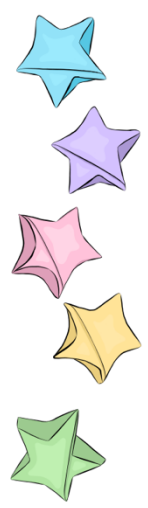
Emily Wang



Rachel Wu



Leland Xu



Victoria Franklin

Hometown: NYC || Major: Linguistics || '24

It's the first legitimately cold day of the year. I'm sitting in my warm apartment. The only thing that gets me to leave and start the long, sad, cold walk to Cafe Jennie is the promise that I'll soon get to sit down with warm, bright, charming Victoria. She meets me right after she's done at work tutoring others in English.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** apple
- * **CBS:** apple
- * **Class:** яблоко
- * **Zoom:** blue
- * **Worship:** pink
- * **Bubble Tea:** sugar

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

The first time I came to CBS was on Valentine's Day. I was really scared because it was Valentine's Day, but after a few minutes I was like "Oh no - these guys are really nice and chill."

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I guess just people walking around all the time. Just casually, but they have a purpose in mind. It's strange because in high school it wasn't like that.

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

It's a secret.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

- My sister: She's always busy at university so I never get to see her.
- The head of Roanoke (the colony that disappeared): I'd want to ask them what happened.
- Amy Carmichael (the missionary who went to India): It'd be interesting to talk to her.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Perhaps you have the key to the apartment where the money is (it makes sense in Russian).

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Oh! I like that question. I Could Sing of Your Love Forever. I sang it when I was younger in VBS.

7. If they haven't graduated: what do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I think I have to graduate to find that out. It'd be more like I graduate and I look back and can say I tried the hardest in every class I was in.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

I don't watch a lot of movies, so this will be interesting... Power Rangers Time Force. I love that show, I still watch it as an adult every now and then.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

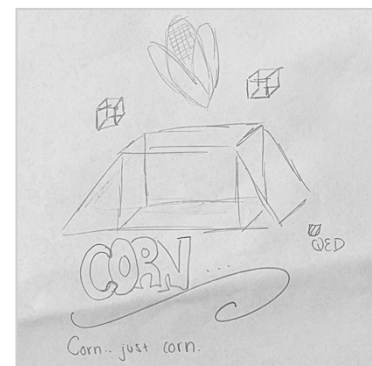
Bubbly, energetic, certain

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Klingon - the language from Startrek.

Never have I heard, "does it have to be in English?" so many times in one conversation. My only regret is that I couldn't conduct this interview in Russian, German, Chinese, or one of the other hundred languages she knows. I loved getting to know Victoria a little better and I appreciated her thoughtfulness in her answers. Praise God for the ways He has already been using her in CBS, from being on praise team to leading Bible study. Victoria, I pray that in the rest of your time at Cornell, you rely entirely on God for the strength and peace that you need to meet that graduation goal!

-- Emily Jacobsson '22



"Corn... just corn."

Rejoice Hu

Hometown: Demarest, NJ || Major: InfoSci || '23

Rejoice sneaked me into Beth Dining Hall (it wasn't that illegal don't worry), and after getting rice and chicken, we immediately launched into the interview. As it turned out, Rejoice had a prelim in an hour. I was quite impressed and grateful that she still took the time to let me interview her!

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** is big
- * **CBS:** community
- * **Class:** stressful
- * **Zoom:** never again
- * **Worship:** fun, source of stress relief
- * **Bubble Tea:** kung fu tea

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

Cornell: It's so big -- just massive! Literally West Campus could be the size of CMU. In terms of people, everyone's so smart and on top of everything. Big brains all around.

CBS: It was all on zoom! In-person CBS is fun and tight-knit. Also very scripture focused.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I guess that people are like me! I felt imposter syndrome for the longest time, but then I realized that not everyone is perfect. People are like me too.

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

My dream job used to be a teacher, back like pre-college. I think before college I wanted to work in a medical field. Biomedical engineer-- that was the plan. But then I figured out you had to do a PhD to get a good paying job, then I was like oh... not for me. (*Me: But money is no issue?*) I guess it's more like time. I guess also money. I also considered even becoming a doctor. I think the main thing is time.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

My past self in highschool. Ooh! This actor in a TV show I really like, Hu Ge. He's literally the best actor ever! I want to meet him in person, he seems so cool. Third person... maybe like Jesus. I want to have a conversation with him face-to-face.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

One thing I like to remind myself of a lot is whatever God wants to happen, it will happen.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

When Death Was Arrested! It's so goood. I don't know if I have an all-time favorite though. Oh! And Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Create really deep relationships with other people. Leave some sort of impact behind like in my clubs or orgs. Find out more about myself and when I'm meant to do.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Inception! I was so mind-blown after watching that. And all the theories that surround it. It was so exciting going through that. That might be my all-time favorite movie to be honest.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

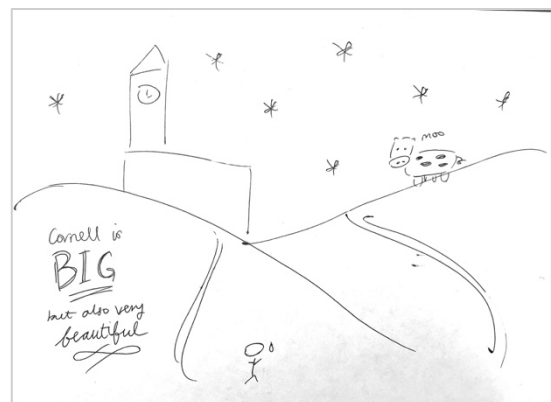
Classic interview question. I'd say optimistic, curious... and not like "sensitive", but I do care about people's emotions. (*Me: Empathetic?*) Yeah!

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Classes on how to sing better or how to actually sing, or techniques on singing! From my knowledge there aren't any, right? (*Me: There's private voice lessons, but they're expensive.*) Ooh... then maybe affordable ones you can take for credit.

Rejoice had to run and do some speedy studying, but I enjoyed the time we got to have together chatting. Everyone should meet Rejoice and be blessed by her bright smile and sunny attitude! Hopefully we can get to know each other even better in the future.

-- Emily Kam '21



"Cornell is BIG but also very beautiful~"

Sky Kim

Hometown: Little Ferry, NJ || Major: InfoSci || '25

Sky greeted me outside Terrace with a warm hello and a big smile before we headed inside to get lunch. We went to the pho station, both deciding to get a ramen noodle bowl today. As we waited in line to get our food, we chatted about class, how our semesters were going, and how Sky's older brother had also been interviewed for BoL (like 8 years ago!) Before long, we had settled down at a table, started eating, and began the interview.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** Gorgeous
 - * **CBS:** Welcoming
 - * **Class:** Fun
 - * **Zoom:** Stressful
 - * **Worship:** Surreal
 - * **Bubble Tea:** Tasty
-

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

Everyone is very genuine and warmhearted at Cornell, the campus is truly beautiful, and it just felt very different to be in a new environment and to be independent. It was a great start for me. I had heard a lot of good things about CBS from my brother so I came into CBS expecting a lot of great things and I think my expectations were met. I really liked how welcoming everyone was! I think in some clubs, people can tend to be cliquy or have groups, but everyone in CBS was very inclusive and nice.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

That Cornell has an ice cream making class and at the end of the class you get to make your own flavor. I would like to take that class. Also, it surprised me that all the dining halls just serve ice cream all the time.

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

Film director! I'm really into indie films and I've always dreamt of being a director but unfortunately it's very difficult and money is an issue. Maybe one day I'll pursue it.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

I would love to travel to the past, like the 1950s or 1970s. The people there seem so cool and I really like their fashion. One of my favorite actresses is Audrey Hepburn, so probably her because she's a great

actress and person. Also Jodie Foster, because I really love *Silence of the Lambs* and she's just such a cool person. Hmm... also Mr. Rogers! He seems super kind and genuine. I wish I could've grown up while he was doing his show. I would just like to talk to all of them and get some two cents about life.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I have a quote list! I like to pause movies and write down memorable quotes. But this quote is from a book, *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman* by Haruki Murakami. "She waited for the train to pass. Then she said, 'I sometimes think that people's hearts are like deep wells. Nobody knows what's at the bottom. All you can do is imagine by what comes floating to the surface every once in a while.'"

6. What is your favorite worship song?

That's so funny, we were going to discuss this during small group yesterday but it was raining too much so it got canceled. Anyways, I also have a list of worship songs! Usually when I just want to listen to a worship song during my free time, I really love "Your Love Never Fails" by Jesus Culture. It just talks about God's unending love and that's my favorite aspect to learn about Him. These days, I've also been really liking "Through it All" by Hillsong.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I haven't really thought about this. I feel like these days I've just been living in the moment and haven't really set up long term goals. But I know I should! I think I want to build genuine relationships and friendships with people. I'm thinking more on those terms than achieving things academically. I just want to take things slow and enjoy my time in college.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

This could basically be like what's your favorite movie, right? When I watch my favorite movie it's like I'm watching it for the first time again and that would be *Lady Bird*. I guess for seeing one movie again for the first time I would want to watch a thriller or mystery with a big twist at the end. Let me check my movie list. I would say *Coraline*, which is another one of my favorite movies. I think when I first watched it when I was little, I wasn't able to appreciate the art style and I think I would like to watch it again and just feel the creepiness again.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

This is kinda embarrassing, like complimenting yourself in a way. I wouldn't want to say negative things about myself. My closest friends and acquaintances usually say I'm really sweet. I hear that I'm cute, even

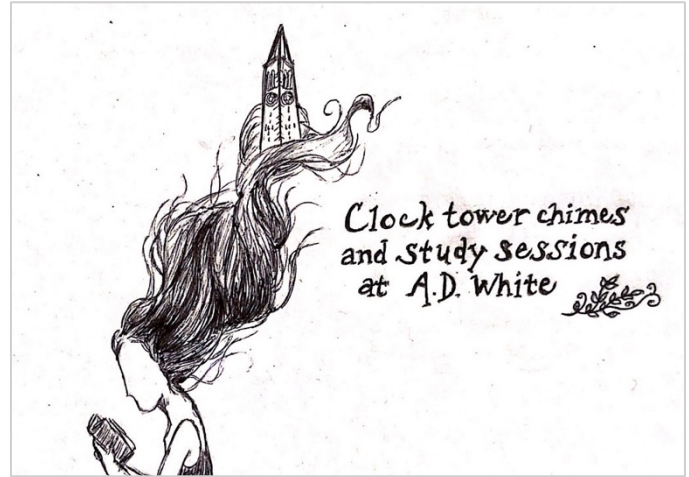
though I want to be cool. [*I also want to be cool!*] Yeah! I just want to give off like cool and intimidating vibes. Hmm for the last word, I guess artistic. I'm really into the arts and music in general.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

A class in music or film, maybe a class that takes you step by step of how to make or start your own band. That was also one of my dreams growing up, like being in an indie band. And then in that class you could learn about music production and composing and stuff. I think that would be really cool.

I had such a great time chatting with Sky. She had some very deep, insightful thoughts about life and it was so refreshing talking to someone so excited and optimistic about college. We talked a little more about our favorite movies and favorite music (we both like NCT!) before I had to rush off to a class. I pray that Sky continues to be blessed by the Lord throughout the rest of this semester and that she never loses her enthusiasm! Also, I definitely think she's super cool :)

-- Valerie Chen '23



"Clock tower chimes and study sessions at A.D. White"

QQ Lin

Hometown: Bronx, NY || Major: E&S || '25

QQ sounds a lot like "cute cute" and that is exactly what QQ is - cute!! Walking into Bethe, I see QQ with a huuuge black backpack that she lugged all the way from North (poor girl). Meanwhile I'm carrying a sleeping bag and duffel bag. Why does it look like we're running away from home? Fall retreat was tonight!! After a super busy and stressful week for QQ, we were finally able to meet for a nice pre-retreat dinner and relax for a bit.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** nature, trails, trees, clocktower
- * **CBS:** family, Jesus
- * **Class:** stressful, time-consuming
- * **Zoom:** meetings
- * **Worship:** learning about God, connecting with the Lord
- * **Bubble Tea:** oOOH passion fruit green tea, I don't really like bubble tea. Fruit teas are #1, milk teas are basic.

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

Cornell- beautiful, never thought this place was real, the pictures I see match exactly with in-person sceneries!

CBS- a warm and inclusive environment where no one will judge you :)

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How steep the slopes are!! You feel it in your calves ;-;

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

Either model or travel around the world (as many places as I can), but even if I had money from modeling, I would be too short, I'm 5' 2". I would want to travel most to Bora Bora, it's very peaceful there and the beach, omg!

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

a. My grandpa. Before my grandpa passed, I didn't get to see him for the last time. So, I just want to see him and spend more time with him. I only have a faint memory of my grandpa but I remember I had a lot of fun with my grandpa. Even though he was really old, he would still push me on the swings!

b. My past self - I just want to get closure with my past.

c. My future self - it'd be interesting to see what would happen in the future and feel assured.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I have too many different quotes, I'm unable to pick one! But I like inspirational quotes – the ones that deal with emotion.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

It's a song from childhood - it's in Chinese! It goes like [耶稣耶稣]. I forgot the name :(

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Find a job that I really want to do and land an internship. Make meaningful bonds and hopefully learn more/enough about Jesus Christ.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

The Avengers!!!!!! They all have superpowers, and they all are so different. One can blast with their arms, one's super strong, all so interesting. I'm into fantasy!

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

Genuine - I'm a very genuine person, I say things that come to mind and don't hold back. Sensitive, and Optimistic!

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Make your own ice cream, and wine class! For an imaginary class... a class just to learn about kpop idols. My favorite kpop band is Big Bang!

QQ wanted to grab some ice cream before we left for fall retreat. Even though we were definitely not running a bitttt late, ice cream is obviously priority so we grabbed the ice cream (it was Seneca Sunset Sorbet, can you blame us). We then sprinted to Baker Flagpole, arrived on time according to CBS time, and then were whisked away to Fall Retreat!

-- Rejoice Hu '23



"Go Big Red!"

Priscilla Liu

Hometown: Terre Haute, IN || Major: Biological Sciences || '24

I met Priscilla at Duffield on the Tuesday afternoon before Thanksgiving break. She greeted me cheerfully, before sitting down at my table. We chatted for a bit just to catch up, talking about how our semesters were going and what we were doing for break. Priscilla's happy energy was infectious, and after awhile, we began a very fun and enjoyable interview.

Word Associations

- * Cornell: Big Red
- * CBS: Fish
- * Class: Notebook
- * Zoom: Zoom whiteboard
- * Worship: David
- * Bubble Tea: Happiness

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

My first impression of Cornell? Like... labyrinth-y. Also scary, my parents were driving up that one steep slope and I was like are we going up or down? The campus is also super big and sometimes I get lost. Honestly, my classes and everything haven't been so bad, even though they are pretty hard. But everyone is super welcoming and it's been nice. I thought CBS was pretty small. I first joined when you guys were on Zoom last year so I guess I couldn't really tell online. But I thought you guys were kinda small and cozy, which I liked! I think it's also nice that CBS also has sharing time every week and very focused Bible studies. Oh, I also thought it was interesting that it's all student-led. In person, it's definitely much better and I've liked getting to know everyone.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Hmm... I didn't come here with a lot of expectations. I guess like, walking to different places? Like I wasn't expecting such steep hills. I thought it would only take me like five minutes to walk from this building to another building but no! Also, I guess maybe this is just my impression but all of the professors I've had have been very open to questions and helping you understand the material. Also, I did not expect the dining hall to be so... much. So many different places, so much food too. I also like how there are also so many different circles and groups here, like I can go so many days without seeing certain people from specific circles.

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

Oh! I would try to be a graphic artist. I feel like that would be a really cool job. Or like an animator for Disney or Pixar.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

I'm such an introvert though. Talking to people stresses me out! Hmm.. I guess this is hard because I don't know if I'll have kids, but I would want to talk to my grown-up grandkid. Not my actual kid, because that's too close. But I would just want to see how they turn out and what the future is like. Wait, can it be fictional? [Yes.] Okay, do you know the anime Demon Slayer? [I don't think I do.] I would like to talk to the main character from Demonslayer. His name is Tanjiro. He's just such a good person and I feel like talking to him will make me feel less stressed. And for my third person... Are these people all together at the same dinner? [Yes, I think so LOL]. Then I think I would want my mom to be there because her commentary is very interesting.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I don't know the exact quote but it's from the Chronicles of Narnia, in the last book when they're in the final place and are all happy. I think Lucie asked one of the eagles like, why aren't you tired? And the eagle says something that is like a parallel to a Bible verse about how you can never grow tired or weary or something like that. You could probably find it online. I took it so literally when I was younger because I always wanted to be able to run a 6-minute mile and to not be tired. But even now, it's just a good reminder of not growing weary or tired, both physically and spiritually. [I couldn't find the quote but Priscilla messages it to me later: "Faster and faster they raced, but no one got hot or tired or out of breath."]

6. What is your favorite worship song?

It's a children's song. It's called My Heavenly Father Likes Me. It has a really simple tune but I like the lyrics a lot.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I guess like, to be more sure about what I'm doing and why I'm doing things. That's the main thing. And that goes along with growing spiritually, but I guess to be more reliant on God since that's something I struggle with a lot. And I hope I don't have a trash GPA, like having decent grades would be nice. One more thing is that I would want to be a good mentor to my younger sister. When I'm a senior she'll be a senior in high school, so I hope to have some wisdom to give to her and help her through things. Also to have good friends that I can talk to even after I graduate.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be? Spirited Away! I was so confused when I watched it the first time but it was still so good. I'm the type of person to comment a lot when I watch things, so I like to talk a lot during movies. I remember when I watched the movie the first time and I was just saying "Huh?" the whole time.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

I guess quiet is probably a general consensus. I'd say I'm pretty awkward. Also, I like laughing, so I guess that can describe me. That's a pretty good description of me.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Draw Your Own Manga. I think that would be pretty cool. Maybe a little stressful but still pretty cool. I think it would be super fun to do that.

I had a great time interviewing Priscilla, as well as getting to know her better today. Her enthusiasm and amusing answers to my questions made our interview super fun and delightful. Priscilla's kindhearted nature and sweet personality really shined throughout our talk, and I hope that she continues to find joy in everything she does. I pray that Priscilla will learn to fully rely on the Lord and trust in His perfect plan for her!

-- Valerie Chen '23



"There's bear-ly any snow on the ground... :)"

Jade Lo

Hometown: Queens, NY || Major: Animal Science || '25

It was a cold gray day as I waited for Jade to arrive at Rose House on West campus. It would still be at least another 15 minutes before she arrived, so I decided to just keep scrolling through my YouTube while I waited. Fifteen minutes...10 minutes...these videos were very interesting. I suddenly realized more time had passed than I realized, and Jade had texted me saying she was here. I dashed to the elevator and rushed to the lobby to let Jade in because I was afraid, she had been waiting too long when I suddenly realized she had probably only been waiting a minute or two. She was standing by the elevator, bundled up and smiling under her mask.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** School
- * **CBS:** Bible study
- * **Class:** work
- * **Zoom:** meeting
- * **Worship:** fellowship
- * **Bubble Tea:** drink

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

First impressions? Everyone is super nice. So nice and sweet and understanding. CBS? Really connective. I liked that the upperclassmen would specifically find time to talk with the freshman. I was also able to learn a lot of things so that I could grow closer to God. And also it's nice to have Christian friends who are around my age and aren't just adults who are already married with children.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Everyone is struggling.

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

My dream job? Probably still be a veterinarian. What would I be doing with my life? Hmm... probably spending a lot of time with my friends and family.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

They'd probably be all my high school friends. My three high school friends. I guess I'd still be able to talk to famous people, but I usually just think of celebrities, and I'd rather talk to my friends. I feel like I haven't been able to communicate with them that much. I'd especially want to talk to them now because I'll get busier and busier later.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Probably a Bible quote, I don't remember exactly where it's from. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day will have enough troubles of its own." I think it's from Matthew.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Worship song...probably 10,000 reasons.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Mmm...I guess get into vet school. The 2nd thing is to stay close, good friends with the friends I have now, whether from middle school or high school or college. In terms of my Christian life, I guess being able to remember more verses and also build a stronger foundation in Christ.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Train to Busan.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

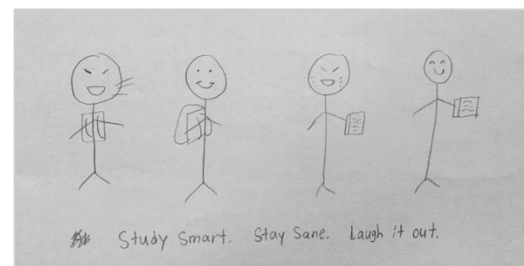
Can I say what people have described me as? Hardworking, mature, and nice.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

There's a class called practical large animal handling. But there isn't one with practical small animal handling. I wish there was one like that.

It was such a pleasure talking to Jade! She has such a sweet and caring personality, and I really enjoyed all our conversations in-between the interviewing, especially our discussion on Train to Busan. I'm so happy Jade has come to CBS this year, and it's very heartwarming to see how deeply she cares about her friends and her faith. So excited to see what the Lord has in store for her these next four years and how He will work through her at Cornell and beyond.

-- Beth Kam '24



"Study smart. Stay sane. Laugh it out."

Maggie Wan

Hometown: St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada || Major: CS || '24

I headed to Duffield after class and found an empty table next to Mattins (thank you Lord!). Ten minutes later Maggie materialized next to me, and after a brief exchange about our Thanksgiving plans, we began.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** school
- * **CBS:** fellowship
- * **Class:** stressful
- * **Zoom:** new experience
- * **Worship:** fulfilling
- * **Bubble Tea:** the best

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

Cornell: I think it's kind of different because our first year we were online, so we didn't know what it was like even though I've been here a whole year. So this year feels like the first year. It feels big, a lot of people, especially because I came from a smaller town. It's also in a remote place, so that took some getting used to. But pretty good overall.

CBS: I think everyone is really nice. Since we were on Zoom last year, we didn't meet people, but now that it's in person it's cool to get to know everybody.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

The walking, the slopes. Since we were online we didn't have much class to go to, so I didn't realize how bad it was until this year. But I guess it keeps you healthy. Oh, and also how smart everyone is!

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

I think probably some kind of designer, like maybe media design... I've always been really interested in art, like when I was younger, so when I was younger I wanted to be an interior designer. So things that are kind of artistic.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Maybe just like... **thinks very hard** Ed Sheeran for the present? Since I've liked his music for a long time. Maybe ask him how he writes songs so well. And, Zendaya! I really liked her in *The Greatest Showman*. Oh, also Awkwafina! She was in *Crazy Rich Asians* and she was hilarious.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Philippians 4:13 -- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."
When we were younger we came up with a life verse (Like in response to, "What's your favorite verse?"), and this one is pretty reassuring.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Awesome God.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I think I'd like to mature in all those ways (spiritually, personally, academically). Have experiences in school, and grow spiritually even when I'm away from home and be able to hold on to the same values.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Titanic. I put that as one of my favorite movies and I've watched it since I was really young (I don't know why). It's really nostalgic for me, so I would say that one.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

a. Creative. I would like to think that I have a creative way of thinking about things and growing up I liked to do a lot of random projects and art.

b. Organized. I like to have things in the right places, it really bothers me if it's not so I like to prepare things and have them neat and organized.

c. Introverted. I definitely enjoy spending time alone. I think I'm more independent sometimes, like I like hanging out with other people, but I also like having quiet time to myself.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!)

I think there's food science classes where you get to make food. I would like to take one of those, like the one where you get to make ice cream. I think that would be a nice break from my other classes.

I had a pleasant time talking to Maggie, and I hope we can have more conversations in the future. She's a bright young woman and I'm looking forward to seeing how God continues to mold her and grow her.

-- Emily Kam '21



"Cornell!"

Emily Wang

Hometown: Fremont, CA || Major: CS || '25

I met Emily on an Ithaca-typical (aka colder-than-I-expected) October evening at Fusia Bento Bar. Just earlier I had been contemplating getting a hot drink before our meet-up to warm myself up in the cold weather, but I realized as soon as Emily sat down at our booth that simply being in her presence was enough to warm my soul. We put in our orders (Emily got a bento box, as one should at the Best Bento Bar on the Block) and began the interview while we waited for the food.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** plants
- * **CBS:** Bible
- * **Class:** math
- * **Zoom:** pandemic
- * **Worship:** God
- * **Bubble Tea:** boba

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

Cornell: a lot of walking-- I signed up for a gym membership because I didn't think I would exercise, but actually just walking to class is so much. I feel bad for not using the gym membership as much as I should.

CBS: Everyone is so nice! Someone reached out to me for a one-on-one meetup; I was able to develop a personal relationship with the people from the start and felt very welcomed; people always talked to and sat with me when I was by myself :)

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How hilly it is. I did most of my research on Cornell before I started here, but never physically visited. Walking up to 9am lectures in PSB is so tiring!

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

I would be developing an app. I also just want to be able to take my family places-- to give them good experiences around the world. I enjoy seeing those experiences online and want to be able to bring my family to enjoy them too in real life.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

My mom, dad, and sister because I haven't eaten with them in a while. Plus I think I would be awkward with new people so it might not be very enjoyable. :P

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Don't cry over spilt milk." There are many things when I look back on things I did wrong, but I have to remind myself that it's best to just move on from the past.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

"10,000 Reasons"! It's always so nice to listen to-- I can never get sick of it. It was the only song I had downloaded on my iPod shuffle in middle school and I would listen to it on loop.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Be more outgoing and open to new opportunities. I tend to draw back because I'm worried about what might happen or go wrong.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

"Bad Genius." It's about cheating on tests (like the SAT) and how students came up with an elaborate scheme to cheat on standardized exams. It was so thrilling to watch, so I want to experience that again. There is a lot of action involved, like CollegeBoard hunting down one of the students. It's a Thai movie on Netflix-- check it out!

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

Friendly, impulsive, creative.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

History of Censorship in China. My FWS is about violence in Asia and I focused on China in a recent assignment. China has a lot of censorship and I would like to learn more about it.

Midway through the interview, our food was brought over to the table. But Emily was on such a roll with her questions that we went ahead and finished the interview (including the drawing!) before digging into our food. That's how fun and comforting it was to talk to Emily-- enough to let delicious food wait! If you haven't already, go get to know Emily. She is awesome and has the heart to grow stronger and stronger in her faith with the support of brothers and sisters in CBS. Welcome to Cornell and blessings from your new CBS family, Emily!

-- Meili Bowden '23



"The Hero's Journey"

Rachel Wu

Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD || Major: Biology || '24

This interview is done via Zoom because we are both home for Thanksgiving break. Praise the Lord for safe travels and rest! We are both punctual, and she says she's chill when I ask her how she's doing. Then I ask her for her hometown and I find myself struggling to spell. Rachel graciously sends the name over Zoom chat, which I then copy-and-paste onto the doc. Now we can proceed with the rest of the interview.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** ...difficult? [I feel that]
- * **CBS:** friendship
- * **Class:** prelims
- * **Zoom:** online school
- * **Worship:** God
- * **Bubble Tea:** no sugar, no ice
This is my go-to-order [Wow, no sugar?] *laughs* I know, I'm insane

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

Let me think for a moment... Cornell is cold, a very pretty campus and close to nature. CBS... I initially joined because other people did *laughs* CBS is a very close-knit community!

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Hmmm I would say... probably how many people from the same high school go there! [From your high school specifically?] No, from other people's high schools *laughs* no one else from my high school is here.

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

Probably running a baking blog [What do you like to bake?] Desserts, in general, yeah. [Do you change the sugar levels? Since you go for no sugar with boba] *laughs* yeah, I'm notorious for doing that!

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Holy crap, um... Marie Curie (I'm very science-y), Rosaline Franklin *silence* (uhhh *laughs* I'm boring I don't like to eat dinner with people) *more silence* and I guess my best friend from Taiwan.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I have no inspiration *laughs* can I Google inspirational quotes right now?? *long silence* does it have to be deep or can it be on crack? [Sure it can be on crack if you want.] "Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell" *laughs*

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Oceans by Hillsong United.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Um, to build lasting relationships with people and learn to balance schoolwork with other things [Would you like to elaborate on other things?] Basically not school work things, like extracurriculars and research [What sort of research do you do?] Biology in a bio lab. We study how genes interact in its developmental pathways.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Secret World of Arrietty from Studio Ghibli! [Do you like other Studio Ghibli movies?] Yeah! I haven't watched too many, but I'm going to start binging them. Arrietty was first one I watched.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

a. Ambitious - I know what I want, and I will do anything to get it (to earn it), which I guess is interchangeable with "hardworking." Emotional, and Hardworking.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Intersection of religion and science.

We both wish each other a happy Thanksgiving. Rachel says she is planning to spend tonight catching up with orgo, demonstrating that hardworking attribute of hers. I find that very admirable and probably something I should do as well since finals are horrifyingly close. Overall, it was a joy talking to her! I wish I could be here to see her grow in the Lord, but I suppose online communication will have to suffice.

-- Alyssa Gao '21



"Figure skater Karen Chen at the exhibition gala for 2017 US Nationals"

Leland Xu

Hometown: Ithaca, NY || Major: ILR || '24

I met up with Leland on the third floor of the Duffield Atrium. We sat on the couches and began our interview.

Word Associations

- * **Cornell:** university
 - * **CBS:** bible
 - * **Class:** room
 - * **Zoom:** lecture
 - * **Worship:** song
 - * **Bubble Tea:** overrated
-

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

Used to think prestigious, but impression has gone down over time.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

How many people are at Cornell.

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

I would read, sleep, and watch movies all day for the rest of my life.

4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Søren Kierkegaard, Jesus Christ, and Leo Tolstoy.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Can mortal man be in the right before God" -Job 4:17

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Softly and Tenderly by Will L. Thompson.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Grow as a person spiritually and emotionally.

8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Ikiru, because it is a very reflective and humanist tale of meaning of one's life.

9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

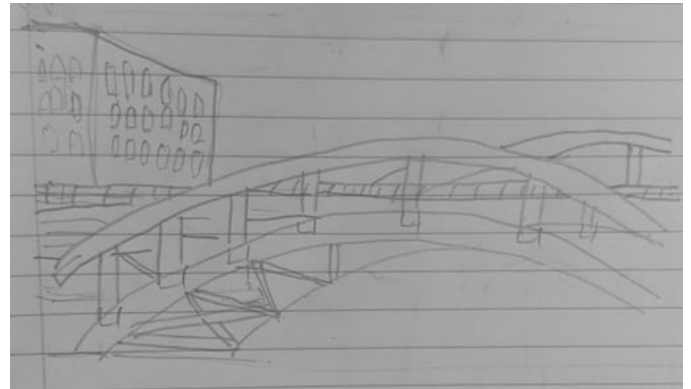
Hardworking, persistent, and realistic.

10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Nap 101.

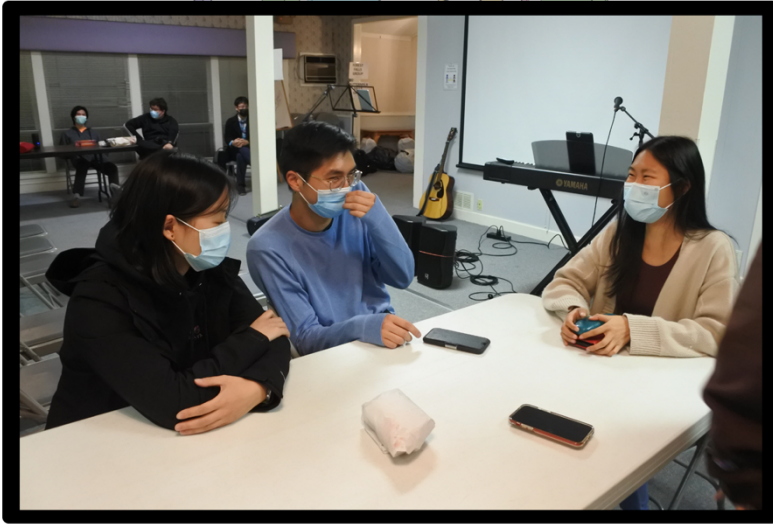
After the interview I took a picture of him for BoL, and then both went our ways. I wish Leland nothing but the best for what lies ahead in his college career and pray for him to grow spiritually and emotionally.

-- Tony Yang '23



"Cornell"

CBS Fall Retreat



Doing the Right Thing

By Attilus Leung '22

When I was a wee boy, my parents would bring me to their monthly Bible study in their church. They went through difficult theology lessons given by seminary professors and definitely went way over my head, but I guess my parents thought it would still be beneficial to me nonetheless - maybe they thought I'd learn something by osmosis (and to be fair, I do remember something about the lesson on the mystery of God. So I guess they were kind of right).

But there was one lesson that stood out to me the most. I remember getting increasingly more agitated at the adults talking, because what they said seemed to be so dumb. I don't really remember the details of what they were discussing, but they were basically talking about how difficult it was to do the "right thing".

"I think it's so hard to do this and this."

"Yeah, I agree. If you do this and this, you'll need to consider this and this, and this and this, so it's actually a harder problem than you might think."

And 12-year-old me was very annoyed. Everybody kept talking about problems, but nobody gave any solutions. So I blurted out as if it was the most obvious thing ever: "Yeah, but even though it's very difficult, it doesn't mean you shouldn't still do the right things!"

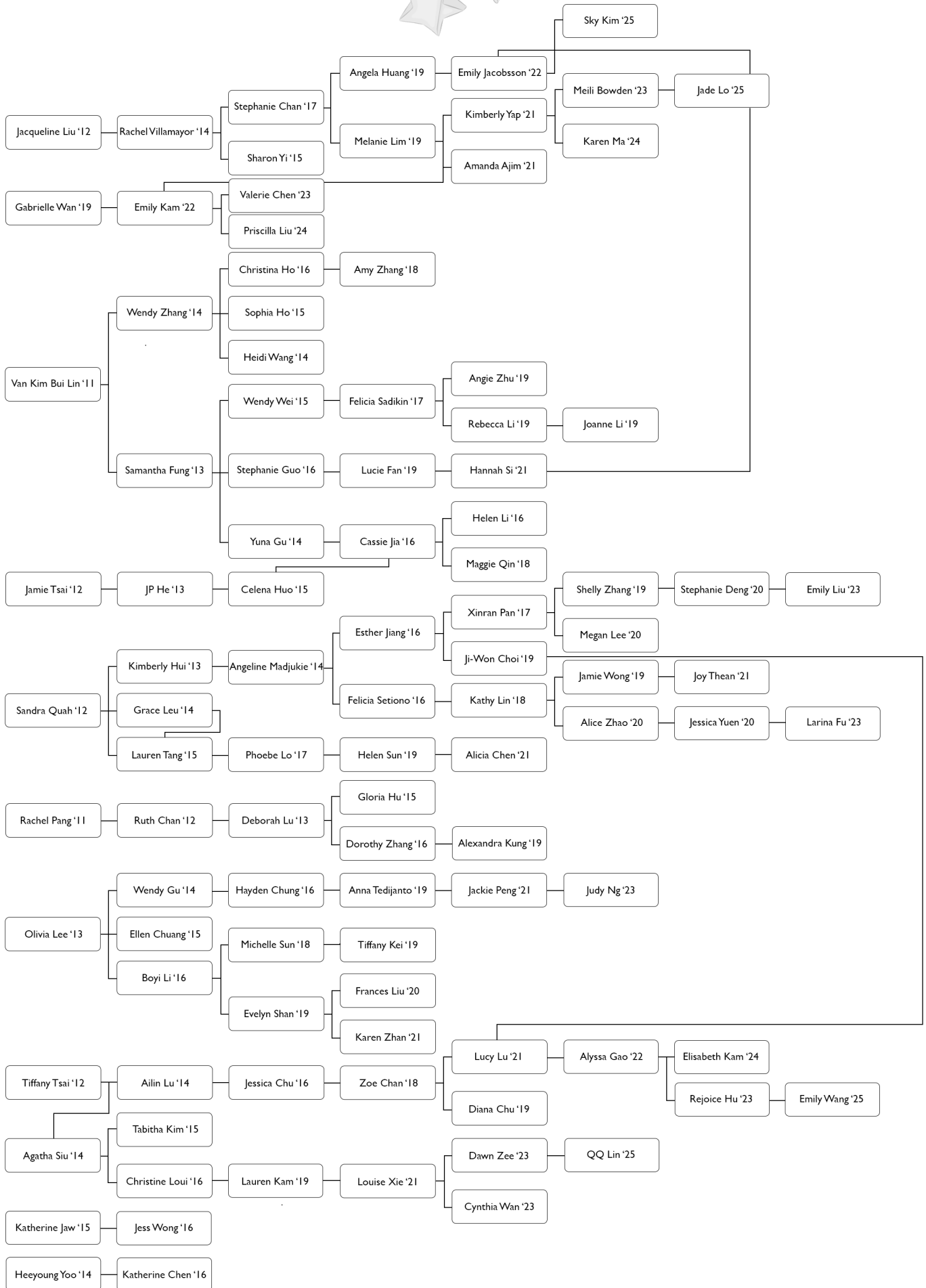
I'm pretty sure that if I were to sit in the same Bible study now, I would be the one agreeing with the adults. In principle, we are supposed to do all these very difficult things: "Love one another." "Forgive your enemies." "Give to the poor." But looking at the world realistically, that isn't always possible. The Bible tells us to "not give up meeting together", but I get so socially exhausted that I can't do meetups with everybody in the fellowship. The Bible asks us to give to the poor, but how would I know if the money I'm giving to the beggar on the street wouldn't be used to fund some crime syndicate that exploits the homeless and the needy? And there are almost certainly times where we have been burned because we tried to do "the right thing" -- maybe you tried to forgive someone, but

they just kept hurting you more and more; and even if God has an infinite capacity to forgive, the human capacity is very finite. And what about sinners in the church who you should welcome and forgive, but has the capability of leading weaker believers astray? It seems as if these high and lofty ideals just cannot stand in the real world, and there's always some caveat or compromises that we must make.

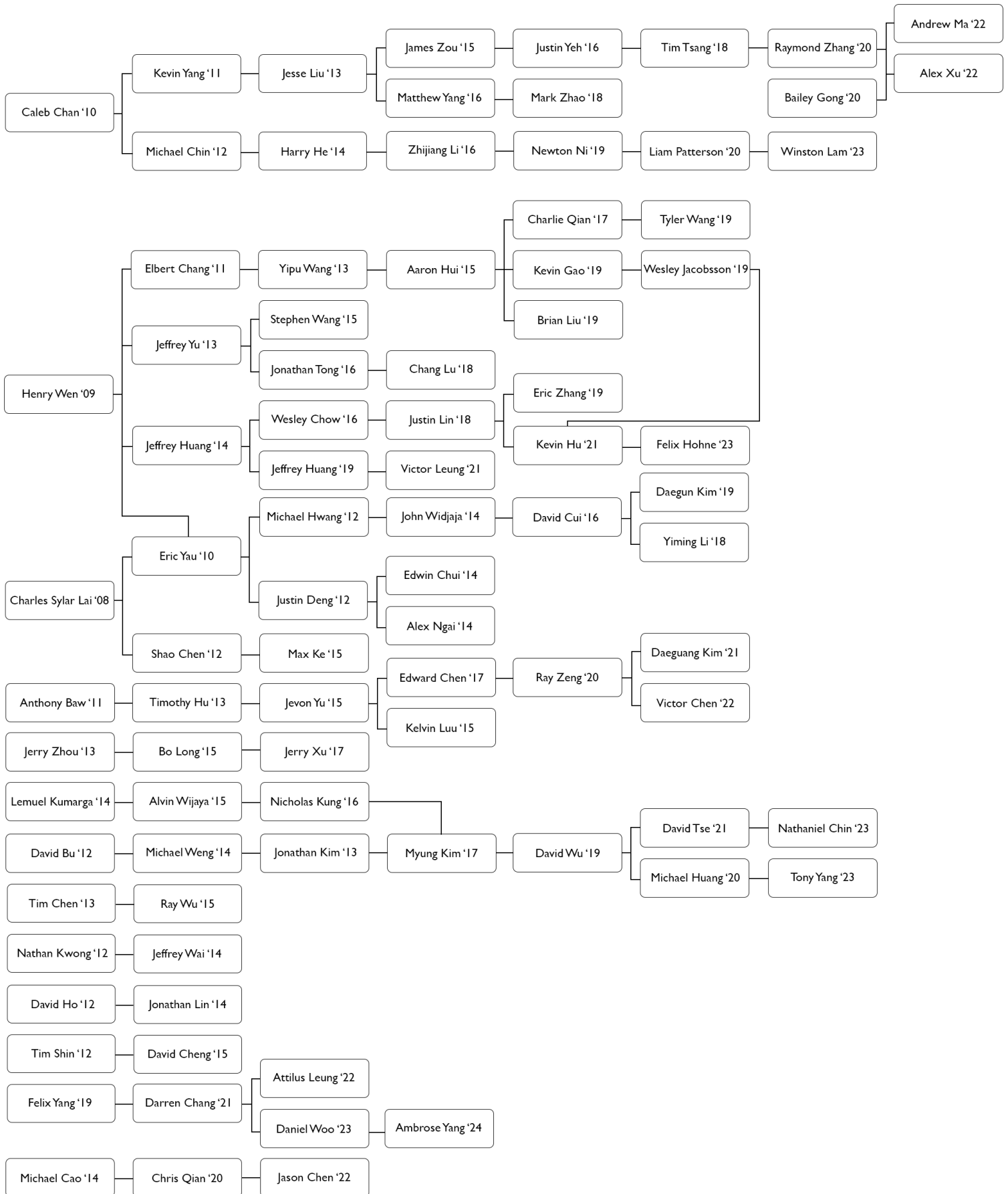
I'm reminded of this verse in Mathew 10:16: "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." The Bible reminds us that the world is inherently hostile to believers -- that it is a godless, sinful world, one that will prey on the sheep and eat us whole. In some sense, the Bible does tell us that in a worldly standpoint, our principles may not survive in the real world, and it will lead to suffering and persecution. "Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake." (Mathew 10:21-22). But Jesus does tell us how to respond to this hostile world -- "be wise as serpents and innocent as doves". Jesus asks us to be cunning, to be wise and to consider all these real-world variables that affect our execution of these high and lofty principles. Yet at the same time, Jesus asks us to be pure and innocent as a child, never compromising on the principles that the Bible and the Church is founded upon. It's certainly true that even if it's very difficult to do the right thing, we should never cease to do the right thing regardless. Of course, Jesus reminds us that we will be rewarded at the end: "But the one who endures to the end will be saved." (Mathew 10:22)

Some people may be like me who may be overly realistic (to the point of pessimism) and feel discouraged about how incompatible the world is with Biblical principles. Some might feel that people are overly negative, and they should stop complaining and just "go do it". Regardless of whether you are more analytical or emotional, I encourage everyone to think about what it means to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves, and in turn, how to witness in the presence of a broken and fallen world.

Sisters of CBS



Brothers of CBS



CBS together

CBS Fall Retreat



CBS Rock Climbing

ACE Firepit at Pastor Paul's Yard

