

bread of life

cbs spring 2022

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 to 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.

table of contents

editor letter	3	interview	
ministry letters	6	meili bowden	
coordinator letter: emily kam	6	valerie chen	
assistant coordinator letter: grace jia	8	nathaniel chin	
reach	9	felix hohne	
praise	10	elisabeth kam	
discipleship	11	emily kam	
bible study	13	jasper liang	
small group	17	qq lin	
senior superlatives	19	joy thean	
senior interviews	20	daniel woo	
jason chen	20	alex xu	
victor chen	22	leland xu	
alyssa gao	24	dawn zee	
emily jacobsson	26	design	
grace jia	29	nicole thean	
emily kam	31	writing	
attilus leung	33	emily kam	
jasper liang	35	daniel woo	
alex xu	37	edit	
senior wills	39	valerie chen	
newcomer interviews	41	joy thean	
jennie chen	42	daniel woo	
justin hsu	44	photography	
kyle lai	46	emily kam	
sharon wu	48	joy thean	
junior class crossword	51	nicole thean	
open-ended articles	52	daniel woo	
<i>seek Him first</i> by daniel woo	52	kimberly yap	
<i>on difficult decision-making and Jesus (who isn't a doormat)</i> by emily kam	56		
prayer partner trees	58		
shoutouts	60		



editor letter

Dearest CBS,

안녕하세요! This is the formal way of saying “Hello” in Korean to someone older than you or someone that you respect. But the word 안녕 (Annyeong) in Korean doesn’t just mean hello; the word actually translates quite literally to “to be comfortable,” or “to have peace/wellbeing.” So when you say hello to someone else in Korean, what you’re actually doing besides greeting them is asking, “Are you at peace?”

What a strange thing to ask someone the first time you meet them! Usually when you meet up with someone you tend to broadly ask them, “How are you doing?” or “How is it going?” and then you talk about your family, work, hobbies and the whole lot. But the question “Are you at peace?” is pretty specific and oddly deep. Yet, the more I dwell on the meaning of Annyeong, I think it’s a question that’s worth asking each other and more importantly, ourselves. So, CBS, hello! I’m so glad that you’re reading through this edition of BoL. Are you at peace?

This semester I have started asking myself this question more often as I became aware of how fast this new year was flying by. Now is it just me, or is the winter semester too slow and the spring semester too fast? (I know in my previous article I talked about how fleeting life is in the winter, but bear with me.) There is a huge urgency towards the end of the year to do it all: to excel at the complex projects, to be at the next party, to meet with this professor and secure that internship before it’s too late. There is a real fear of missing out on all the good times that you should be having as long as you aren’t being left out or falling short of finding “true success.” All of our time is used up in a constant cycle of catching up with friends, school deadlines, work; yet, if we actually do it all we still walk away feeling oddly empty and restless. Maybe you don’t feel this way... but I do. So I ask you again, I ask myself again: “Are you at peace?”

This is why I am so thankful for CBS. In Christian fellowship, we can take some time away from the bustling Cornell campus and remind each other that God commands us to be tranquil in heart: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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” (Philippians 4:6-7). As I mentioned in my previous article: there is something that is just so special about CBS gathering together. Through serving, Bible study, praying, and of course, just hanging out, we can share a Christ-like love and joy with each other that calls us to continually look at Christ. And it is only through being in awe at the beauty and glory of Christ that we can walk away from the anxiousness and fleetingness of this earth, finding stillness and rest in Him.

Of course, I’m not telling you to slack off, to not meet with that person, to not finish strong; nor that nothing outside of Christian fellowship is worth anything. I’m also not claiming that if we ask God for peace, life will instantly be easy going. Absolutely not! Rather, I want to tell you that Philippians 4 presents the peace of God such that despite what happens in our lives, we do not feel shaken and we do not feel afraid. With the peace of God, we base our security and our stillness not on what is happening to us or how we are feeling, but from God’s mighty promises. Promises to “supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19), promises to “forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness” if we confess our sins (1 John 1:9) and promises that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39). Ultimately, because of God’s grace and mercy, we will have a full and everlasting peace! And with this knowledge and gained peace, we can go to those around us and share the everlasting joy that Christ has given us.

So, CBS, I would like to say hello once again. Hello! Reader, I'm so glad you're here. Are you at peace? If you are, let us come before the Lord and rejoice together for what He has given to us. And if you are not, let us still come before the Lord and find it in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us be joyful and praise Him forevermore, for He has given us eternal peace.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to putting together this edition of BoL - none of it would have been possible without all of you! I want to express my gratitude 100 times over to the artists, editors, photographers, bible study

leaders, small group leaders and the servant team for their faithfulness and constant love this semester. And as always, thank you, dear reader, for being a part of CBS. May God bless you greatly in the coming months; He already has and I know that He will. Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you.

**Love In Christ,
Daniel Woo ('23)**



february retreat





coordinator letter

Dearest CBS,

The amazing thing about the Gospel is that it never changes – and yet, it constantly changes me. Here are my reflections as coordinator through the three parts of the Gospel: justification, sanctification, and glorification.

JUSTIFICATION

As I look back on junior Emily a year ago, having gone through the process of being confirmed for coordinator, one thought springs to mind: how could the committee allow me to become coordinator? I did not feel anywhere as mature as my past coordinators. My natural inclination is to draw away from community and into seclusion. My thoughts are self-centered, always gravitating towards negativity and pessimism, and ungodly.

Even now, reflecting on my time as coordinatorship I see myself dwelling only on what went wrong or what could have gone better. I could have done this instead of that. I could have prayed more.

Lesson 1: My life and everything in it is not about me at all. It isn't about my failings or what I am lacking. Life, true life, is about Jesus and what He has already accomplished on the cross. Brothers and sisters, it is essential for us to confess and repent of our sins. How can we be healed if we are not aware that we are diseased? How can we move towards being clean if our ego insists that being dirty is perfectly acceptable?

But it is also essential to turn our attention fully and wholly to the Lord. Accept God's forgiveness towards our misgivings and see that His love is so much stronger than our sin and brokenness. What good does it do to constantly berate ourselves for our shortcomings, and wallow in despair? This becomes a dangerous sort of self-centeredness, where all we

see is our sin and never look to the cross. Do we think that our sin is greater than God's grace?

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose." (Galatians 2:20-21)

I witnessed God's provision and grace for myself and CBS this semester. Even though I made mistakes (and suffered the consequences), God still provided people, places, and support. That's how I knew that God was working – there is so much good that happened, and I am certain it was not because of anything I can take credit for. I could do everything and still nothing could be accomplished. **Lesson 2: My works mean nothing if God is not working.** I may have poured myself into CBS (as I type this I hear a condemning voice say, "You could have poured out more"), but that doesn't make me a worthy coordinator. Works don't equal worth. I am only worthy to serve because God has justified me by the blood of Christ.

SANCTIFICATION

To be sanctified means to be made holy. As Christians, sanctification takes a lifetime (literally).

I am quite amazed by the way God has grown me *just enough* to be coordinator for CBS and serve in this role for this period of time. Between coordinator confirmation and the start of the new semester, my sanity and sense of reality spiraled and suddenly I was clinging onto the truth of the Gospel like never before. I know that it was during this time God's loving hand was at work in me. After all, how can I lead the fellowship if I myself am not living by Gospel truth? **Lesson 3: You cannot show, teach, or lead someone to be more spiritually mature than your own current level.**

Holiness isn't something we can't conjure up from inside ourselves. Yes, reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping the Lord are all ways for the Lord to work in us and make us more and more like Him. But that is the key part – the Lord is the one working in us. We can't make ourselves holy. God does that.

All those shortcomings of mine I listed earlier didn't magically vanish once I became coordinator. If anything, they became even more apparent to me. I believe that God used all that I've faced as coordinator to reveal to me such shortcomings, my hidden faults, and ultimately to make me more like Himself. I've been humbled, broken-down, and built back up again, solemner than before and more joyful than before.

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

GLORIFICATION

There's not as much to say for my coordinatorship in terms of glorification, as finally being made full and perfect by God will come at the end of time (which is not here... yet). But I do

long for it. I remember hearing a pastor once mention how ironic it is that when we want patience, we want it right now! That's how I feel about my (low) level of patience, and about sanctification and glorification. If only God could just hurry up and make me more wise and more sanctified. If only I could be made perfect already! If only I could understand everything and worship God perfectly.

Dearest friends, I encourage you to adopt this mindset. Not so much the being impatient bit, but the desiring God part. Being coordinator didn't prevent me from feeling spiritually burnt-out. I could often feel myself slipping down a spiritual slope into apathy or laziness, and neglect towards God. Do not despair, brothers and sisters. God has justified you. God is sanctifying you. God will perfect in you. Only turn to him. Turn to him not because you “happen to feel like it today”, but because you know the promise of perfection through Him, the wholeness we will have in Him, and the glory of our Almighty God that we will all be able to share in one glorious day.

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”
(Phil 4:23)*

**In Christ,
Emily Kam (*21)**



assistant coordinator letter

Dearest CBS,

Between the academic grind and Cornell's bumpy (and ongoing) transition to pre-pandemic norms, this semester has been a whirlwind of stress and excitement. My heart swells seeing the return of events that haven't been in person for the last two years, and I thank the Lord for all the opportunities He's given us for fellowship within not only CBS but also the greater body of Christ on campus.

Serving as Assistant Coordinator has been an intensely challenging and fulfilling experience, one that I'm not sure I was ready for when the search process concluded last semester. I understood coming in the new responsibilities and pressures that came with the role, but that didn't change how overwhelming they could be. It was a struggle for me to find a balance between the needs of the fellowship and other things that called for my attention. I often felt weak, frustrated and anxious that I was falling short of what this role required of me. But God's power is made perfect in weakness. I would never measure up if I relied on my own strength – it is only through His grace that I am able to grow in love for CBS and support Emily in her coordinatorship. By giving myself up to the Lord, I can serve Him with a calm mind and peaceful heart. As I set my focus on doing all things in the name of Jesus, I can be sure that He will be guiding me in His infinite love and faithfulness.

When Emily and I were planning for February Retreat at the start of this semester, our lodging options fell through about ten days before the planned date. We scrambled to find somewhere else that was available and affordable, and as the days passed, we were forced to consider canceling the retreat entirely. It was then that God provided for us, putting people

in touch and everything into place to give us two wonderful days of worship, fun and learning. In ways like these, God has amazed me again and again with His provision. Whether or not things go the way we plan them, we trust that God is sovereign and what He has planned will be for our good.

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

God is mighty. God is good. I encourage you, brothers and sisters, to remember these truths and remind one another of them through all circumstances. We all have our struggles, be they spiritual, mental or physical. Do not hesitate to confide in God, for His love and care for you is beyond comprehension. And I hope that as God shares in your burdens, you will do the same for one another.

"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." (Psalm 62:8)

Praise God for calling me to this position, for being with me these four years, for leading me to CBS in the first place. Thank you CBS for building this fellowship up to be as joyful, welcoming, and supportive as it is. It has been such a blessing to serve you all this semester. I pray that you will continue to grow together in the Word, giving thanks to the Lord and pouring yourself out for Him. In the words of Paul, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Love and blessings,
Grace Jia ('22)



reach team letter

Dearest CBS,

The overwhelming end of semester busyness that makes time pass incredibly quickly is best counteracted with moments of silent reflection and gratitude. For us, as we prepare to wrap up our time as Reach coordinators and leave Cornell, such moments are extremely valuable. When we humbly count our blessings, our hearts sing our Father's praises. When we look back and recognize how perfectly God's plan has unfolded in our lives up to this point, we are filled with peace and assurance for the future. In both cases, we think about you, CBS! It has been so encouraging to see the different ways in which you express your love for the fellowship and we're grateful that God has brought so many with servant's hearts to CBS. We've had an amazing semester with you.

It is easy to get lost in the logistics of Reach. Our ministry exists to emulate God's sacrificial love through loving both those who are within and outside of the fellowship. However, we too often forget this higher purpose when we're stuck in the details of how we will do something, and who will do what, and for how long. In our planning this semester, we thought back to the vision verse we set at the beginning of the school year.

"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)

Is the fruit present in our ministry activities? Is it in the way we work together and relate to one another? This has been a way for us to gauge whether we as a ministry are walking in the Spirit. If we organize events and plan ACEs, but there is no love, no joy, no faithfulness, then we have done nothing.

We are so thankful that this semester was filled with many fruitful activities. For ACEs this semester, we have lovingly crafted gifts for each person in the fellowship, made homemade boba, played an intense game of mafia, and ate wasabi filled oreos! Our biggest ACE of course was our annual Service Marketplace. We had a huge assortment of services including baking cookies and lava cakes, walking dogs, coffee chats, personalized music, homemade goods, and being TaskRabbits. This year, we raised \$1,235 for Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County, a Christian ministry which provides a place for free meals, hospitality, companionship and advocacy for those in need, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or circumstances. Praise God for blessing everyone in the fellowship with a variety of gifts and talents that we can share with each other.

We arrive again at the bittersweet fact that our times at Cornell have come to an end. We pray that Reach ministry continues to grow and find more ways to share the gospel with the Cornell community. We have both been blessed to enjoy so much love and learning through CBS since we first joined. We pray that you continue to encourage one another and build up each other as you walk in Christ and keep him at the center of your planning. May the Holy Spirit continue to teach, lead, and guide you. And may His fruit in your life reflect the light of Christ to those around you.

Thank you CBS. We love you!

In Christ,

Emily Jacobsson (MPS '22) & Kimberly Yap (MEng '22)



praise team letter

Dearest CBS,

This semester, Praise Team continued to serve diligently and faithfully in the pursuit of worshiping God in spirit and truth. Although we had some unpleasant flashbacks when we started the first two weeks of the semester online, we have really seen God's glory and grace shine through not just our music, but our everyday worship as well.

We praise God for your willingness to worship genuinely all throughout this semester. We learned some new songs together, harmonized with AAIV during the crossover event, and shared our musical gifts with each other at felly dinner. Music is truly one of the best ways for all of us to dwell on God's character and glorify Him for His goodness in unison. When we sing together, we sing as brothers and sisters reconciled through Christ.

To those in CBS who are graduating, it is our earnest prayer that you will actively search for more and more ways to worship God (both in the presence of other believers and individually) once you begin your lives beyond Cornell. The joy of singing with you all at large groups, retreats, felly dinners, and random

meetups over the years will always be cherished in our hearts. May God bless you with endless opportunities to sing praises to His name.

To those who will be back next school year, we pray that you will return to campus eager to reunite in song with the fellowship and that you will continue maturing in your faith over the summer break. We challenge you to explore new worship songs that help you ready your heart for personal worship of God, and we encourage you to carefully study the lyrics of these songs to deeply reflect more on who God is and how we can worship Him.

Until then, Praise Team wishes you a restful and God-centered summer.

P.S. If you find it in your heart to join Praise Team in whatever capacity, we encourage you to pray to God about it and reach out to Meili for more information. We would love to have you!

**Blessings,
Jasper Liang (MEng '22) and Meili Bowden ('23)**



discipleship team letter

Hellolujah CBS,

I recently watched this show called “Kotaro Lives Alone” on Netflix. It’s really good; I would recommend it. It’s basically about this really cute four-year-old kid with a gigantic head that lives in an apartment by himself. He’s really weird and carries around a toy sword and speaks like a samurai cartoon character from his favorite cartoon. However, despite his age, he is wise beyond his years and always seems to be able to offer sound advice and insights as well as know exactly what and how people are feeling. Although Kotaro is a great character and has a humongous head, my personal favorite is one of his neighbors, a manga artist named Shin Karino. I personally resonate with Shin as he is lazy and unambitious and just seems to scrape by each and every day. He is living purely off prize money from a manga he wrote a long time ago and lives every day just watching TV and eating ramen.

Anyway, in other exciting news, I am now 25 years old. That’s like halfway to 50, which is halfway to 100. I think I might be hitting my quarterlife crisis or something, because I’ve been doing an awful lot of thinking recently. I think it’s really hit me that I won’t be young forever and that I finally have to start seriously thinking about the future and how to plan for it. I reflect back on the past a lot and have basically concluded that I made a lot of mistakes. There are soooo many things that I could’ve done better and so many choices that I should not have made.

It’s crazy though, because CBS has been such a blessing to me throughout my three years at Cornell and I am so glad that I chose to join and serve in this fellowship. It’s been so encouraging to have a community of people who have such a strong passion and desire to serve, love, and worship Christ. Discipleship can be simply defined as the process of becoming more like Christ and CBS has been an amazing environment towards my spiritual development. I’m truly grateful to have so

many people who can encourage me, build me up, keep me accountable, and grow in Christ together. I’ve met so many cool people and made so many friends and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed all the times hanging out and doing stupid stuff and also all the great late-night talks just about life. You guys have been such a strong pillar of support in my shaky life. It’s encouraging that many of you guys are young but are so passionate in serving Christ.

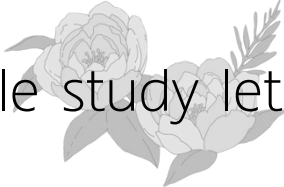
As discipleship coordinator, I’ve been fortunate to hear about your guys’ growth through bible studies, prayer partnerships, and personal devotionals. One of my favorite parts of the position is that I get to hear about how the ministry has helped people grow and develop strong relationships and friendships, which is always encouraging to hear. My favorite part about discipleship though is that it is a two-way street. Although the discipler is the one who is mentoring and guiding the disciple, he is also always able to learn so much from taking on the role. For me, it’s so cool being able to hear people’s insights whenever I lead a bible study or small group or whenever I have one-on-one meetings with people. Every time I hear your guys’ contemplations on your faith, it drives me to work on my faith as well.

A lot of times, I feel like the CBS community has disciplined me just as much as I have disciplined others as discipleship coordinator, and it really reminds me how important it is to have a community rooted in Christ who can build each other up be there for one another. Likewise, in “Kotaro Lives Alone”, although the titular protagonist has the maturity and thought process of an adult, in the end he is still a four-year-old and still needs Shin as the much older adult to take care of him and keep him safe. However, Kotaro also has a profound impact on Shin’s lifestyle and development and through Kotaro, Shin is able to mature and take on and tackle responsibilities. I think the series really highlights the importance of a found family. For me, CBS has been my family in Christ and has served as both a Kotaro and a Shin figure to me.

I have been blessed to spend three years with you guys and I hope that you all can continue to grow and support and take care of each other. I feel like that was really cheesy but it's like 4:16 and I have to sleep in a few hours so...

In Christ,
Alvin Chang MS ('22)





bible study letters

Dear CBS,

The Bible is so rich that every time I open the Word, I find something new, something deeper, or the same truth that I thought I knew well until a single passage or verse expanded my understanding. The book of Philippians of course is no exception. Our Bible study group examined how Paul's chains serve to advance the Gospel, and how he continues to rejoice despite being in bound in prison. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to stand confident against those who oppose our faith, and to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel. As Colossians 3:17 (half of our vision verse!) says, "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." Paul exemplifies how to rejoice and be thankful, no matter where he is or what he is doing. Almost the first thing Paul write in his letter is a word of thanks to God and says that he prays with joy for the church of Philippi.

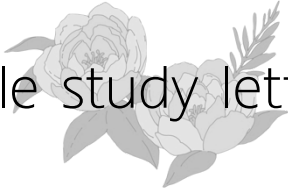
Being thankful and rejoicing during a period of suffering is difficult. But Christ is the reason why we can still pray with joy anyway. Grumbling and complaining, which has the opposite attitude, reveals our heart – a heart of dissatisfaction and pride. Unlike Christ, we often do things out of selfish ambition and vain conceit, only thinking of ourselves. Christ did the opposite. He gave everything for us, and "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death." (Philippians 2:8)

What use is it to feed our fleshly desires? The flesh desires that which is evil, without substance, and temporary. Even things that aren't inherently bad (nothing wrong with good grades, a stable job, etc.) can be chased after with the wrong motivation. Good grades don't make us valuable. A stable job doesn't promise us indestructible security. What good is it to be ruled by our self-centeredness and conceit?

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith." (Philippians 3:7-9)

What a compelling reason to rejoice! By the cross we have gained Christ, the most precious, beautiful being we could be in intimate relation with. Because of Christ we must live in a manner worthy of the Gospel. Because of Christ we can love one another and imitate His example of humility. Because of Christ, we can rejoice!

In Christ,
Emily Kam ('21)



bible study letters

Dear CBS,

This semester our focus has been on the book of Philippians, in which Paul expresses his deep affection for the church in Philippi and encourages them to emulate Christ in serving one another in humility.

Through the weeks, we have learned the importance of being unified as one body in the faith and humbling ourselves in the manner of Jesus, who did so to the point of dying on the cross. Seeing how Paul continues to rejoice despite his circumstances has been both inspiring and daunting. Many of us live comfortable lives – our burdens pale in comparison to Paul’s suffering, even more so next to Jesus. However, Paul tells us in Chapter 3 to follow his example and know not to fear loss, for we have the ultimate gain in knowing Christ and one day spending eternity with Him. By centering our lives on Christ, we can find true joy and fulfillment.

I’m grateful for my Bible study group, whose thoughtful questions and reflections have encouraged me time and again. We went on tangents that I would never expect - from faith

and works to the doctrine of election - but every discussion revealed to me things that I hadn’t noticed before. Thank you for humoring my icebreaker questions and sharing so many interesting insights that we’d leave the blackboard covered in notes! So sorry for the many times we got back to large group late – you all have been so patient whenever I lose track of time, and I appreciate it very much.

Praise the Lord for His rich Word and for bringing us together to learn from it! Let us go forth and be lights in the world, continually growing in our love for God and for each other.

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:1-2)

In Christ,
Grace Jia (*22)



bible study letters

Dear CBS,

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11)

I'm so glad that I was able to serve as a bible study leader this semester. It was a pleasure to go through the short but sweet book of Philippians and I hope that the prayer above will apply to all of you. As this busy and hectic semester is coming to a close, I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you with wisdom, guidance, and strength to finish strong. I hope that in the midst of all the craziness and hard work, you will all be able to keep your focus on Christ and will continue to grow and mature in Him and produce good fruit.

To everyone who was in my group, thank you all so much for diligently attending every week and for all your insights and questions. I really enjoyed asking stupid icebreaker questions and making you guys rearrange the chairs and tables while I watched. Thanks for putting up with my would you rather questions and terrible time management. I hope that you guys will be filled with the love, joy, and peace that comes from Christ alone.

I pray that you will continue to lead fruitful and productive lives over the summer and hope that you will also continue to pray for the fellowship and for Cornell and the world. May God continue to encourage and strengthen you with His love in all that you do.

In Christ,
Alvin Chang MS ('22)



bible study letters

To CBS,

In the past, I've written Bible Study letters often trying to explain different themes and thoughts about Christianity. But I feel right now as I finish my last semester as a Bible Study leader, I simply want to say thank you.

To every one of you that took the time out of your Friday night, no matter how hard your week was, no matter what you were going through, to learn about God, share in fellowship, and live for Him.

I will be frank, in the past two years it has been a challenge for me to be in CBS for many weeks, mostly due to personal difficulties and disagreements with others in the fellowship. There were times I felt unsafe, unsupported, and unloved when coming on Fridays. I often told myself that it would simply be easier to just go someplace else, find something else to do, and I was correct in thinking that it indeed would have been easier.

But I thank God for not only calling me to stay on as a Bible Study leader, but for moving all your hearts to join in bible studies on Fridays, whether you were in my group or not. I've spoken about the idea of doing things for God especially when things were difficult, when it seems that there is no way out from your conflict or your pain. Don't get me wrong, there were days where I felt downtrodden, too discouraged to even go to meetings, but the joy that God gave me when seeing all of you come out and learn wiped all that fatigue and pain away. It was through Bible Study that I found a way to persevere even when I felt hurt, not through my own strength but through God and my brothers and sisters in Christ.

We'll have a completely new set of bible study leaders in CBS next year, and what will happen is really anyone's guess. But if there's one thing I encourage all of you to think about, it is the question of "Why am I in CBS, and who am I here for?" If you have the right answer for that, then nothing, and I mean absolutely nothing will be able to shake your foundation in Christ. My favorite verses in the Bible (which I've oddly never shared before) are Philippians 4:11-12, ironically right before the most overused "athlete" verse in the Bible, which follows: "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need."

It would have been easy to stay at home and mope about my situation, but God saved me from myself through his grace and your collective faith. If you are reading this, we may not know each other very well, but truly from the bottom of my heart, you all have done so much in both my personal growth as a leader and a Christian in more ways than you might be aware of. I have nothing but thanks for all of you. I hope to help in any way I can in the future as I leave the rest of this commitment to be carried, it's your turn now. Do your best, God and everyone here will always be with you.

**Thanks for the memories,
Alex Xu MS ('22)**



small group letters

Dear CBS,

Praise God for another wonderful semester spent together! Although this was my fourth time (co-)leading a small group, I'm very grateful for the many relationships built and lessons learned every time. Each small group experience has been unique in its own way.

This semester, we decided to focus on apologetics. It's slightly different from what small groups usually do, but I thought it would be a great opportunity to equip ourselves with more knowledge, in hopes of also answering questions that non-believers or other Christians may have in the future. We dove into topics that interested us and used Timothy Keller's "The Reason For God" as a discussion source. We looked into areas such as creation (dinosaurs!), suffering, and science vs. Christianity. Even though there were times when I didn't have an answer prepared, I'm thankful that we were willing to explore those questions together and had an understanding that we might not find an absolute answer.

In one of our first small group sessions, we used some time to think about how we would want our semester to look like. To prompt more reflection, I used Proverbs 16:9 as a reference:

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Now, I want to share this with CBS. I pray that as we make plans for our future (i.e., for after graduation, for the next academic year), that we continue to remember to seek His Kingdom first and be reassured of His constant guidance.

Thankful that God has given us another great semester together, and I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store for the fellowship next year <3

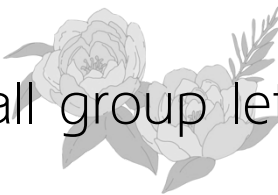
In Christ,
Dawn Zee ('23)

Hi little conglomerate,

I really appreciated our discussions this semester, not because they were related to memes and interesting videos (though I enjoyed those too), but because the topics brought up were ones that I genuinely had questions and concerns about. The average weekly fellowship discussion/Sunday sermon rarely addresses fringe subjects like Christian lingo, emotions and faith, short term missions and their costs for what purpose, etc., but it seems like these complex subjects are relevant to our lives as evident from the media we saw, and thus worth at least some considerable thought when we encounter them. Of course, beliefs and practices related to these fringe subjects are less concrete and vary among believers, and thus, our discussions sometimes resulted in less certain takeaways or even just standstills when strong opinions weren't held.

Regardless, I hope that our discussions motivated more careful thought and future discussion about all aspects of our lives from a Godly perspective, especially when the world is broadcasting strong perspectives on many of these aspects of life. I encourage you using the words of Romans 12:2, which says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Sold out for Christ in doing life for Him,
Victor Chen ('22)



small group letters

To my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.”
Psalms 86, Fall 2010 CBS Vision Verse.

As I have been preparing to write this letter, I have been going through our years of CBS BoL archives. It has been humbling to see truly a full generation of Christians that have found and strengthened their faith here, in this community of followers of Christ. In this turbulent year, God has shown the steadfastness of His Love, as well as the deep importance of Christian community.

This semester, in the Monday Prayer Group, we have been trying a different format, focusing heavily on journaling and time for thought and reflection, along with an opportunity for prayer and a chance to rejoice in what the Lord has done. Cornell has always been a hectic place, as there is always the next task to accomplish and the next event to attend, and thus it has been an opportunity to reflect and think deeply about some of the core parts of our Christian identity. For example, we have looked into how we would share why we believed in Christ to non-Christians, what characteristics stand out among the Christians we most admire, discussed the difficulties of sharing the gospel in today’s secular world, looked into the nature of Biblical friendship, and reflected on how the Lord has worked in our lives since the beginning of our time here at Cornell.

The wisdom and thoughtfulness of everyone’s responses has been deeply inspiring, and I have learned so much. For example, in the discussion in Biblical friendship, we discussed the key role of accountability in Christ, the nature of self-sacrifice in the example of David and Jonathan, the critical role

of prayer, and the ability to achieve a deeper state of intimacy and vulnerability as we share in the joys and sorrows of our walk in God. This connected to our earlier discussion of the characteristics of those Christians in our lives that we most admire, who clearly reflected Christ’s love, strength, and courage in sharing the gospel. It is their wisdom and faith that have shaped the Christians we are today. In our time here, may we also continue to grow in wisdom in Christ and follow in their path.

Our time thinking, reflecting, and discussing together has been truly rewarding, and I hope we can all continue the habit of spending quality time along and reflecting with God, and just recalling all the amazing things he has done in our lives. As this semester ever so slowly draws to a close,

I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers, that He will continue to draw you closer to Him, for He truly loves you and cares for you. May you always be able to find peace and comfort in Him, wherever His will leads you.

In Christ,
Felix Hohne ('23)

class of 2022 seniors

jason chen



best abstract artist

victor chen



most likely to have "sheesh"
as his last words

alyssa gao



best person to comfort you
when you're down

emily jacobsson



biggest hugs!

grace jia



most likely to smile randomly
in a meeting

emily kam



most likely to be wearing
headphones at this moment

attilus leung



the perfect representation
of chaotic neutral

jasper liang



most likely to travel the world
because of hockey games

alex xu



most likely to be on
masterchef

jason chen

hometown: Green Coast Springs, FL | major: Biology



“Get out of the way!”
- Train

After a series of in hindsight hilarious mishaps, including a case of mistaken identity and a classic collegetown fire alarm due to someone burning their toast again, we finally begin the interview. That day, we were both very excited, because none other than childhood hero Bill Nye had been spotted in the flesh on campus.

favorites

Praise Song: Life of Praise

Cornell Class: iOS App Development

Study Spot: Duffield, actually.

Place to Eat: Tony Morrison Hall

Music group: Olivia Rodrigo

Verse: John 11:35 - when Jesus Wept

Dessert: Brownies

CBS Tradition: North Dinners :)

1. CBS is...

Chinese Bible Study.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

He has given me a lot more questions to think about.

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

a. Freshmen

Freshman should petition for ski lift on Libe Slope, so they don't have to walk up the hill.

b) Sophomores

Do the same :) Hang out with your friends as much as you can, enjoy time outside of classes.

c) Juniors

Get an internship!

d) CBS in General

Do more hard question panels; they were really cool.

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

Watching Attack on Titan in Klarman.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I am double jointed in my pinkie.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Morrison Hall!

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

I think a prayer that God answered is He helped me get better after I had depression from the middle of sophomore year to the end of my junior year.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Chaotic, developmental, and educational.

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

My plan is to make money, and to find friends and a lasting relationship wherever I go.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Give up more often! I had a hard time doing that.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Definitely sheesh. Shee, really?

As you begin the next phase of your journey, may God continue to look over you, and protect you. Let your faith be as strong as ever, rooted in Jesus Christ, who will always have an unfailing love for you. And may you continue to find love and companionship at group dinners!

- Felix Hohne (*23)



“Bill Nye in the Flesh”

victor chen

hometown: Houston, TX | major: CS and Economics



“Don’t cry because it happened. Smile because it’s over... wait... what?”
- Probably Not Dr. Seuss

After a long Wednesday I was so excited to have a chat with the one and only Victor Chen. We started talking about our back problems and concluded that a good chair is always a good investment. The interview then began:

favorites

Praise song: I Saw the Light by Sonya Isaacs

Cornell class: Game Theory

Study spot: Olin Stacks

Place to eat: Jack’s grill

Music group/artist: Tygo

Verse: “He must become greater, I must become less” John 3:30

Dessert: More a fruit guy (Watermelon)

CBS tradition: Class prayer meetings

1. CBS is...

Family.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

I’m more comfortable with people. If I wasn’t a Christian, I would be more self-reliant. I learned more about what it means to love and to be loved by others.

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

a. Freshmen

Don’t be intimidated by older people and don’t be afraid to go to them for guidance.

b. Sophomores

Don’t be discouraged by conflicts, but instead tackle them head on instead of letting them bite you in the back later.

c. Juniors

Make the most of your time left in college and with your relationships. Keep building relationships within the fellowship and make time to foster a loving community.

d. CBS in general

Stay strong in the father to grow as a body. Strive to make God known and keep yearning to know more about Christ.

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

The time when we made the first video of Baking with Alex and then when it premiered at Felly Dinner.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven’t found out about you?

Voice acting!

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

The Arts Quad.

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

Being more comfortable around other people. The ability to build strong relationships with other people.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

I learn stuff.

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

For the short-term,

I will be in North Carolina working for a bank. In the long-term, I do not really know:

I will just go with the flow.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

I would have told myself to add more during the add period and then drop later. Take the harder courses earlier.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Shee.

I am blessed to watch Victor grow these past 3 years as a person, a friend, and a follower of Christ. I am so inspired in the ways God has used him to serve FICCCs youth and the CBS community. I know that God has big plans for him in the next chapter of his life and I pray that he will continue to trust in those plans through all the ups and downs.

- Nathaniel Chin ('23)



“Baking with Alex”

alyssa gao

hometown: Summit, NJ | major: CS



“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”
- CS Lewis

It was one of those Saturdays with a bunch of things to do and little time to unwind. I had been in Zoom meetings all day and was on the verge of tossing my laptop out of a window (you know how it be). Then my trusty Google Calendar told me that up next in my Saturday queue was a BoL interview with the lovely Alyssa Gao. Suddenly my Zoom fatigue dissipated and I was eager to hop on a call with her. Just seeing her smile gave me pure encouragement and joy. Oh, what a blessing it was to get to interview her!

favorites

Praise song: Captain (Hillsong).

Cornell class: (sophomore fall) CS 3410 Computer Architecture. The professor (Anne Bracy) was really engaging and fun and she explained things really well.

Study spot: Cocktail Lounge. Even though I didn’t study there that much last semester, I really liked it sophomore year.

Place to eat: Vietnam Restaurant (I like pho).

Music group/artist: BTS (!!!!)

Verse: Exodus 34:6-7 because it stuck out to me when I was reading Exodus. It is a good reminder of who God is, not just what He does or plans for me-- it focuses on Him alone. It helped me to get out of my own mindset.

Dessert: Macarons or creme brulee.

CBS tradition: Felly Dinners (especially the latest because we could meet up in person after so long) and Service Marketplace!

1. CBS is...

love.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

He has changed me a lot. In terms of spiritual maturity, I’ve been able to trust in Him more, believe in His power, and know He is a powerful God. I’ve learned how to show humility and not have fear. From fellowship, I’ve learned how to take care of and be taken care of by my brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

a. Freshmen

My freshman year was the first time that I was in charge of my own faith. My advice for the freshman is to take this opportunity to explore their faith and really develop a personal relationship with God.

b. Sophomores

Ah, suffer-more year T-T... Most people find sophomore year really busy, so I encourage sophomores to remember God and trust in Him even when things feel hopeless (easier said than done). Even when it feels like you’ve done everything wrong, God’s plan is good even if we don’t see it that way. No matter what we do, His plan will always be done. Trust that He will pick up the slack.

c. Juniors

Soon to become seniors! When I was a junior, I always looked at the seniors thinking, “Wow, they are so cool! They are so spiritually mature and take care of the fellowship so well.” It made me examine myself and feel like I lacked a lot. It’s good to think about this, but don’t worry about it too much! God equips us. Don’t look for strength in yourself-- look for strength from God to ready you to take care of other people in ways you yourself can’t. Also, take care of each other-- it is good to take care of others AND be taken care of. You need people to pour into you as much as you pour out. Get involved in a church so that there are older Christians who can take care of you.

d. CBS in general

My mom always told me this: pray more. I used to think to myself, “I pray enough!” But that mindset is not the best. So pray more! Not just asking God for things but relying on Him

for everything. God wants us to tell Him even the small things that we think aren't "worth" His time. Besides just asking Him for things is building a relationship with Him. Also, build relationships with each other based on your relationship with God.

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

There are so many good memories :) My favorite would be my birthday party last semester. Yeah :) <3

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

Do people know I like writing? I like writing poetry.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

In Rhodes Hall, take the stairs up to the very top. There is a chess board on the ground where you can see a grand view and it's really pretty. I wanted to see the sunset from there but was never able to. I like the spot :)

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

One of the biggest involved my transferring from UCLA to Cornell. My mom wanted me to apply to transfer and I prayed to God that if He wanted me to go to Cornell I would be accepted. I didn't want to have to make that choice myself. And then I got in! It was definitely a good thing it turned out that way and that I trusted in His plan and choice.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Happy. Growth. God.

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

Short-term, I'll be working at Databricks in California as a software engineer and living with my older sister! For long-term... what do I want to do with my life??? I don't know. It's also a question of what God wants me to do with my life. I don't know the answer to either question. For now, I will pray about it and focus on growing closer to God-- to not let my life just become Work or Not-Work, but to adjust well to the working life and be able to look beyond that.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Do not fear. I could tell that to myself now too! *laughs* The uncertainty of the future and the stress of schoolwork and exams... looking back now, all of these things seem smaller. Of course, still do your best; but don't fear as much and instead trust in God that it is all going to be okay even if it isn't okay at the moment. Also, cherish the time you have with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Is yeet not an option? I do like the shEEEEEE.

Just as I anticipated, I was energized by at least 200% by the end of the interview with Alyssa. It was like the opposite of Zoom-fatigue. Zoom-zoominess? As most of you probably know, talking about absolutely anything with Alyssa lifts even our lowest spirits. I was touched by her thoughtfulness during the interview and thank God for the wisdom she passed onto us when she was our coordinator and even now from afar. Being a working woman now, Alyssa had to get some studying done for her new job (imagine studying after graduating from college... crazy), so I let her go. I, too, had plenty more to do in the remaining hours of that Saturday, but after talking with Alyssa I had no trouble moving forward with momentum from her infectious cheer.

- Meili Bowden (*23)



The humbling experience of being made aware of my own sin.

"The humbling experience of being made aware of my own sin."

emily jacobsson

hometown: Rowland Heights, CA | major: Info Sci



“May you always be the one who notices the little things that make the light pour through, and may they always remind you: there is more to life and there is more to you.”

– Morgan Harper Nichols

It was all set for me to meet Emily at Cafe Jennie's. Now that I was no longer living in Zoom world, I thought I would get the in-person interviewer experience I had been waiting for. But sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances I had to call Emily instead. Resisting the default mode of using Zoom and because I was in no mood to re-sign into my Cornell account, I called Emily on via Messenger call instead.

favorites

Praise song: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Cornell class: Adult Psychopathology, Psych 3250

Study spot: Cafe Jennie

Place to eat: Martha's

Music group/artist: Bruno Major

Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

Dessert: Desserts with fruits in them, like apple crisp or anything from Mango Mango. Or Cake with strawberries.

CBS tradition: Felly Dinner

1. CBS is...

CBS is a community of people who love God. CBS is a place where I think I have learned a lot through being with others and watching others.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

In terms of how He has changed me, internally, one aspect would be just my knowledge and confidence as a Christian. I

never really had a Christian community of my same age growing up, so during freshman year I wasn't used to praying out loud and talking about my faith with others. A lot of what we do is pray together, so I was always nervous and subconscious about that. But over time I realized that prayer isn't about me and it's not about finding the perfect words. Being able to pray out loud with others has reflected how I have grown in Christ. I'm a more confident Christian and more excited about and equipped to share my faith.

Also, I think, in a wider sense of life, He's also shown me what is important in life which is Him. Throughout college you are bombarded with stuff like your grades, extracurriculars, and getting a job. One thing I learned that I didn't know during freshman year was that if we seek God first then everything follows. That is a truth that I am able to comfortably rest in now. The third part is how he has changed me in respect to my relationship with others. I think He's shown me how to be more selfless and to love others just for the sake of loving them without any other expectations.

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

a. Freshmen

I love freshmen! Encouragement: congratulations on finishing your first year at Cornell! That is a huge accomplishment in itself. Advice: The next steps that I would encourage you to take is that over the summer you should pause and reflect on what happened. I think freshman year happens very quickly and you don't have time to process what happened; it just happens and you're living in that moment. Reflect on what went well, praise God for those things and also consider what could have been better. And for those things pray about them and see how you can grow and make changes going into your second year. I love my freshman friends. They did a great job and keep drawing closer to God in each coming year.

b. Sophomores

I also love sophomores! Junior year can be a little difficult just in terms of both balancing academics and your future, but my encouragement is in the midst of all the business that you will inevitably face is that you should spend time in both prayer and with God in His word. Those things can always provide you peace and rest and energy and wisdom to keep going in

difficult times. And always make time for quiet time with God. Also make time to enjoy life!

Enjoy the life that God has given to you even though in the moment it may seem hard, imperfect, or challenging. Just praise God for the little blessings that you are able to find in daily life. Did you get that Beth?

c. Juniors

Juniors I also love, btw! Juniors...hmm. Juniors I am proud of how much I have seen them grow since freshman year. First of all, I am thankful for how much they have been serving in CBS, and I encourage them to continue into that service going into senior year. And also, to realize that as seniors that they are an example to others and to watch how they are walking in God and to invest in those younger than them in the fellowship and in the church. During your senior year there will be a first part where you will be stressed with looking for work or figuring out your future plans. So, in that period trust that everything works out for the best because everything always works out according to God's plan. But then, after you have more or less settled your future plans, enjoy your final year! Be excited for what's to come in the future year, but don't be too excited. Appreciate what you have now and spend as much time with as many people as you can.

d. CBS in general

Remember why we love each other and remember why we serve. As a community we are only bound together by God and our love for God. Our goal first and foremost as a fellowship is to know Christ and to make Him known. Even though we are an amazing community with amazing friendships, we shouldn't forget that original reason. It is why we are together, and it is what unites as a fellowship. Another encouragement is to not be satisfied with complacency. Don't grow complacent. Always seek to know God more and to know your brothers and sisters more. Seek to grow in your faith and in your relationships.

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

I have such a bad memory! Favorite memories...rather than being able to remember specific moments there are just little things here and there that just give me a happy impression of

college. Sometimes studying with friends late at night and we're laughing together or sharing food with friends...yeah, I'm sad I can't recall a specific memory. Let me think, Beth...no my mind is blank. Rest assured, I have many lovely memories from my college career.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

As of recently, I make a really good chia seed pudding. I feel like I've mastered the recipe, the ratio of seeds to milk. And I also just really like chia seed pudding. Also, I think I type really fast.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

I really like the bridge over Cascadilla Gorge in collegetown. It's the bridge when you are walking from collegetown to campus. I always stop there and look over. Whether it's summer or winter it's just a beautiful spot. I also really like the slope. But specifically, I like seeing Cayuga Lake from the slope. I like all the spots on the slope where I can see the lake.

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

Hmm...I think there are so many prayers that God has answered in the past four years. There have been many times where I just asked for peace, comfort or rest in day-to-day life. And He has always provided that. He has also provided guidance for what to do in terms of when I was thinking about my future and what I want to do. One of the big prayers He answered was helping me find a community of believers the same age as I am. That was a prayer He answered almost immediately. I'm very grateful and feel very blessed.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Friendships, growth, and grace.

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

Short term, I will help my brother move into his apartment in Miami to start his new job. And after we leave him there, I will start my move to the Bay where I'll begin my first job as a product designer. As for long term, I don't know! I think I have

always been a person who takes things one step at a time. I don't know, really.

I will go where God leads me in the long term, whatever His will is. I do have a small dream of opening a little coffee shop or a bakery. That's something I've always wanted to do.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

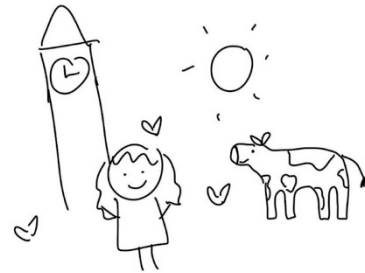
Oh, that's hard! I would want my younger self to go through the same challenges that I had gone through. That is how you learn and how you grow. I wouldn't give advice on how to avoid challenges because you need to learn to confront them. I would encourage the younger Emily to trust that everything will turn out well. Read the Bible a lot, pray a lot, spend time with your friends, that's all! Trust in God that everything will be okay, as it always turns out.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Neither.

Having to do the interview online did not diminish the enjoyment I experienced in getting this opportunity to interview Emily. Hearing her wise words truly warmed my heart and encouraged me to continue seeking God in every way. Her reflections were inspiring, and I loved hearing about her walk with God these past four years. It was such a joy speaking with Emily and getting to hear her perspective on college now that her four years at Cornell are coming to an end. I pray that Emily will continue to have a heart for her friends, family, and all others that God brings into her life. And I also pray that Emily will always place her trust and identity in the Lord. Please make your chia seed pudding for me before you leave, Emily. :)

- Beth Kam ('24)



“Me enjoying my time at Cornell”

grace jia

hometown: Hong Kong | major: CS



“For I am a bear of very little brain, and long words bother me.”
- Winnie the Pooh

It was so nice grabbing dinner with Grace for the first time. Grace's eye smile would appear whenever she smiles! Super adorbs ^.^

favorites

Praise song: Marvelous Light by Charlie Hall & Build my Life by Housefires

Cornell class: Elementary Russian

Study spot: Olin Library near the windows

Place to eat: Hawi

Music group/artist: Saint Motel

Verse: Psalm 23:1-3

Dessert: Brownies

CBS tradition: Service Marketplace

1. CBS is...

a tight-knit community growing in God together.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Ooo let me think! I think the main way God has changed me is not to rely on myself and to rely on Him and also the people around me. He's shown me that I can't do a lot on my own. I want to end by saying I wouldn't be where I am today without the positive influence of my friends and God's grace.

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

a. Freshmen

I would say congrats on getting through the first year of college! Keep learning and trying new things. Don't be afraid to ask questions and reach out to people.

b. Sophomores

I would say just to always have fun and learn about God. Now is the right time to think about the ways to serve God in your communities. Don't worry if you don't have everything figured out yet and just trust God in the process.

c. Juniors

Enjoy the remaining time at Cornell! Continue to love one another and the fellowship, as you're thinking about what to do as seniors and after college. Be prayerful and feel free to talk to older peeps.

d. CBS in general

What I like about CBS is how tight-knit we are. I just hope that everyone continues to build fellowships with each other not only within classes but also between them.

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

My favorite memory recently has been running around in the snow at February retreat. I've never felt as young as in those moments. It was very fun!

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I'm sure some people know this about me already, but I like to make animations during my free time. I haven't had much time recently, but I hope to get back into it.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

On a warm day on the slope! On other days, the dairy bar.
laughs

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

Honestly, my answer to this is pretty simple. It was to find a loving community at Cornell, and I sure did.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Not enough corn, I'll just keep it at that.

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

Short term, I've decided to go to Yale for a PhD in computer science. For the long term, I don't know. Maybe I'll be a professor... maybe not, we'll see.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Put yourself out there and say yes to more things. I feel like I missed out on a lot of opportunities because I was too focused on academics, so I hope that in an alternative timeline I would do that differently.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

:000 sheeeeeeeee

I wish Grace a wonderful journey for her Graduate years at Yale University. I am very proud of Grace for how far she has come, and I pray that she will continue to grow spiritually and put the Lord first in her life.

- QQ Lin ('25)



“Chilling in 1G :)”

emily kam

hometown: Bedminster, NJ | major: Info Sci



“It is what it is”

To take advantage of the slightly sunny weather, Emily and I decided to do a BYOD and sat on one of the benches outside of the Uris Library. She brought a homemade dinner while I brought a poke bowl. She also carried her ukulele with her since we were going to do a quick lesson afterward. Although there wasn't much sun, the evening felt very warm because of her presence ;) (but we did actually had to walk back into Williard Straight after a bit cuz we couldn't really feel our fingers anymore). After taking a few bites of our dinner, we started the interview ~

favorites

Praise song: And Can It Be (by Charles Wesley)

Cornell class: Intro to Creative Writing

Study spot: “I don't study” ...Upton

Place to eat: Trillium

Music group/artist: Lawrence

Verse: Psalm 121:7-8

Dessert: Cheesecake

CBS tradition: Service Marketplace

1. CBS is...

A community of Christ-followers.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

He has awakened me - especially emotionally. I think I experienced more sorrows but also more joys. I think it's a good thing because being able to experience more emotionally has enabled me to understand who Christ is, as well as those around me.

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

a. Freshmen

Life is not just about your work or the things that you do. Take the time to truly consider where God is in every aspect of your life - in work, relationships, church, etc. Also, don't give up on God because He doesn't give up on you! It is wise to acknowledge what you are feeling but do remember that the truth doesn't change.

b. Sophomores

Put God first, and that also pertains to your friendships.

c. Juniors

Rely on and support each other spiritually. When you're a senior, there's probably no one checking on you anymore - especially spiritually. Ask and be willing to share, particularly with those who are serving. You can get burnt out when you don't have other people pouring into you.

d. CBS in general

Whatever happens or doesn't happen, just trust that it is still for good - that God is using it for good. Trust and be patient. God's timeline is different from ours, and that's probably a good thing :)

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

When I was a freshman, we (Jasper, Attilus, Grace, Emily J, Victor) decided to make cheesecake. And it was super jenk because we didn't have a mixer and cheesecake pan. We made the boys beat the cream cheese and sugar. We added the cream from the Oreos in there too. Afterward, we fed it to 2 seniors, and they thought it was REALLY creamy.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I eat really fast. I can finish dinner in 5 minutes.

If I am zoning out, I won't hear people talking to me (even if you are right next to me).

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

The grey stones that are located on the right side of the slope. They're pretty.

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

Not exactly a prayer, but it is to have the belief that God works.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Depressing. Warm. Sprout.

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

Short-term plan: Move to Wisconsin to work for a healthcare company. Long-term plan: figure out what God wants me to do with my life.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Be patient. That applies to everything. Be patient with other people and be patient with yourself.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Sheesh.

Even after completing this interview, I still wasn't done with dinner. And as we all know now, Emily eats pretty quickly, so she was very patient with me. We chatted a little more until I finished dinner and commenced our ukulele lesson. It was really nice getting to know more about her and listening to the advice she has for all of us. I pray that she can have an enjoyable last semester at Cornell and continue to place her trust in God (a reference to her favorite verse).

- Dawn Zee ('23)

Pulling an all-nighter after prayer meeting before break



"Pulling an all-nighter after prayer meeting before break"

attilus leung

hometown: Hong Kong | major: CS



“YEET”

Immediately after sending the BoL email to all the interviewers, I bothered Attilus on messenger for two days until he agreed to meet up for the senior interview. I traveled deep into the ELL, his main stay on campus, where I saw him sitting quietly next to the soldering irons on his phone, surprisingly not doing his favorite pastime: work. He proceeded to play with the solder wire and pliers as we began the interview.

favorites

Praise song: It's always rotating! How would I know it's my favorite! I like all praise team songs equally. **Thinks**... No, no, no. It's always rotating.

Cornell class: Probably a CS class, like CS 2802 Honors Discrete Math or something.

Study spot: ELL

Place to eat: Nowhere - Probably Fusia.

Music group/artist: What are all these questions? I don't like these questions. Probably Mayday. But it's also rotating.

Verse: Also rotating. One of them that I think about often is somewhere in Proverbs [16:9] - "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes His steps."

Dessert: Sago

CBS tradition: Announcements

1. CBS is...

A really nice fellowship of God-seeking people.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Ohmygoshhh. **Cries** Can we have something like fun questions, and not thinking questions..? [*"They will come later"*] Okay. I think... that as a freshman you are really naive, and you see a lot, and you think, "oh, this is how things are." But I think one of the things that I've learned is that a lot of things are nuanced, and everything that you believe is worth examining and reevaluating while thinking, "Is this really biblical? Is this really in line with what God views? Or are you thinking this because other people are thinking this?" Obviously, there's other stuff that I've learned like how to interact with people, how to serve, how to be with God, but I think that's mostly it.

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

a. Freshmen

Freshmen? **Thinks** Advice in general? [*"Yeah"*] Take more classes than you can because the classes you're taking right now are relatively easier. I think that's what I did my freshman year, so you can do more interesting stuff later, and not the prerequisite stuff. As for other things, I think that you should really grow with your community, and reach out to each other, but they already know that, so they're probably fine. It's a long journey, so have fun.

b. Sophomores

Sophomores... I think it's somewhat similar. I think knowing each other better in your community is really important. Bearing with each other and relying on each other is really relevant and really important for you all, and also thinking about how God is calling you to serve, and what kind of stuff you can do for the fellowship. Not just in official ways, but in the sense of what you can do for the community and how you can serve people, meet up with people, and stuff like that.

c. Juniors

Juniors~~ hahahahaha. It's going to be a fun one. You're going to be seniors - it's going to be very interesting. Enjoy your senior year while you can. When you're a senior, some people look up to you for some reason, even though you're like "what the heck, I don't know anything." **Both laugh** But I think, yeah, it's an interesting position to be in. It's not about living up to that expectation, but just being in a more leading role.

People are going to be looking up to you, so what you do, when you are present, and what you say is going to be noticed.

d. CBS in general

We're known to be a community that does a lot of inreach, but we should do some more outreach events. Outreach ministry like tabling, volunteering at Second Wind Cottages... Those would be things that would be interesting to see. But of course, you can only do outreach if the fellowship is well-rooted in God and able to grow with each other. So, it's a balance between inreach and outreach. And I guess, have more fun together.

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

Favorite? I don't know, college is full of pain. **smiles** I think the memories that are genuinely nice and have some subset of pain is when we would play Nertz all day as freshmen and the seniors would drag people to do stuff and we would stay until 3 or 4 at Eddygate and walk home in the dark. That was pretty fun. And the seniors would walk us back because they had nothing better to do.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I'm actually quite useless. Probably nothing. Why would I... **thinks and ponders** No. My life is just school. School and coding. I don't have any other skills.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Points at ELL It's quite nice. It's also quite exclusive - there's not a lot of traffic down here.

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

Very interesting one. **Thinks thinks thinks** **laughs to himself and thinks some more** I think... A prayer that God has

answered and a continuous prayer that I'm still praying is to know God's presence in a more personal setting. A prayer that I can actually see God. It's one that has probably been answered, but one that I'm always praying.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Yeet. [*"Would you like it to be only one word?"*] Bruh moment.

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

Short-term: go to work. Long-term: go to work. I don't have any long-term plans. There's so much you can't see. It's such a big transition. We'll get there when we get there.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Sighs a big sigh You're stupid. **Laughs** That's not advice! But I would still say that. **Thinks** I feel like I wouldn't listen to anything that I say anyways, so... yeah.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Sheesh.

After the interview I stayed around for another 10 minutes and listened to Attilus' wise words of becoming a senior. I'm so glad that I was able to interview Attilus and hear him recollect and reminisce about his time here at Cornell. I pray for God to be with Attilus as he goes onto work and to things beyond Cornell - I know He will be! - and that Attilus would sense more and more of God's eternal presence in His life.

- Daniel Woo ('23)



"A bunch of people playing Nertz at 3 a.m."

jasper liang

hometown: Vancouver, British Columbia | major: CS



“Give that guy a manual! What are you doing?”
- Chris Smoove

I stand at the door—on the third floor of Duffield—to see the soulless sighs of STEM-skilled students sulking and suffering in succinct madness, believing still as if their tortures now will renounce their tortures soon, in the forms of high-paying desk jobs and lifelong professorial tenures. Pity is too weak a word—too empathetic an emotion—to describe the indifference I have toward their world of suffering for suffering’s sake for cynical and material ends while not towards something greater—no rebirth, no purpose—and yet, a slow sadness for them is created within me that I could experience forever. But it was a Tuesday afternoon, and Jasper, who was waiting for me, had class Thursday, so I handed him a stick of gum and started the interview.

favorites

Praise song: I think for a while it was “Love Incarnate” by Stuart Townend. I think one of my favorite ones that I picked up here was “Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me.” There’s like a bunch more. I like “Man of Sorrows.” I’ll just stick with those three.

Cornell class: Definitely CS 3110. But 4110 and 4160 are close seconds.

Study spot: I like the CIS Grad Lounge. Or the music library.

Place to eat: Terrace. With the burritos or the burrito bowls.

Music group/artist: Not K-Pop. Does Franz Liszt count? Or Rachmaninoff.

Verse: I like the last [verse] of Ecclesiastes. “Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. I like that. Keeps things simple for me.

Dessert: It’s a hard one. Maybe tiramisu.

CBS tradition: Fall Retreat and Night of Worship are two of my favorites. Definitely Felly Dinner as well. That’s three.

1. CBS is...

A group of brothers and sisters who want to grow closer to Christ.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

I think He has grown my heart to care more for others. I feel like I was very worried about myself as a freshman, what I wanted to get out of college, but that [worry] has become less and less. Now I’m always thinking about serving others.

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

a. Freshmen

Figure out what you want to get out of college, so you don’t end up wasting your time.

b. Sophomores

Start stepping up and serving because you will grow old very quickly.

c. Juniors

Hang in there.

d. CBS in general

Make sure no one is left uncared for.

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

I don’t know if I have a specific one. But I just think about the times where we would hang out in 1G, and eat wings, and stay up very late, and play Nertz. Well, I do remember one time some seniors walked me back to my dorm on North when it was 2 or 3 a.m. That was fun.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I don't know if I have any. I can't think of anything. Maybe, well, most people know this, but I like editing and making videos. It's been a while since I made one of those videos of our class doing things.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Well, I feel like it's the same as my study spots, because if I'm not studying I don't really feel like I need to be on campus.

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

I think He's helped clarify what my goals or my purposes are for my foreseeable future. Like coming into Cornell, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I just kinda enjoyed computer science. I prayed often about what I wanted to do and what God's will was for me. And I feel like He's definitely opened a lot of doors and closed a lot of doors throughout my college career and it's given me some more confidence about where I'm going next.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

How about just two words? I'll add an adjective. Super bing chilling.

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

Short-term, I'm still waiting on some colleges but likely pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science. Long-term, I want to become a professor. I really look up to people like David Ng, people who are able to serve the church while being in academia. Yeah, so still be super involved in the church as a long-term goal.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Don't be afraid of people. All the people that I've met are super nice and I think - what's the best way to put this - meeting new people can never be a bad thing. So I would tell my younger self just to get out there more.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

I feel like shee is just incomplete. So I would say sheesh. Also shee only really works in a high pitch, but you can say sheesh in a low pitch and still be funny.

Theologian Søren Kierkegaard once wrote "Repetition is a beloved mistress of whom one never wearies, for one becomes weary only of what is new." This is only half-true. To prepare for this interview, I read the fall Bread of Life issue in which Jasper was interviewed as a freshman back in 2018. What I found was that although Jasper's "sharpness and humor" hadn't changed, it was visible how God had worked in him over the years to be a more active Christian: active in CBS, at First Ithaca Chinese Christian Church, and in his relationships with other Christians. These were new aspects to Jasper that were anything but wearisome. But change is always new and there is no greater change in one's life than having to become a stranger in a strange land, and to those who know him at Cornell, such change is lamentable.

But I am also certain that God has a plan for Jasper at this crossroads in his life as he pursues a Ph.D.; I am certain that those in CBS or those who are also leaving CBS love him dearly and pray for his well-being and that he keeps the faith, no matter what happens.

- Leland Xu ('24)



"Walking back to North Campus at 3 a.m."

alex xu

hometown: Queens, NY | major: Info Sci



“It really be do like that sometimes”

Alex was my older sister Lauren’s BoL senior interviewer back when he was a freshman. Funny how these things come full circle sometimes. Getting trapped in office hours, I didn’t want to be any later to my meeting with Alex than I already was. I ran as fast as I could from Rhodes to Okenshields, finally getting in the cardio training I had neglected all semester long (not that I had ever seriously planned to do any cardio training). After I reached my destination, I looked around in confusion because I did not see an Alex Xu amidst the crowd ambling about Okenshields. I wove my way through all the tables searching until I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned to see Alex.

favorites

Praise song: My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)

Cornell class: INFO 3950

Study spot: PSB

Place to eat: Rose Dining Hall

Music group/artist: Ed Sheeran

Verse: Philippians 4:12

Dessert: Cheesecake

CBS tradition: Felly Dinner

1. CBS is...

Good.

2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

I think God has shown me a lot about not only where my priorities are but why I do them. He’s also shown me how weak I am without Him and He’s given me a purpose in everything I do whether it’s ministry, school, athletics or anything else.

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

a. Freshmen

Focus on experiences. I’d say do as much as you can to see what you really like. Don’t be afraid to try and do things. And also take the initiative to reach out to people even if it’s hard. You have to take it upon yourself to get the experiences you want.

b. Sophomores

I have to think of something different? Okay, take the initiative to reach out to people even if it’s hard. You have to take it upon yourself to get the experiences you want.

c. Juniors

Don’t be afraid of responsibility. Treat it as you figuring out what God’s plan is for you.

d. CBS in general

Work together because we’re all in the same boat. We have more in common than you might think. It’s really up to each and every one of you to make CBS a place that is both spiritual and welcoming to everyone. Even if you’re not in leadership or if you’re not really present, everyone still has a part to play. Even just being here is really important.

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

Playing sports with CBS in intramural or just casual. Just playing casually on West is probably one of my best memories.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven’t found out about you?

I wouldn’t say I have any hidden talents to be honest with you. I think my quirk is that I sing randomly when I’m just by myself.

Like songs that are in my head, even when I'm not listening to music.

6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Beebe Lake.

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

I think prayer for growth. I think God has shown me weaknesses in my life and He's helped me grow and correct those deficiencies through trials and learning.

8. Describe your time at Cornell using 3 words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

I'd say food, fellowship, and perseverance.

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

I think short term is getting adjusted back to non-school life. I don't really have long-term plans. I want to stay active in ministry and keep in touch with friends from college. That's basically it.

10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

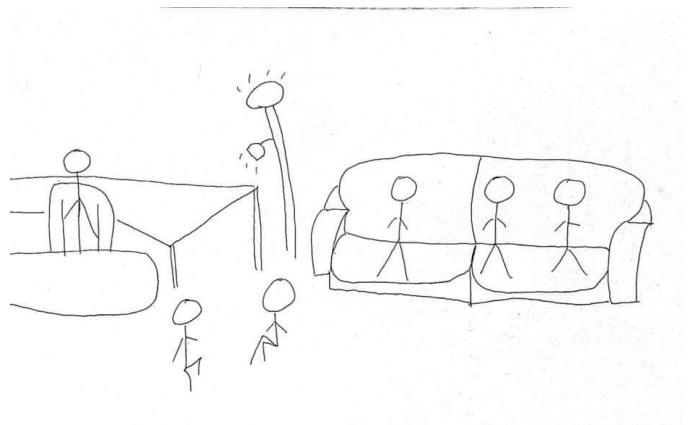
I would slap him for being so dumb. And then one piece of advice I would give is to be honest with yourself and be honest with others.

11. Sheesh or Shee?

Sheesh.

Alex and I had an enjoyable lunch together chatting about classes, CBS, and life in general. It was such a pleasure hearing about Alex's thoughts and experiences during his time at Cornell and in CBS. Alex, I pray that you will always continue to seek God first in everything you do and remember that God always has a plan for you even when things become difficult or tiring. As you move on to your next chapter in life post-college, I hope that your journey with the Lord will be faithful, fruitful, and fulfilling.

- Beth Kam (*24)



“1G boys during Covid spring break”



jason chen

I will Sky and QQ all of Toni Morrison.
I will Kyle my Chinese textbook so he can finish his linguistics major.
I will Tony the right to address Su George as "George 老师".
I will Jade a temporary portion of my luck so she can eventually find her phone case thing.
I will Ambrose a temporary aliquot of my free time because he is a busy man.

victor chen

I will to Nat all deduction skills when receiving ambiguous guidance on CS homework.
I will to Daniel a strand of my hair, as one of the few who actually said they liked my hair.
I will to Micah all leadership skills in whatever FICCC ministry that God calls you into (please be youth, though I guess discipleship groups needs men leaders too).
I will to Dawn my appreciation, especially if Valerie continues to request your help with youth on Sunday.
I will to Victoria perseverance to continue sustaining your level of energy and enthusiasm in the presence of the FICCC youth.
I will to Leland my company in spirit for the times that you gave me someone to talk to in a large group setting, and a determination to continue loving the FICCC middle school boys.
I will to Tony care for my younger brother who you will likely get to meet finally, and my continued care for you as my first youth discipleship partner.
I will to Felix feelings of calm and ease that hopefully come with being a rising senior in CS.
I will to Ambrose my sense of humor so that you may continue to enjoy having good laughs.
I will to Sky my apologies for the butchered picture of Coraline on your journal.
I will to Bailey the fountain of youth so that you may continue to be hip in the presence of undergrads and even the FICCC youth.
I will to Emily W my first vocal cord.
I will to Justin whatever remains of my other vocal cord.
I will to Valerie all wisdom and love necessary to oversee the FICCC youth ministry, and my open contact for support on any future FICCC youth matters.
I will to QQ a dedication to just one little conglomerate.
I will to Rejoice peace in the ongoing WICCC vs MICCC conflict, and my condolences from the spectating third party of VicC of FICCC.
I will to Jade a taco emoji to spice up your emoji game, and a passion for loving the FICCC youth that can last a 4-year undergrad career.
I will to Kyle my thoughts of confusion in still not knowing what to believe when it comes to your actual major.

I will to Meili the echoes of the "sheesh" that will likely be in my last words.

alyssa gao

I will to Beth a loving heart that grows much in faith and finds comfort and peace in God and unity in His body.
I will to Meili and Daniel coordinatorship and the hearts of servants reliant on the Lord. It's not easy, but the Lord is faithful and always in control!
I will to Emily L a firm and growing faith and a deep love for Christ and His people.
I will to Rejoice a welcoming and humble spirit that encourages unity in love and grace.
I will to Dawn love and service to God, a heart that is guarded with peace, and a mind set on the hope in Christ.
I will to Sky, Jade, and QQ continued sisterhood in Christ and an open, welcoming heart for the fellowship.
I will to Nat luck at his frisbee games, and a heart dedicated to seeking and knowing God.
I will to Felix rest and peace in the Lord, and the strength to endure.
I will to Tony a heart of joy and love and a warm, welcoming spirit.

emily jacobsson

I will to Meili cheddar jalapeno cheetos, birthday card organizing, and the biggest heart to get to know and love all members of the fellowship.
I will to Valerie time to enjoy more kdramas and the role of being my dentist in the future.
I will to Tony the song Rest. May it continue to encourage you to seek peace & rest in God.
I will to Daniel time spent quietly in the company of God and great thoughtfulness in all he does.
I will to Dawn journaling outside of "thursday" small group and a gentle, joyful heart.
I will to Beth peaceful times working on the 7th floor of Olin and the desire to continue sharing your love of rock climbing with CBS.
I will to Nicole a super cool vibe.
I will to Priscilla warmth in all respects.
I will to Victoria continued excitement for Christ and the eloquence with which she expresses it.
I will to Leland daily naps, great outfits and smiles.
I will to Jade great joy and cheer that persists in even the busiest of times.
I will to QQ love for cute little animal gifs and a heart eager to serve God.
I will to Emily W the ability to wake up earlier in the morning and the wisdom to rely on God for all her strength.

Finally, my sweet prayer partners:

I will to Sky a great hunger for God's word, confidence rooted in her identity in Christ, and continued love of singing praises with her beautiful voice.

I will to Rejoice opportunities to share your faith with great excitement, time to build deeper relationships with more people over free meals on West and unwavering consistency in time spent with God.

grace jia

I will to the class of '23 wisdom and continued passion for the Gospel and fellowship.

I will to the class of '24 hearts to serve, love and grow in the Lord.

I will to the class of '25 a spirit of adventure, to discover and enjoy what Ithaca has to offer.

I will to Victoria, Kyle and Justin excitement and growth in learning new languages - Ты справишься! / 頑張ってるね~ / ¡Sigue así!

I will to Dawn Hong Konger pride and love for making delicious dishes!

I will to Sky, Nicole and Beth endless fun and fulfillment in their artistic pursuits.

I will to QQ my appreciation for West dining hall food (especially the chicken nuggets).

I will to Jade ever more success in mafia ;)

emily kam

I will to Beth an Infoscience degree, a commitment to prayer meetings, and dino nuggies.

I will to Valerie a prayerful heart, assurance in her leadership abilities, and hobbies.

I will to Priscilla high-ish notes and balance for her many interests.

I will to the Class of 2025 "grades don't matter".

I will to Tony experimental hair colors.

I will to Sharon the confidence to stand up to bULLiEs.

I will to Jenny an appreciation for music theory and the discovery of the transforming love of Christ.

I will to Ambrose my love for the Rite of Spring and perseverance in outreach.

I will to Daniel a servant's heart. I also will to him humility, patience and trust in the Lord when nothing goes right :')

I will to Meili a deep love for the fellowship and confidence in Christ (I may not have enough but I know God will supply you).

I will a full four years of laughter, songs of praise, and relentless advertisement for Measureless auditions to Sky and Priscilla.

attilus leung

I will to everyone in CBS a massive YEET.

I will the FICCC Praise Team to Valerie, Ambrose and Sky.

I will all the cans I find to Leland.

I will to Sharon her grades for AUV (or what's left of it :))

I will to Daniel our run-down apartment :(

I will to everyone the desire to pursue God, and a humble heart of servitude to Him <3

jasper liang

I will to Daniel everything in 1G and a bunch of moon drop grapes.

I will to Meili my mediocre guitar skills and all of the praise equipment.

I will to Ambrose my piano skills and some Adidas track pants.

I will to Valerie the FICCC YouTube account.

I will to Rejoice the trademarks for MICC, MGIT, and EW.

I will to Leland some empty water bottles and a copy of the New York Times.

I will to Dawn my Canadian citizenship.

I will to Emily Liu the power of commitment.

I will to Felix my limited Julia knowledge.

I will to the freshmen girls the responsibility of North Dinner.

I will to CBS the desire for unity and the drive for community.

alex xu

I will Bible Study to those called to serve.

I will 2E junk to LITERALLY ANYONE.

I will ACE to all those with fun ideas.

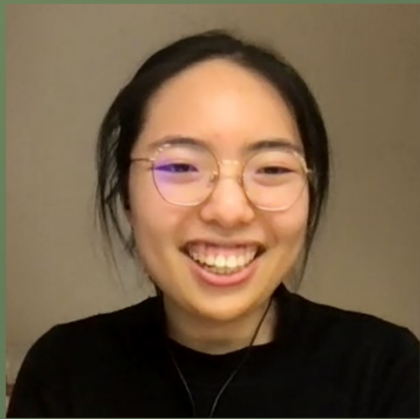
I will cooking supplies to 3E.

I will leadership to the junior class, y'all got this :D

I will fellowship to everyone, don't forget to hang out!!!

newcomers

jenny chen



justin hsu



kyle lai



sharon wu



jenny chen

hometown: Shanghai, China || major: CS || '24

I met with Jenny over Zoom for our meeting. Upon seeing that I was sitting in Duffield, Jenny laughed and said that she had just left Duffield. We talked a little bit about our day before jumping right into the interview questions.

word associations

- * **cornell:** school
 - * **CBS:** Bible study, nice people, smart people
 - * **class:** a lot of work
 - * **zoom:** meetings
 - * **worship:** discipleship group
 - * **bubble tea:** sugar
-

1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

The reason I applied to Cornell was because the burritos and the dining halls were very good, so that was my first impression of Cornell.

My first impression of CBS was that the people were really nice and welcoming. And I thought large group was really helpful because it gave me a lot of insight about the Bible from different perspectives.

2. One thing that surprises you about Cornell?

Honestly, nothing really surprised me. But at the same time, I'm surprised that I'm doing okay. Also, I'm a little surprised that the weather is warmer this year.

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

I think I would want to be a game developer or do something related to the stock market. I'm interested in that. I don't really have a clear dream about what I want to do in the future if money wasn't involved. For me, I

find something I'm interested in and then I take classes about it to see if I like it, and so far I've liked game development the most.

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

I don't know. I don't usually have meals with others. Maybe my future self would be one of them, the other would be one of my friends from high school, and then... can I say Jesus? Yes LOL. Then Jesus.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." ["Who is this quote from?"] Oscar Wilde.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

I like I Surrender All.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I'm not really Christian, so I guess my goal would be to first learn more about Christianity and try to explore if I want to become a Christian or not. I kind of want to exercise all the teachings from the Bible as well. Although I'm not Christian, I think the teachings are very interesting.

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

Honestly, I'm not a big fan of movies. I haven't watched too many movies but... maybe Interstellar? I think I watched that in middle school and it would be fun to watch it again.

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

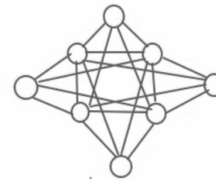
I feel like this is the hardest question. Hmm.. I guess for the first one, I can't put it into one word, but it would be actively learning to understand everything. Second one would be open to different, conflicting ideas. And the last one is I enjoy observing humans. I guess these aren't really words but phrases.

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

Cornell just has so many classes! Maybe a class on stars? Oh, maybe like a class on how to read tarot cards.

I had a great time talking with and getting to know Jenny during our meeting. I could tell she was very curious and interested in both life and Christianity, and I pray that she continues to seek after the Lord and that He may reveal Himself to her as well. At the end of our interview, Jenny said she was going to do algo homework, so I wished her good luck and we parted ways. I hope that Jenny continues to grow and learn more about Christ through her time at Cornell and CBS!

- Valerie Chen ('23)



IS ≤ TRS

All I can think about is Algo :(

“All I can think about is Algo :(“

justin hsu

hometown: Lexington, MA || major: CS || '23

Justin apologized profusely as he strolled into Trillium 15 minutes later than our agreed-upon time. Funnily enough, both of our alarms failed to sound that morning which caused us to oversleep and miss class. I, coincidentally, had already intended on skipping class, but I digress.

word associations

- * **cornell:** new
 - * **CBS:** welcoming
 - * **class:** Rolex
 - * **zoom:** fatigue
 - * **worship:** uplifting
 - * **bubble tea:** it's good, I guess
-

1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

My first impression was that the people really are different. Cornell intentionally crafts a student body that is diverse and has different fields of expertise. Even though it's somewhat manufactured, it's always interesting to see people who are experts at things different from you.

My first impression of CBS was very good! Everybody was super welcoming. It felt like I belonged right away, and that even though I had just met people, it felt like I had known them for several years. Lots of cool people, including yourself.

2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

The weather. People told me it was bad, but I didn't realize how bad it was going to be. I visited when it was nice and sunny in the middle of April, so it was a bit of a surprise.

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

Good question... I'd probably be doing art appraisal or art critique, even though I know nothing about it. I'd just sit and look at art all day and write random stuff about it.

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

From the past, I would choose Roger Waters, who was one of the creative directors of Pink Floyd, which is my favorite band. I'd like to hear about his musical influences, since the band has gone through a lot in their existence. Learning about the drama from his perspective would be interesting. In the present, I would say Malcolm Gladwell – seems like a pretty smart guy, and I could learn a lot from him. From the future, I would choose whichever alien decides to invade Earth.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I'm not great at remembering quotes... I guess the Batman quote from The Dark Knight: "You either die a hero or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain." I don't think it's directly applicable to me, but it's a pretty sick line.

6. What is your favorite worship song?

Cornerstone by Hillsong.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope to strengthen my faith, my knowledge of the Bible, my ability to answer hard questions. In terms of life: have a sense of direction -- a general idea of where I want to be in my twenties. I want to also continue to develop my record collection. Hopefully by the time I'm thirty I can have enough records to have my own store. I won't actually sell them, but just set them up like a record store.

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

There are a lot of good options... Can I choose a TV show? It would definitely be Breaking Bad. For a movie, it would be Pulp Fiction. The first time I watched it, it was on my laptop on a plane to Taiwan – so not the ideal conditions. After watching it, my mind was blown. I was like, “This was an amazing movie, but I don’t know what made it good.”

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

Mellow, introspective, adventurous.

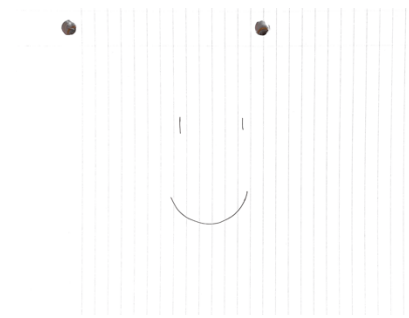
10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

I’m sure this class already exists, but I’d definitely pick a class on art criticism, just to help me with my career as

an art critic. That will be my side quest. Just to understand art, music, etc. on a deeper level.

It was somewhat strange to interview Justin as a newcomer, since he was already a junior. But I find it quite amazing that he sought out a fellowship three years into his time at Cornell, and I pray that God would continue to draw him closer to CBS and to Him for the time he has left.

- Jasper Liang (MEng '22)



(No caption for artistic purposes)

kyle lai

hometown: Queens, NY || major: CS || '23

As I prepare for the last interview I'll ever be doing for BoL, I was excited to get to know Kyle after meeting him way back when I was a sophomore. It's a little sad in a way that I won't get to do this anymore, but I feel confident in all of these newcomers to keep CBS rolling.

word associations

- * **cornell:** gorgeous
 - * **CBS:** GSW
 - * **class:** work
 - * **zoom:** sucks
 - * **worship:** happy
 - * **bubble tea:** sweet
-

1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell is very open, you're free to do a lot of different things and you have the opportunities to do them. We say we hate it but we actually like it. You meet a lot of new people and do things you never thought you'd do.

CBS is very welcoming and there are a lot of things to enjoy - you don't know what you're looking for but you'll find something.

2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

There are so many things, I don't even know when to start. Unless you try a lot of different things or go to different places, you really stick with the same group of people. The campus is also huge and there's so many things to do.

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

Probably still do CS. Jkjk. I think I'd study linguistics or civil engineering, maybe be a professor or something.

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

Newton, Carnot, and Einstein, since I am getting bodied in physics and I would like to ask Newton specifically why he invented gravity.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"If you expect all your friends to be perfect, you will have no friends" - Kyle Lai

6. What is your favorite worship song?

I don't know any worship songs by name at the moment.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope to try out more hobbies and things, read more books, before and after graduation when I don't have as much time. That way I'll know what I like to do.

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

Spirited Away, because maybe I can understand the Japanese this time.

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

Indecisive, Ridiculous, Thoughtful

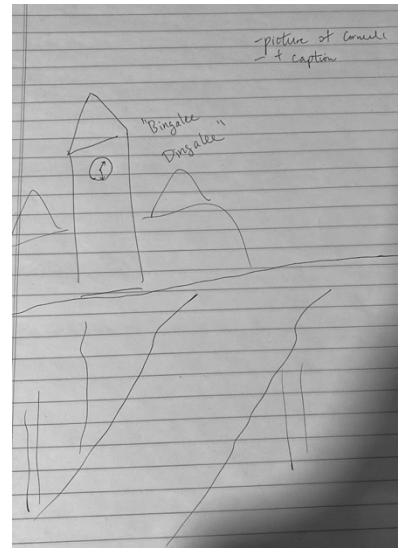
10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Cantonese, it's something that they used to have.

As I said bye to Kyle on Zoom, I quietly walked back home from Upson. This would have been a nice time to reflect on the years at CBS, but instead I had to stay up

until sunrise to finish a problem set which really killed the mood. Anyway, I just hope everyone really gets to know each other over the rest of the semester, coming from a grad student, it'll be over before you know it!

- Alex Xu (MPS '22)



"Bingalee
Dingalee"

sharon wu

hometown: Chicago, IL || major: CS || '24

As I walked through the Cornell Store from Ho Plaza, I looked up at Cafe Jennie and saw Sharon in the window. I quickly made my way up the stairs, hoping to reach her before I could cross that fine line between on-time and late. After chatting for a bit, Sharon showed me the ways of ordering food online through GET (I Once Was Blind But Now I See)! We settled in to wait for our food and began the interview.

word associations

- * **cornell:** study **laughs**
 - * **CBS:** family
 - * **class:** work **laughs**
 - * **zoom:** online
 - * **worship:** **thinking face emoji** singing... songs?
 - * **bubble tea:** peace oolong mmmm
-

1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

I think for Cornell, I feel like I'm meeting more people of different backgrounds. People who are very different from me and grew up in a different environment. Who have very different perspectives on life and in conversations. It's very eye-opening to just talk with people who have different experiences.

CBS is very welcoming and inclusive. I feel like it's a warm environment and you can talk to people very easily. And I feel like everyone truly cares about you.

2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

How many people are in the CS major! **laughs** I feel like a lot of people I know are CS. If I meet someone new, they're like OMG I'm also majoring in CS. [*"1 in 5 people are CS lol"*] **laughs** Yeah and 1 in 5 are bio!

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

Oooh I wanted to be a teacher for a while. I think I still might do it anyway **laughs** but I don't know for sure. And I think film has always been interesting too. I feel like you can bring something to life - like give an idea its own stage and present it in a way that impacts other people. That would be cool. [*"What kind of teacher?"*] A high school teacher in STEM!

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

My grandmother... **long pause** My cousin because I haven't seen her in a while and... **another long pause** I feel like I want to eat with a celebrity too but it'd be awkward if it's like family and a random person. I guess my sister. A family reunion! [*"Do you see your family often?"*] My parents and my sister quite a bit, but extended family not as much because they live far away in China and California.

5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I can't remember exactly what it said, but it was from a poem. Something like slow moments in quiet times being the most beautiful parts of who we are. It was about that, but they worded it a lot better. **after looking for over 15 mins while we paused to eat lunch** It's fine. I'll see if I can find it later...

6. What is your favorite worship song?

I don't remember exactly what the name is, but it went like: the cross before me, the world behind me. That might actually be the title but I don't know. **looks it up** Yeah, cool!

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Umm I think I want a more clear idea of like what I want to do with my life. And also, I hope I can make some friendships where I can still be close with them and keep in touch with them regardless of the distance. I feel like if you don't see people as much, you start losing touch - like because you're not that familiar.

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

Hmmm it's been a while since I watched a movie **laughs** ooh Shang-Chi was really good. I don't know... I think that's just the first one that comes to mind.

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

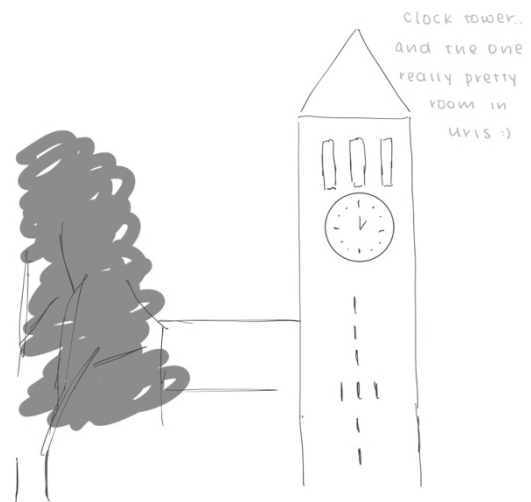
Energetic **laughs** **thinking face emoji** Optimistic? At least I try to be but sometimes it's hard. And I guess... Happy? It's very simple, but I think it's nice.

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

zero hesitation Wines! **laughs** ["Lol why?"] It's just an interesting class and also someone at my church is taking it, and I think she says it's a pretty good experience. Just that the tests are kinda hard, but hmm it's just a very different class.

At some point during our interview, we picked up our food and realized we ordered the same sandwich. Great minds do think alike! After chatting, eating, and trying (but sadly failing) to find the poem quote, we resumed the interview. Near the end, Sharon demonstrated her amazing art skills while we reminisced about the CBS girls' mug drawing session. I had such a wonderful time talking and sharing a meal with Sharon. I look forward to seeing how God will work through her in the future!

- Joy Thean (MEng '21)

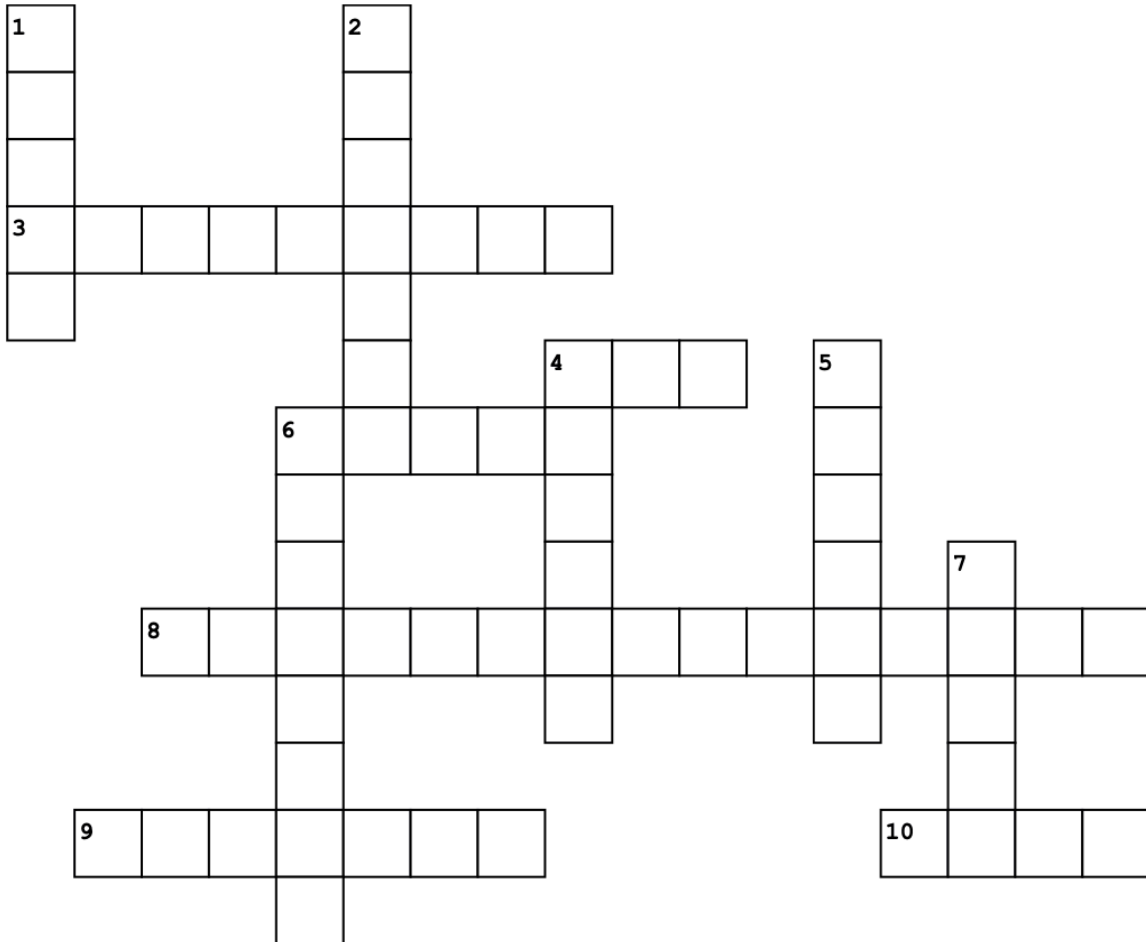


"Clock tower... and the one really pretty room in uris :)"

cbs together



junior class crossword

across

- 3. **Dawn:** French pastry
- 4. **Kyle:** An untruth
- 6. **Meili:** String instrument
- 8. **Felix:** Heuristic
- 9. **Justin:** A vague clue of some sorts...
- 10. **Cynthia:** A furry animal but more than that

down

- 1. **Tony:** Kpop group
- 2. **Nat:** He competitively throws this plastic disc in the air
- 4. **Valerie:** An addiction
- 5. **Emily:** Olympic figure skater
- 6. **Daniel:** a hard, strong building material made by mixing a cementitious material along with a coarse and fine aggregate and sufficient water content to cause the cement to set and bind the entire mass
- 7. **Rejoice:** the arch enemy of MICCC

seek Him first

by: Daniel Woo ('23)



Last summer, I did not receive an internship at a company. That was a big deal to me. During my sophomore year, I had sent over two hundred applications to civil engineering companies all over the country, and I wasn't even picky with what I wanted: I had applied for structural, civil, project management, and more. At the end of the day, none of them asked me for an interview. The process was grueling, and I actually felt at the end of my second year unworthy to be called an engineer and defeated in my efforts to become one. This summer, however, is a different story: I will be in Arlington, VA, where I will be interning as a structural engineer.

This article is just going to be me breaking down my internship process plain and simple, writing out how I saw God's hand working in it from the very beginning. For those of you who are reading and are/have been discouraged by the grueling internship and job search: God sees you, God knows you, and He has you exactly where He wants you to be. I hope you are encouraged by the end of this article and that you hold fast to three truths laid out in the Word: God's hand is in everything, God's timing is perfect, and God answers our prayers. In short, these three truths should drive us all the more to obey Him and serve Him forever.

Anyways, here we go.

1. God's hand is in everything.

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:26).

God truly led me to all the right experiences. Even though I failed to get an internship at a company, I did end up reluctantly accepting a summer research opportunity with my professor. So while all my other friends were going places and doing "big" things at "big" companies, closing out lucrative, high-paying positions at Goldman Sachs and Facebook, I was still at school, working 40+ weeks in the lab.

However, that research opportunity focused on creating a carbon-neutral concrete mortar mix - something that is

currently super hot in the industry because of global warming. And so, during the interview, I was really surprised when my future supervisors expressed a huge interest in learning more about the work that I had been doing with my professor. What I initially thought was a terrible and lukewarm summer experience actually helped me showcase my knowledge about recent developments in the concrete industry, as well as my hard work ethic developed from following research practices and standards.

But it doesn't stop there. During my freshman year, I was really eager to pursue an architecture minor, wishing to bridge the ongoing communication gap between architects and structural engineers. However, the architecture school at Cornell is really exclusive, and the best way to secure a class is to take them over the summer. Determined to get a minor, I ended up taking two online courses during my freshmen summer to position myself for minor eligibility. The studio class in particular was very demanding, and had me living nocturnally just to make the deadlines. I missed many days going to the beach with my family (my favorite place!) to cut up cardboard for week-long projects.

In the end, my experience in studio classes and my passion for architecture worked beautifully in the internship process. It turns out that the office location I was applying for was the only one in the United States (within the company) where architects and engineers actively sat next to each other and worked on projects together from the start. I couldn't have asked for a more perfect match. The architecture summer classes that I took also helped me learn architecture-based programs such as Rhino and Grasshopper, and my future employers were shocked to learn that an aspiring structural engineer - out of all people - had not only completed 3D models with such architectural programs, but also enjoyed making them.

Hold your horses - it gets even better. By God's grace and mercy, I have a distant related uncle who owns a small structural engineering firm - exactly what I'm interested in. For months, I didn't want to approach my uncle at all out of fear that I would be offered an opportunity on the account of family ties. Yet, he was the one who actually approached me and asked me if I wanted to have a quick internship during January.

I remember the short interview that he conducted - I was so nervous and so embarrassed for not having industry experience that the words could barely crawl out of my mouth. And he still gave me the opportunity, even when I felt I was clearly undeserving of it.

Those short three weeks really made all the difference. During the internship, I was not only introduced to four new programs - two of which industry-exclusive - but I was also able to help on numerous real-world affordable housing projects with rapidly approaching deadlines. Here I was, someone who knew so little about the industry and who only knew about one-way concrete slabs (not even two-way slabs!), and I was still able to make a huge difference. Truly God was in control - He placed me in this situation and gave me just the right amount of knowledge and skills needed to get around the office. By the time I had the interview, I was able to talk about the specialized programs that I knew and the real-world projects that I had contributed to, impressing the employers with my previous experience.

What is this all saying? God gave me invaluable experiences and opportunities that I thought were either lacking, burdensome, or unworthy of having and used them to form the substance of my successful interview.

2. God's timing is perfect.

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

In my sophomore year, I was told by my advisor that many structural engineering companies look for interns around March - this is because most design firms don't know their capacity and what kind of projects they will be working on in the summer until the springtime. It was for this reason that my sister had convinced me during this past fall to push off applying until the springtime. My sister: "Didn't you say last year that structural engineering companies start looking for people in the spring semester?" Me: "Yeah..." My sister: "Then why don't you just focus on classes during the fall semester and think about it later? You're already too busy! You don't have to worry about it." "But-" "Trust in Him! He will provide." "Okay, I'll try."

Trusting in God was now on an entirely new level. For me, it's so easy to throw around the phrase "trust in God" when I look back on how He has provided for me, but when it comes down to a present and sensitive issue - like finding an internship - "trusting in Him" is so hard to put into practice. Of course I wanted to feel secure about my summer from the start of the semester - who doesn't? Why on earth would someone wait until the last second to look for a job if it was so urgent to them - especially if the school year got progressively busier? The whole thing sounded silly and unreasonable to me. Still, I ended up heeding my sister's words about trusting in God, spending the entire fall semester focused on classwork as my close friends locked in their summer positions.

When it was time for me to start applying in early January, it just so happened that there was a huge COVID spike right before the spring semester started - so much so that Cornell went completely virtual and issued out the option to come to campus two weeks later. I decided to stay with my sisters, seeing this as an opportunity to live with them for a while, but I found out later that it was also God's opportunity for me to really focus on the application process. During those two weeks, I was able to apply to many more companies than I thought I would. Since I wasn't surrounded by friends or distracted by the rush of settling back into college life, I could slow down, think less about missing out on things, and think more about what I really needed to get done. And of course, it helped that my sisters were always cooking wonderful meals for me and praying and keeping me good company.

It was also during those two weeks that a structural engineering company responded to my application, asking me if I could do a recorded interview (essentially, I sit in front of the camera and record responses to questions that they give me). Looking back, I think I was only able to give a good response for each question because I stayed with my sisters. They gave me so much love and encouragement during my time with them. My sisters gave me a quiet room in their house where I could focus and think about each question, and because they respected my time, I took the whole day to respond really well to each question. I don't think I would have had the patience nor the motivation to work as hard as I did in the job process if I was at Cornell. Ultimately, this was the

structural engineering company that offered me an internship - right before prelim season came around.

So what am I saying now? God timed it perfectly so that I had the environment, the means, and the time to present my absolute best during the application process.

3. God hears and answers our prayers.

“And this is the confidence that we have towards Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

There were two prayers that God answered during the internship process. One of them was right before the interview. Soon after I had sent in my recorded interview, the structural engineering firm called me and asked if I had time to do a virtual interview with them. This would now be a live interview, where they could see my face and watch in real time as I was responding to their questions and responses. I agreed, and I told them that I wanted to interview with them the last Friday of virtual school - the Friday before the weekend where I had to go back to Cornell. I spent at least two nights preparing and practicing my answers to frequently-asked questions in front of a camera. I wrote notes about all that I had done and tried to memorize them, eager to impress them from the start.

But I was still nervous. This was my first interview - what if they reject me? From my previous experience, I didn't know if I could handle the pressure or not, or the idea of interviewing with multiple companies after more rejections. I didn't know if I could bear to hear another “no.” I couldn't stop the shaking.

So one minute before, with dry lips and a jittery voice, I prayed to God that He would calm me, strengthen me and give me peace during the interview, and that I would honor Him by being who He made me to be. I prayed, “Lord, give me strength and give me peace.” And then something miraculous happened. When I logged onto the interview, the camera button didn't work for all of us. After 7 minutes of trying to make it work, the interviewers decided to call me by phone. Because of this, I was able to focus less on my facial

expressions and my exceptional posture, and I grew more confident because of it. By the end of the interview, I was so confident that I was staring at the blank screen on my phone and imagining how their faces would be responding to my answers. I even made them laugh a couple of times! It was a miracle. When I finished the interview, I knew that I had done well.

The second prayer that God had answered was something that I was praying consistently, each and every day. Back to January. While I was working at my winter internship, I also was starting to apply to multiple companies at a time. Even though I was getting nothing back, I kept on praying to God these words: “Lord, if it is only your Heavenly and good will, would I be able to receive an offer before school starts. But if it is not your will, let it be so. For I know that you are a God who gives all good things to those who love Him, and that your plan and will is perfect.” I was worried about how busy this semester would get, but I also knew deep in my heart that with or without an internship, God's will was still perfect. And so I prayed. As January neared its end, I did not receive an internship, or a call back, but I continued to pray those words: “Would Your will be done.”

When I arrived back at Cornell after the phone interview, I received an email from the structural engineering company, asking if I could speak with them again. I agreed to speak with them on Monday. But when I asked further, they wanted to speak with me with the video on! Surely they want to conduct another interview but with the cameras on this time, I thought. So I spent more time practicing on the camera, worried that I wouldn't live up to the level of confidence that I had displayed on the phone. I expected them to grill me with some more questions, and my whole body started to shake again. But when I logged on, expecting to see cold stone faces, I was greeted instead with warm smiles. And wouldn't you know it? Just as I had prayed, on the first official day of returning back to school, I was being congratulated with an offer. I was speechless. And I think you know the rest of the story. Ultimately, after asking them some questions and negotiating, I signed an agreement to intern with them this summer.

So what is this saying? Our Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers, exactly according to His will.

So what now?

Takeaway: Therefore, God's hand is in everything, God's timing is perfect, He hears and answers our prayers, and He makes the impossible possible, we should obey Him and serve Him forever.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

Even after the fantastic phone interview, there was no guarantee. My future employers told me at the end of the call that they were just starting out the interview process, and that they only took one person a year to be a structural intern for this office. I was told that I would know the results after a couple of months. I was sad to hear that, but I was okay with it. It was my first interview this year, and I was glad that it went well. I remember telling my mom and dad right after, "oh man, I really want this one!" but I was patient and moved on to other things. After such a successful interview, I was fully confident that if God led me through this first interview, he would lead me through the rest. And in the end, it wasn't even two days until they called me back.

How could it be? How can it be that a year ago, I was someone that wasn't chosen by any company and that now, it took less than ten applications for me to find the perfect job? Perhaps, some people might say, I was going through the mentioned experiences at the time and I had it coming in the future. Or, maybe I was being really selective with my courses and my research and had actually planned it all out ahead. Please don't be silly - how I received my internship really has nothing to do with me. Even though it seems on the surface like I did a lot, my perseverance, strength, knowledge, career path, physical and spiritual health, passion, desire to learn and grow, and supportive family and friends who have diligently prayed for me all this time - all of it is attributed to God's grace, mercy, and love.

Right now, I think back to last year, when I was so focused on my reputation, success, and "keeping up," I wasn't even remotely aware of how much my God had blessed me. It was He who gave me the passion to pursue civil engineering and architecture, something that the office was looking for. It was

He who gave me a loving family and loving friends who could support me even through very difficult times. And it was He who gave me perfect timing - timing in my first internship, timing in going to college later this semester, and timing in giving me an offer on the first day of coming back to school. He heard my prayers and had a hand in all of it. It was all Him- it was truly all Him. Wow. Amen.

I cannot truly put into words how grateful I am to my Heavenly Father for disciplining me all this time to have patience and to be humble. I cannot put it in any other way than that God has softened my heart. He called me to suffer and to persevere not only through the job search, but through the life that He has called me to as well. So many other future concerns, such as the fear of loneliness, the desire to have a family someday, and not being good enough, to name a few, have really subsided over the past couple of months after realizing that God had been faithful all throughout my college career, preparing me silently - even when I was faithless. Who am I to doubt now that He is not in control? Who am I to doubt that He has prepared the best for me - what is according to His perfect and Holy will?

So then, knowing that our Father is always gracious, merciful, and loving towards us, it must be that we cannot help but respond by submitting to Him. He calls us to focus on higher, more glorious things than the fading things of this world - He calls us to focus on Him Himself. Reader, may we do so. As we walk through the hardships of this life, may we find that He is faithful, and that He is always there. May we be strengthened by His presence, and take to Him every single burden of ours. May we continually rejoice in what He secured for us on the cross - eternal life - and find peace in Him.

How sweet is your grace, O Father! Thank you, Lord, for your goodness and mercy. Thank you for being faithful, even when we are faithless and turn away from you. May you reign over our hearts and our minds forever. May we seek you first, and may you reveal yourself to us. I love you God. And in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

on difficult decision-making and Jesus (who isn't a doormat)



by: Emily Kam ('21)

After a Thanksgiving break, I helped my parents drive my sister and me back to Cornell. I drove the last hour and a half of the journey, and by the time I was behind the wheel the sky was coated in darkness. Only the ominous red glow of the car's backlights in front of me seemed to guide the way. I kept driving into the blackness, not because I could see or feel where I was going, but because I knew where I was going. I knew there was a place to rest for me, so I continued on.

The Christian life sometimes feels like that car ride. But we know that we have an eternal home waiting for us: a home free from the power of sin and where we can enjoy and worship God forever. Being in this earthly world is full of pain, fear, and empty phrases that do little to feed our souls. We are surrounded by dark confusion.

Thankfully, our faith in the Lord is not driven by feeling or by what we can immediately see – it is by what we know to be true.

*“Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **For we live by faith, not by sight.** We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-9)*



My favorite diagram (that I stole from Cru)

I constantly wrestle with being driven by feeling. I feel pulled in all directions by uncertainty, pessimism, pride, and a hundred of my other vices. These past two semesters, I fought especially against one particular sin: the desire to please people.

Whenever I had to make tough decisions, it felt like I was driving through a roundabout. One exit sign read, “loving

people is giving them what they want.” Another read, “loving people is giving them what they need.” And then to counteract that: “Do you even know what people need?” There were more signs that read “show grace”, “be kind but firm”, “go this way or else people won't like you”, “go this way or else people won't respect you”, “do what's easiest for everyone”, and on. Paralyzed by indecision, my thoughts drove around and around in circles.

Think of Jesus' example. He was always having to deal with people, and he always knew the right, just thing to do or say. He didn't do things based on how he felt (and Jesus has felt all the things I felt – exhausted, tempted, insulted, lonely, etc.). He was loving, accommodating, gentle, but not a doormat or a people-pleaser.

How can I be like Jesus? How can I be like him if I don't have his omniscience, his authority, his wisdom, his love? How can I do what is pleasing to God first and foremost, if I don't know which path God would find pleasing? I know my end goal and I have the truth of the Bible, but I feel like I am still in the dark. I will live by faith, but practically speaking, I still have to get off this roundabout and come to a decision so I can continue on. Which is the “please the Lord” route? I cannot see it.

Step 1: Know who you are.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.” (Psalm 139:14)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1)

What incredible descriptions! God has already redeemed me through Christ – no one's opinion of me can change the fact that I am loved by God and am his precious child. My

confidence is in Christ and because of Christ. If the “right” decision is one that displeases someone, so be it. I must concern myself with what God thinks of me, rather than others. I serve God, not man.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

Jesus knew who he was. He knew his Father was well-pleased with him before his ministry even started. He knew he was the beloved son of God. (Matthew 3:17)

Step 2: Turn to the Lord

I tend to turn to my own sense of logic (which is far from infallible) instead of praying to the Lord and asking Him for wisdom. I lack enough knowledge, insight, and love. I lack the insight to see where my sinful nature and fleshly feelings cloud my judgment. But God can supply me with exactly what I need to make a decision.

I’ve been craving wisdom since I entered college, because (to put simply) I’m pretty dumb. I remember questioning my upperclassmen and seeking their company, hoping to absorb their knowledge just by being around them more. But people can’t give me the kind of wisdom I was chasing after. Knowledge is not quite the same as wisdom, discretion, and discernment. Knowledge is information. Wisdom is insight and understanding at a broader, deeper level.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10)

Do you want to be wise? Then earnestly seek after the Lord with all your heart. As it says in Proverbs 2, “Cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” (I wish I could insert all my favorite passages from Proverbs here, but there isn’t enough space.)

Wisdom also isn’t something God will just plop on your head and suddenly you have all the answers. It is something that comes as you nurture and grow your desire to know God’s heart more intimately. It comes from daily walking with Him, and daily asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with Himself. It takes knowing God on a personal level and submitting to Him.

Sometimes God can use those around you, especially Christians who are older or wiser, to advise you when you don’t know which path to take. If they correct your thinking or reveal where you are wrong, then by all means humbly consider and accept their instruction. However, ultimately, they are not the ones making the decision for you (that is, they shouldn’t be!). They can only advise you, and then it is up to you to determine what to do with their words. Will you heed them exactly? Will you do part of what they suggest, and use your own discernment for the rest? Again, turn to the Lord in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

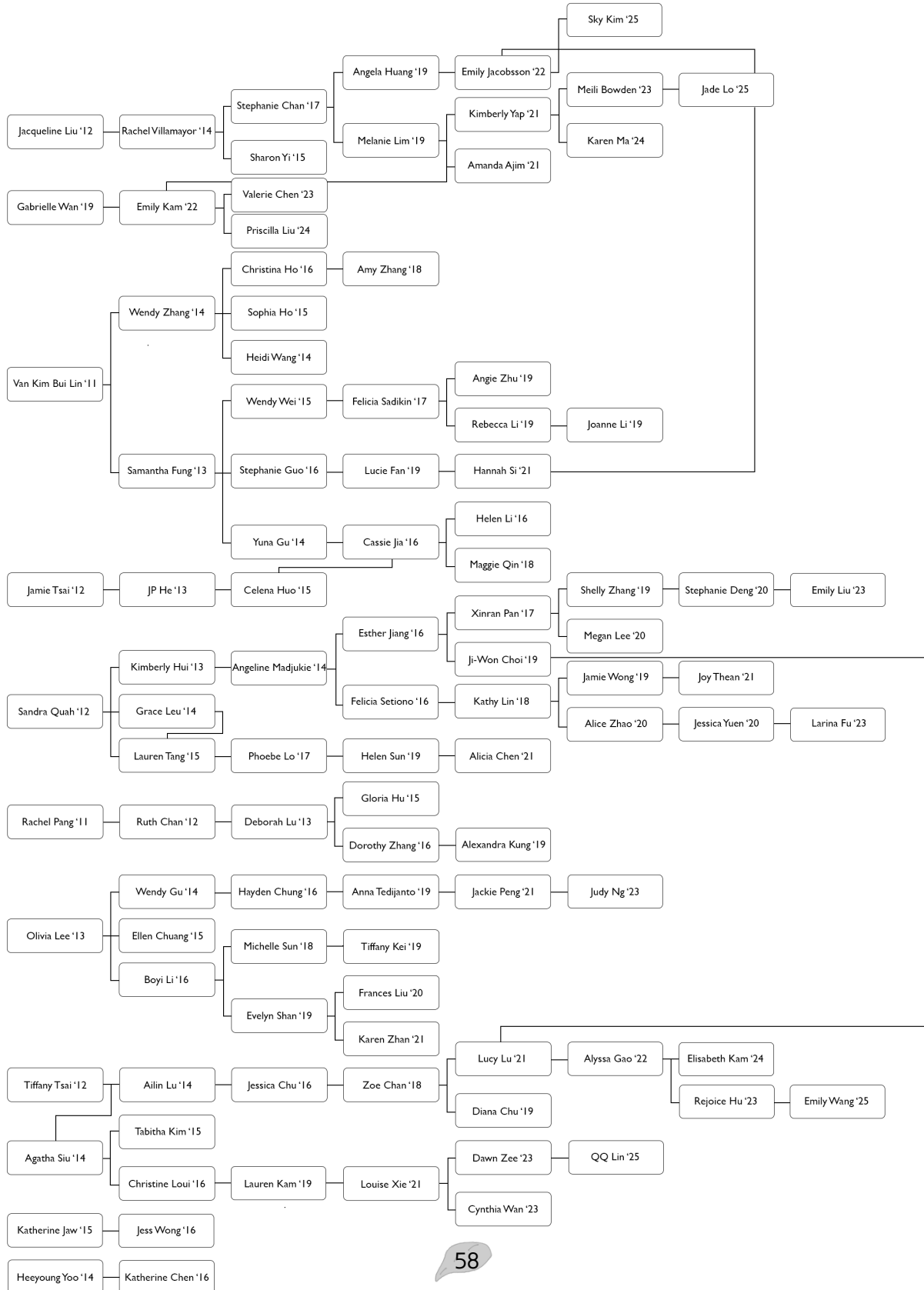
That’s all the steps. At least, that is all I have been able to discern at this point. Know who you are in Christ and turn to Him constantly. Friends, I encourage you to seek God’s pleasure in all your decisions, big and small. I don’t want to make it sound like pleasing God definitely means displeasing people, either. If anything, pleasing the Lord means loving others the way He has loved us, and there is much peace, joy, and fruit to be found in that. Let us walk towards Him and not grow discouraged when confronted with confusion or conflicting opinions.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1)

I pray that the Holy Spirit be upon us and open our eyes and that Jesus may illuminate our path in the darkness as we run towards Him.

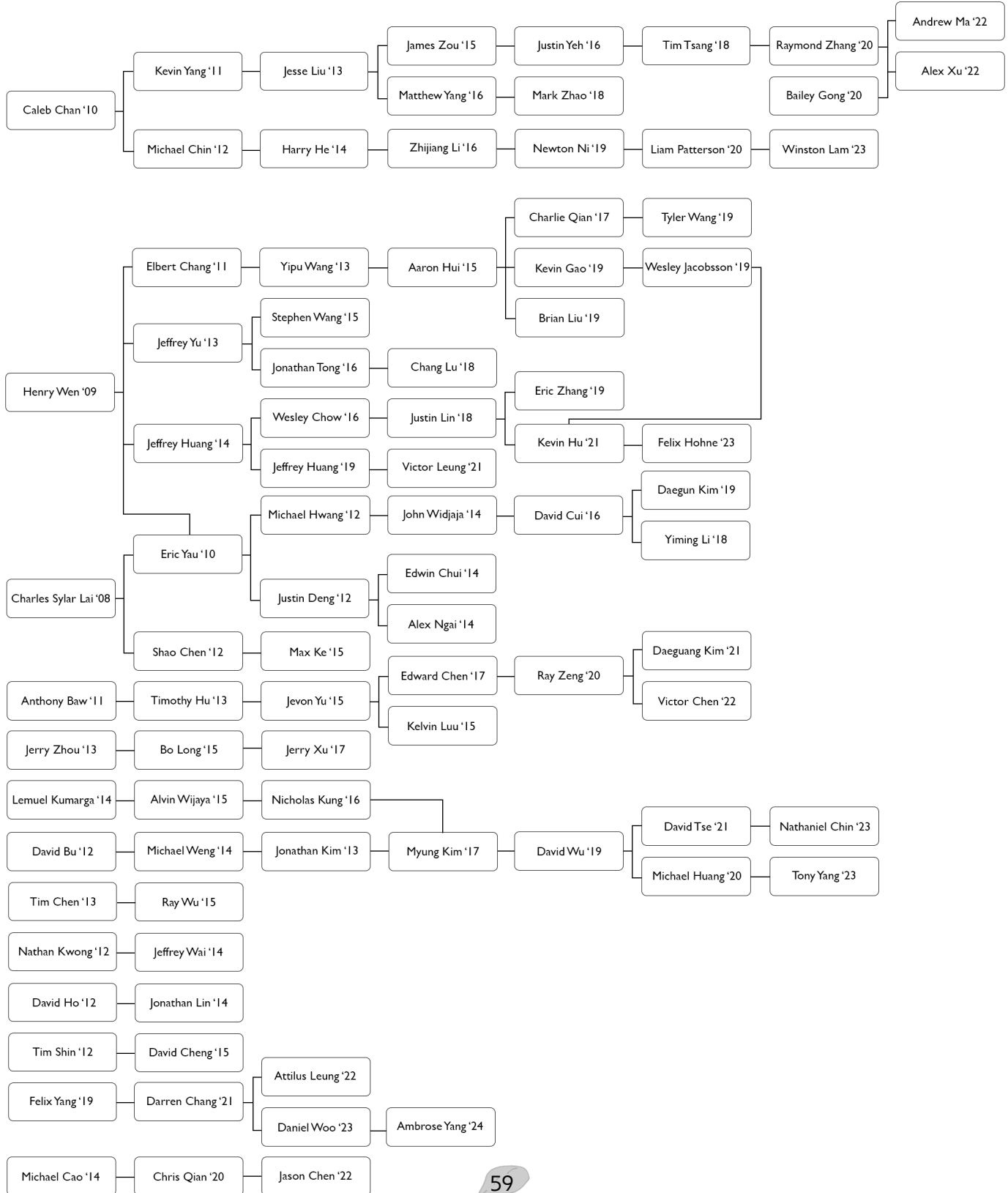
prayer partner tree

sisters of CBS



prayer partner tree

brothers of CBS





To: kim the cbs uber

thank you for lending your car to us so often!! thank you also for your presence in cbs -- you're always there to hangout, to walk a freshie back to north, to let me crash on your couch that one time when i got locked out :'), to have a chat, to handle something logistical -- you're reliable and caring and your love for others is clear and felt by many. <3

From: Anonymous

To: Tony Yang

Hihii tony thank you for that one time you went to get sky and I an umbrella when it was raining. Even though you gave us a broken umbrella we were touched by your kindness hahaaa <3

From: qq lin

To: Emily K

SHOUTOUT for being a GREAT Bible study leader. We've had such great discussion this semester. Much of that is due to the thoughtful questions you ask!

From: Anonymous

To: Class of 2025

Congrats on a job well done for your freshman year! Here's to the next three happy years at Cornell. May you hold tightly on to God through it all! :-)

From: EmJ

To: Daniel Woo

Shoutout to Daniel for being such a fantabulous Bible study leader during the fall semester!

From: Elisabeth Kam

To: Sky Kim

Shoutout to Skim Kim for her food gifs.

From: Anonymous

To: valerieeee

thanks for all the wonderful chats we got to have. it's been a joy and honor to meet with you (almost) every week and hear about what's been on your mind and your thoughts on all the books we've read together. you've grown in knowledge, love and faithfulness since we first started chatting and i praise God for how he was taught and grown both of us! we shall be parting ways soon (aaaa) but we will keep in touch and im excited to see what else God has in store for you! ^_^ <3 ill miss youuuu

From: emilyyy

To: Priscilla

I so enjoy talking to you and seeing your smiling face. :D I also love your red coat and your bright backpack. Thank you for the great discussions (even if they're about grief oof) and for singing with me! I think we sound amazing together. ^_^

From: EmK

To: EmK, Alyssa, and Grace

Thank you for being amazing coordinators and women of God for the fellowship. God has blessed you with organization, cheerfulness, and hearts to serve. <3

From: Anonymous

To: Meili

Hey, Queen! Girl, you have done it again, constantly raising the bar for us all and doing it flawlessly. I'd say I'm surprised but I know who you are. I've seen it up close and personal. Girl, you make me so proud, and I love you

From: Anonymous

To: Alyssa

You have been a huuuuge source of support and comfort! I would not have been able to survive fall semester without you to lean on. You have a soft, humble heart and God provided exactly the person I needed. <3 I'm so thankful that we got to

experience so much and grow together and I miss chatting with you!

From: Emily K

To: Oracle <3

Love y'all! Reunion soon please!

From: Joy

To: Sky Kimour

code:
namoo,
ng,
pinnocchio,
he needs to chill,
predental,
oop,
swagggg,
yahoooo,
hmp
why do birds suddenly appear
Why do birds suddenly appear
Every time you are near?
Just like me, they long to be
Close to you
thank you for just existing and laughing with me
I love youuuuuuuuu

From: Anonymous

To: daniel woo

heyooooo daniel- tankss for sharing ur wonderful songs with me. i believe we have the best collaborative playlist of all time☺(^ ▽ ^)☺!

From: qq lin

To: Emily Kam

Thanks for leading zozz throughout these four years!!!!!!!

From: Anonymous

To: Daniel Woo

u my boi yeet

From: Anonymous

To: EmJ

Shoutout to the best Reach co-coordinator! It was a pleasure serving the fellowship with you this year. Praying that we can continue our ministry even when we're on opposite coasts!

From: Kim

To: Emily Kamheyo

Emily!!! Thank you for being the best coordinator and the big sister I never had muah muah <3333.

From: qq lin

To: grace

#shoutout to grace for being such a #lit small group leader B)

From: Anonymous

To: attilus

uwu thanks for being here :3

From: Anonymous

To: Ambrose

I love it when you share stuff (in Bible Study, during sharing time, in workshop, etc.). You always have amazing insights that take me by surprise and I really admire the heart and care you have for others!

From: Anonymous

To: Jade Lo

Thank you for being cool and cheerful and encouraging <3

From: big pp

To: dawn zee

haloooo older pp. tank you for ur delicious meals and bible studies <3!

From: qq lin

To: Attilus Leung

Thanks for offering to buy me wings after Youth Night even though I had a sandwich in my dorm and I wasn't hungry

From: Leland Xu

To: Daniel

Shoutout to the next chauffeur of CBS!!!

From: Kim

To: Praise Team

Shoutout to Praise team for all their efforts and enthusiasm in creating the praise sets this year!

From: Priscilla Liu

To: Rejoice

Seeing you ALWAYS brightens my day! I'm grateful for the talks & the laughs we've shared

From: Anonymous

To: meili

thank you for doing so much for cbs!! you're really fun to talk to <3 ps ur a great interviewer LOL

From: Anonymous

To: joy

thank you joy for the good chats whenever we run into each other! i really appreciate you opening your apartment for hangouts and for the wisdom you've shared with us undergraduates. thank you for blessing us with your artistic skills and wonderful company!

From: emily k

To: KIM YAP

Co reach coordinator of my DREAMS! What a joy it was to serve with you. Cannot thank you enough <3

From: EmJ

To: Alvin

You're invited to work at my Buffet!

From: Anonymous

To: Alvin

You make my Mondays feel like Fridays :)

From: Kim

To: Freshmen

I admire your closeness with each other and I pray that this friendship will allow you all to blossom into mature women of God as the years go by. CBS is blessed to have you <3

From: Meili

To: Daniel

Thank you for all your hard work with BoL! You are such an amazing person and I'm so happy you've had fun with this editorship!

From: Joy

To: Kim Yap

Thank you for shaping me into a better person with your wisdom, friendship, and love. Best older PP I could ever ask for. Love you pp <3

From: Meili

To: emily jacobsson

shoutout to emily because she is always so happy and bubbly and whenever i talk to her it always lifts my mood :)

From: Anonymous

To: Emily Wang

Your humor is top tier!! I always have a blast talking to you and I love your energy <333

From: Anonymous

To: Jade Lo

Shoutout to Jade--best announcer

From: Anonymous

To: leland xu

hiiii leland!! here are some nicknames for you: gum boy, recycle boy, no smile boy. tank u for ur notes for intro to china :3

From: qq lin

To: Sky

Thankful to have someone who shares my love of strawberry pocky & choco pie. You are the SWEETEST! Love you lots.

From: EmJ

To: Meili Bowden

Shoutout to Meili for her wise words and love for God

From: Anonymous

To: Leland

I like the furry hat you wear in the winter!

From: EmJ

To: Joy

Work at my restaurant pls

From: Eggy

To: alvin

ALVIN YOU ARE VERY FUNNY! THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME LAUGH LOTS!!!

From: Anonymous

To: ZOZZ

pmeet tonite?

From: jdad

To: rejoice

shoutout to rejoice for being such a kind and amazing prayer partner!! i love you!! you never fail to put me in a great mood:) thank you for all that you do <3

From: emily wang (ur #1 + biggest fan)

To: qq

shoutout to qq for being such a sweet person and making me feel comfortable and welcome every time you talk to me!!! thank you <3

From: Anonymous

To: jadejade

you are very cool and funny. thank u for being so nice to me and making me feel welcome @ cbs.

From: Anonymous

To: Daniel

Thank you for your hard work in putting together BoL for us!! We appreciate you <3

From: Anonymous

To: emily kam

thank you for reaching out to me and inviting me to cbs<333

From: emily wang

To: Priscilla

Thank you for your commitment to BoL and your loving heart! I wish you all the best as future BoL editor! <3

From: Joy

To: Victor Chen and Attilus Leung

Thank you for dedicating so much time and effort to the youth ministry. It's easy to think that all that ever gets done for the benefit of the youth is a waste of time, that the lessons taught, the actions delivered, and the emotions poured out are destined to be forgotten by them in less than two weeks. That is probably true. (They probably will forget most of what's been done.) But I'm sure that the impact of your lives, whether big or small, will always be with them. When in the future, they reflect back to the times when you were the ones teaching them, they'll only wonder how good and fortunate they had it when you were there.

From: Anonymous

To: Sharon Wu

Shoutout to Sharon for hugging me at every large group and making me feel better about my life.

From: Anonymous

To: Jenny Chen

Shoutout to Jenny for appreciating my bread.

From: Beth Kam

To: Emily Kam

Shoutout to Em for making me kimchi fried rice.

From: Guess

To: Jade Lo

Shoutout to Jade for her exquisite taste in comics.

From: Anonymous

To: Daniel Woo

Shoutout to Daniel for being the best coconut boy.

From: Anonymous

To: Jasper Liang

Shoutout to Jasper for having the best collection of meme songs.

From: Anonymous

To: Alvin Chang

Shoutout to Alvin for having an impressive Gudetama collection.

From: Anonymous

To: Freshmen

Shoutout to the freshmen for being so cute.

From: Anonymous

To: Sky Kim

Shoutout to Sky for being the best Coraline fan.

From: Anonymous

To: Ambrose Yang

Shoutout to Ambrose for having epic piano skills.

From: Anonymous

To: Daniel Woo

Shoutout to Daniel for having the cutest voice cracks.

From: Anonymous

To: Kyle Lai

Shoutout to Kyle for always being exactly on time for large group.

From: Anonymous

To: Sky Kim

Shoutout to Sky for the beautiful quarter-zip design.

From: Anonymous

To: Justin Hsu

Shoutout to Justin for not being born on March 1st.

From: Anonymous

To: Ambrose Yang

Shoutout to Ambrose for having the most winning smile in every photo.

From: Anonymous

To: Meili Bowden

Shoutout to Meili for remembering everyone's birthday.

From: Anonymous

To: Joy Thean

Shoutout to Joy for making me do her dishes.

From: Nicole Thean

To: Emily Kam

Shoutout to EmK for her three-ingredient "cookies."

From: Priscilla Liu

To: Tony Yang

Shoutout to Tony for remembering what my last name is.

From: Beth Kam

To: Daniel Woo

Shoutout to Daniel for making beautiful BoL editions.

From: Anonymous

To: Alex Xu

Shoutout to Alex for loaning us his dish for 6 months.

From: Your favorite sophomore trio

To: Nicole Thean

Shoutout to Nicole for her impressive ice cream collection.

From: Anonymous

To: Priscilla Liu

Shoutout to Priscilla for laughing at everything I say.

From: Beth Kam

To: Beth Kam

Shoutout to Beth for being mother duck.

From: Anonymous

To: Nathaniel Chin

Shoutout to Nat for being the food prep machine.

From: Anonymous

To: QQ Lin

Shoutout to QQ for having the longest spotify playlists ever.

From: Anonymous

To: Tony Yang

Shoutout to Tony, our local Duffield resident.

From: Anonymous

Happy graduation! Thank you for your kindness, warmth & patience these past four years. You have taught me a lot! Love you all.

From: EmJ

To: Valerie Chen

Shoutout to Valerie for all her comforting conversations.

From: Anonymous

To: emj

thank you for always being so kind and sweet to everyone you meet (oops it rhymed) i love the meet-ups we get to have now and then (usually a breakfast meetup haha) and i hope we can have more breakfast together in the future! <33

From: emk

To: Emily Liu

Shoutout to (E)mL

From: if you know then you know

To: frosh and sophs and Meili's ID

HUGE shoutout to all my dears for lending me guest swipes for North Dinner!!! My stomach and heart says thank you <3

From: a scavenging alum

To: Alvin, Jasper, Kim

Thanks for the bottles. When the world is covered by landfills and there are many supercontinents of plastic, you can rest easy knowing you prevented a few bottles from being part of those landfills and supercontinents.

From: Leland

To: attilus

yeet

From: Anonymous

To: ZOZZ

answers to junior class crossword:

across

- 3. Dawn: croissant
- 4. Kyle: cap
- 6. Meili: cello
- 8. Felix: machinelearning
- 9. Justin: contact
- 10. Cynthia: MCAT

down

- 1. Tony: Twice
- 2. Nat: frisbee
- 4. Valerie: coffee
- 5. Emily: Yuzuru
- 6. Daniel: concrete
- 7. Rejoice: WICCC

