

CBS  
BREAD OF LIFE  
FALL 2022



## **CBS Vision Verse**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**1 Peter 1:3-5**

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](http://cbscornell.com).

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# Interview

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Nathaniel Chen
Felix Hohne
Rejoice Hu
Elisabeth Kam
QQ Lin
Emily Liu
Priscilla Liu
Jade Lo
Daniel Woo
Leland Xu
Dawn Zee

# Design

Nicole Thean

# Edit

Priscilla Liu
Nicole Thean
Daniel Woo

# Photography

Meili Bowden
Jade Lo
Nicole Thean
Daniel Woo

# Editor Letter

**Dear CBS,**

As a first-time editor of Bread of Life, there were plenty of mistakes made and lessons learned in the making of this issue. I have never considered myself to be particularly good with words, in speaking or in writing, which made me a little hesitant in accepting this position. But if there's one thing God is constantly proving to me, it's that the more I serve, the clearer I see that what is done is not through any ability or effort of my own but through God's unfailing grace and mercy. Any amount of worrying or anxiety on my part will not and cannot stop His plan from unfolding.

This was proven true time and time again throughout the semester. Although we began the school year with a small number of people there were so many newcomers within the first few weeks—not even limited to the Cornell community! And despite the many newcomers there was an abundance of interviewers who dedicated their time to help make Bread of Life

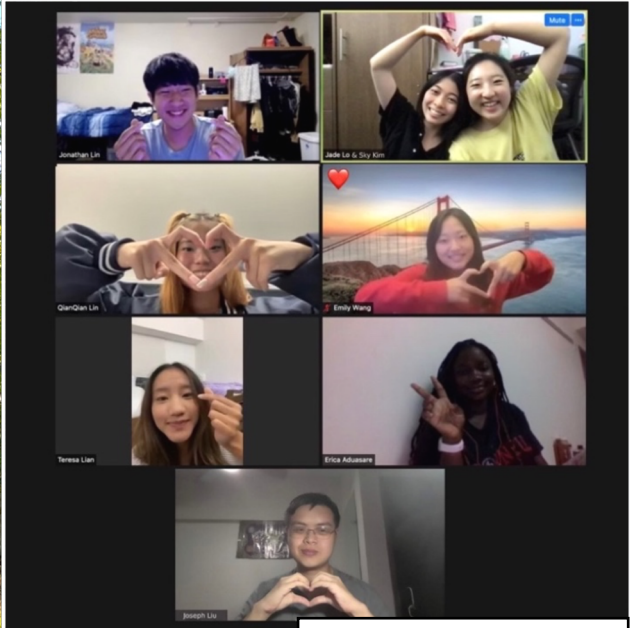
possible. Even as the busyness of school ramped up quickly, I found it so encouraging that CBS would always make time to gather together outside of our regular Friday large groups during retreats, small groups, North dinners, outreach activities, and just generally enjoying each other all the more in our first semester without mandated masking. God provides, every time.

After all, if He can feed a crowd of more than five thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread (John 6:1-15) and give the flowers their splendor and the birds their sustenance (Matthew 6:26-30), how could he not provide for CBS, for each of us? This fall semester God filled my cup to overflowing even when I doubted and questioned Him. May He do the same for you as you read this issue and may each of your cups overflow with joy and faith that he will sustain you through another season with Him!

**Blessings,  
Priscilla Liu ('24)**



Sophomore Picnic



Lovely Sophomores



CBS Rock Climbing



Hangovers Concert



CBS Meals!

## Coordinator Letter: Meili Bowden

**Dearly loved CBS brothers and sisters,**

You may be wondering why I called you “dearly loved.” Or maybe you didn’t even process that I called you such. Maybe you’re creeped out now. Please keep reading (T-T).

My CBS family, I do not call you “dearly loved” lightly. Some of you I have known since I was a freshman walking into CBS with starry eyes and unimaginable levels of social awkwardness. From then until now, we have grown together and matured in our respective ways. We have developed friendships with one another that can withstand both time and distance because they are built on Christ, who is ever-present everywhere. I have grown *because* of you and I have had the privilege of witnessing God’s work in your growth; for this reason I love you dearly. Others of you I have met only recently and have yet to learn your quirks and your strengths and what makes you laugh (and your ever-important birthdays). Still, I confidently call you “dearly loved” because I see you as a gift. Something I have very recently developed is a genuine appreciation for the creative power showcased in God’s favorite creations: human beings. Despite each of us being at a different stage in our walk with God, it is both possible and good for us to value each other for who we are and *whose* we are. So for that reason, I love you dearly and want to get to know you more as we finish the school year.

Now although I call you dearly loved with all genuineness and thankfulness, I am humbled as I realize that an even greater, more perfect love exists for you. It is a love that no encouraging words or incredibly hilarious jokes or comforting hugs of mine can compare to. It is a love that is

not limited by time, social battery, or self-consciousness. It is the love of God, which is reserved fully and finally for each one of you (and me). While the love I have to offer you is forever flawed, His is forever flawless. While I often forget to show you my appreciation for your gifts, words, or presence, God gives you His ultimate recognition by covering you with the worthiness of Jesus Christ that is far more valuable. While I build up worldly expectations for you (and myself) as a member of the fellowship, God expects nothing more of you than to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

You see, the comparisons between my incomplete love and God’s quintessential love can go on and on. But that is nothing to be sad about-- in fact, I hope you can come to be eternally grateful for just how much bigger God becomes when you make yourself smaller. As one of your coordinators this year, that is the most important thing I have learned this semester. When I am weak, God is strong. When I am little, God is big. When I make mistakes, I can still boast in Christ (2 Corinthians 12:9).

So, when you think about your semester, how have you been shown God’s love? Have you received help from classmates to finish a tough assignment and felt enormous amounts of gratitude because of their willingness to assist you when they didn’t need to? Has somebody given you words of encouragement after you received poor results from an exam or interview or performance? Did you receive gentle admonishment from a brother, sister, or mentor in Christ when you strayed away from behaving in a Biblical manner? These are all beautiful signs that you have been shown love from fellow

humans. What greater love, then, have we each been shown by the one and only God, who (though perfectly content in the Trinity before the creation of the world) wanted His own creation to share in His glory and receive the great joy that comes with being called His child. <sup>1</sup> John 3:1-3 says:

*“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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”*

Dearly loved friends, I will repeat John’s words to you. *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!* After reflecting on your semester, have you found reasons to be thankful for the love God has lavished on you? Can you believe that it is this abundance of love from God alone that qualifies you to be one of His children? I hope your answer to each of these questions is “yes,” even if not at

this moment. In any case, I am confident that plenty more of God’s love will be supplied to you such that His goodness and glory is made increasingly clear.

Perhaps now you see why I call you “dearly loved” with both honesty and subordination. I cannot express enough how much love I have for you and how much I thank God for your existence in CBS and in Christ’s holy Church. Yet, I know for a fact that my love for you is far too insignificant to ever come close to the perfect love God daily pours over you. If there is one thing for you to take away from this semester and go into Winter Break pondering, it is the unbelievable, unexplainable, sacrificial love of God. It pleased Him to redeem you as His child, even though it cost Him greatly on the Cross. Dwell on God’s magnanimous character. Dwell on God’s power over your sin. Dwell on God’s blessings over you. Dwell on these things why? Because you are dearly loved.

**With much love in Christ,  
Meili Bowden (‘23)**

## Coordinator Letter: Daniel Woo

CBS,

Thank you for a wonderful semester. My heart is so full. Many times I have been discouraged throughout the week from big and little things here and there, only to have my heart replenished from being with you. From large to small groups and reach events to one-on-ones, God has revealed the depths of His love for me through my blessed moments with you. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love for God, for your love for each other, and for your earnest desires to seek Him first in all things. Thank you for being you.

Last week I listened to a Tim Keller sermon and he pointed out the most wonderful thing about the beginning of the Lord's prayer. When Jesus teaches his people how to pray, Jesus starts off with "Our Father." Amen. With these two words, Jesus is able to bundle up two sweet truths into one simple phrase. When Jesus calls God "our" God, He invites us to share in the joy of salvation together. He doesn't say "my", which would distance us from God, or "your", which would distance us from each other. Instead, He chooses to say "our", and in doing so, reminds us of the blessed Holy catholic church that God has gifted us with. And when Jesus says "Father," He reminds us that we are God's adopted sons and daughters. When we put our faith in Christ, God promises us, "you are forgiven." He looks at us tenderly as a father would look at his precious children, and says, "I love you dearly." And when we lose our way or stumble in our walk, God says, "I've got you! I still love you," and, "will you confirm your calling? Will you confess your sin and continue your walk with me?" Yes Lord, may we do so forevermore.

CBS, continue to be with each other, love one another, and seek each other out, for God has gifted us with both the Spirit and the person next to you. We are the body of Christ, with Jesus as our head: "He is also head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18). Just as a human body functions, Jesus commands us, and we joyfully follow: together, acting and worshiping as one for the glory of God.

And do not forget who you are. As sons and daughters of God, we are freed from performance and the fear of condemnation. "Therefore, there is now *no condemnation* for those who are in Christ Jesus, because *through Christ Jesus* the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2). We are given new identities: from slaves to sin to slaves to righteousness, from dead to alive. Reader, do you act as one who is deeply loved by the Father? Oh, how wonderful and sweet these two truths are! And how CBS seeks to bury these two truths deep into their hearts! May we continue to be in awe of Christ and our saving. Amen.

I don't want to keep you long. You have a lot of reading ahead of you in this beautiful new edition. I just want to remind you that you *are* loved, no matter where you are right now, and that you *can* trust Him. Do not fear, CBS: do not be afraid. In Christ alone, we are gifted with an everlasting hope that does not fade away. He loved you first, and He loves you now. So cling to Him, CBS, and He will surely hold you fast. I am thankful that you are here reading this letter, and I am grateful to call you my friend in Christ. I will see you in the new year.

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



# Reach Letter

Dear CBS,

It's crazy how fast this semester has passed by already. I'm so thankful that we've been able to experience our first fully-back-to-in-person fall ~ enjoying orientation week activities, going to Apple Fest, having fall retreat, etc. It's been a blessing seeing all you beautiful old & new faces at large group and in general <3

During the summer, I prayed that God would show us what He envisioned for CBS and Reach this year. Through our weekly Servant Team meetings, as we shared and read "The Gospel Centered Life," I was encouraged to reflect on what it meant to be in a Christian fellowship – it meant that we would continuously meet up and support one another through Christ.

This then brings me to Reach's vision verse of the year:

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us of how important it is to build each other up in the faith while creating a sense of community & belonging. Therefore, as a ministry, we want to support CBS

in experiencing and spreading God's love, while equipping one another in sharing the gospel.

Since the pandemic, we haven't been able to do meet-ups as consistently (apart from seeing each other at Large Group on Fridays). It could have been because we weren't used to the in-person aspects of fellowship or that we've been getting too tired from classes and commitments. However, I would like to use this letter to encourage you to start meeting up with your fellow brothers & sisters in Christ, so that we can continue to love and sharpen each other in faith.

So far during this semester, Reach meetings mainly consisted of planning and praying. Although these are two very great things, I'm praying that we can also spend more time together in His Word, as well as reach out to others – both inside and outside of the fellowship. As our vision verse also calls us to prepare for the Day that is approaching, I'm also hoping that we can have more open Reach meetings that allow for questions and discussions.

Although busyness may get in the way, I pray that, as a fellowship, we can continue to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

**Blessings,**  
**Dawn Zee ('23)**

# Praise Letter

Dear CBS,

A few years ago, as I had gotten more interested in listening to worship songs, I found that there were a lot of great songs that didn't seem to be sung very often. So I decided that when I got to pick the songs I would make sure to introduce them into the set. That's also how I originally came across this year's Praise Team vision verse, from Psalms 96:1-3:

*“Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”*

But studying these verses more over the summer and during our first Praise Team meeting has made me realize that these verses have much more to say about worship than just picking new songs. In fact, the psalmist spends the first three lines of the psalm repeating that we should sing to the Lord, that our worship is directed to God alone. As many Praise Team members pointed out during our study of these verses, worship can sometimes become routine, especially for those of us who have been involved in church or Christian fellowships for a long time. In light of this, the psalmist reminds us that when we worship God, our songs should be new; as one Praise Team member put it, every time we sing we should be learning about and encountering His greatness.

Perhaps I've had to learn this lesson most pointedly in the hectic moments on Friday nights from moving all the Praise Team equipment to

setting up and getting ready for the start of Large Group. This especially came to a head during Night of Worship, when we had to squeeze in time to practice all four sets, make sure all the slides were in order, and handle any other last-minute changes before the night began. Even as Night of Worship started, I was still constantly burdened by whether or not all the logistics would run smoothly, whether the musical aspects of each set were prepared well enough, and whether the fellowship would be receptive to the songs that we chose. Coming from a musical background, we can often be critical of even the smallest mistakes in our performances and be taken aback when something doesn't go exactly as planned. But as the fellowship continued to passionately lift up praises to our Almighty God, my worries about the logistics of the night began to fade, because the ability to share in corporate worship a love and adoration for our Heavenly Father is something that no amount of human organization nor logistical perfection can muster. Only by the saving grace of Jesus Christ does the Holy Spirit work in our hearts to sing praises to our God. I'm reminded of the story of Mary and Martha, that we need not be “anxious and troubled about many things” (Lk. 10:41), but instead “one thing is necessary” (Lk. 10:42). As David writes in Psalm 27:

*“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”*

– Ps. 27:4

I'd like to take this chance to thank everyone on Praise Team for their tireless and faithful service

throughout the semester. It has been a blessing and joy to serve with all of you, and I hope you have been able to find comfort and rest in worshiping God even in the midst of the most challenging and difficult moments. As we go into the winter break and the spring semester, may we continue to come before the Lord in songs of praise for how much He loves us, expressed so poetically in the lyrics to the song “Favorite Song of All”:

*He loves to hear the wind sing  
As it whistles through the pines on  
mountain peaks  
He loves to hear the raindrops  
As they splash to the ground in a magic  
melody  
And He smiles in sweet approval  
As the waves crash to the rocks in their  
harmony,  
All creation joins in unity to sing to Him  
majestic symphonies.  
But His favorite song of all  
Is the song of the redeemed  
When lost sinners now made clean  
Lift their voices loud and strong  
When those purchased by His blood  
Lift to Him a song of love  
Nothing more He'd rather hear  
None so pleasing to His ear  
As His favorite song of all.*

**In Christ,  
Ambrose Yang ('24)**

# Discipleship Letter

**Dear Brothers and Sisters of CBS,**

When I first started out on Discipleship, I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. As some of you already know and others will know soon, CBS runs on meetings, many, many meetings, with better meeting minutes than actual companies. It doesn't help that a lot of Discipleship's role is holding meetings with fellow CBSers about how their meetings are going. Now if only we also had CBS letterhead, the whole package would be complete...

But comments about meetings aside, it has been a joy to serve on Discipleship this semester, as we have spent those times reading the Word, praying together, and sharing how we are doing and how we are serving each other at CBS. For it is in groups of two or three (or even more) that Christ will be us: we cannot live the Christian life alone but depend on our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ for strength, accountability, and support. As we face the pressures, distractions, and difficulties of this world, let us be continuously reminded of Christ's love and his peace that transcends all.

Through those many checkup meetings, I have been really encouraged to see how the Lord is calling up a new generation of leaders across CBS, with a real heart to serve, and observe how much they have grown in faith. In particular, it has been great to see how the Small Groups have developed this semester. Thank you to all the amazing small group leaders who prepared amazing small groups, and everyone who came week after week with great questions, insightful comments, and a willingness to open up and think about how to apply the applications of the

small group discussion to one's broader life. Additionally, it has been good to see a new set of prayer partnerships begin this year. For many of us old people, prayer partnerships was one of the key ways we grew spiritually, as we learned and saw first-hand what it really meant to be a Christian on this campus. As a result, I pray that the small groups will be as fruitful next semester as they have been this semester, and that the prayer partnerships will blossom, strengthening the faith of older and younger prayer partners in their time remaining at Cornell.

In a sentiment shared with many dearly departed, former CBSers over the years in this publication, serving for me has often been defined by a sense of limitation, as my many weaknesses and limitations on time and energy have been quickly apparent. In this, I often think about the story of JRR Tolkien's "Leaf by Niggle", as described in *Every Good Endeavor*. To summarize it in a way that really isn't going to do it justice, it is about a painter who has spent his life working on a painting, but due to the many other obligations in his life, only ever completes a small portion of it. However, in God's kingdom, he is able to see it in its true majesty, fully completed. In many ways, serving is very similar: with our own strengths we fall far short, but "God's power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9). God uses our strengths and our weaknesses, and it is in Him that our work has meaning.

As we look forward to the end of this semester, winter break, and the next semester beyond, may we stay strong in our faith, and live a life worthy of the calling that we have received, placing Jesus Christ at the center of our lives. Let us continue to walk in the companionship of fellow believers,

through the ups and downs of our time here at Cornell.

Let me end on one of my favorite verses from my devotionals this semester, one that has already encouraged me many times over the past few months. May it be encouraging to you also.

*“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

– Romans 8:38-39

**In Christ,  
Felix Hohne ('23)**

# Bible Study Letters

**Dear CBS,**

This semester we were blessed to read selections from the Gospel of John. Together, we had deep and honest conversations about Christ: Who is He? What did He come to accomplish, and why? And how should we respond to it? These questions were answered when we read through John's detailed accounts of Jesus. When we read about Jesus' miracles of healing, we saw that Jesus is the son of God: a Holy and mighty Lord who did not come to heal the healthy and strong, but to tend to the sick and sinful. While reading Jesus' prayer to His disciples to His arrest, we came to recognize how much He truly loves us. Even in His final hours before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed for us, desiring for us to know Him and to behold His glory forevermore. And in examining Jesus' triumphant resurrection, we could not help but rejoice in the assurance of our salvation. Death could not hold Him, and through Christ's saving grace, death cannot hold us either, no matter how hard it tries.

And through these passages from John, we also came to observe the multifaceted, beautiful nature of our Savior. Despite us continuously doubting Him, failing to comprehend the unseen, or undermining His works, Jesus' unfailing compassion is shown through every step of his life. Through His ministry on earth, we can also see how Jesus takes what mankind has distorted and uses it for good, as a way to demonstrate his glory, and in doing so, the glory of God.

CBS, we hope that in studying John this semester, you have all been able to reflect more deeply on the life of Jesus Christ, and in doing so, reflected on how His act of love, grace, and ultimately resurrection impacts your walk with Him.

**In Christ,**

**Daniel Woo ('23) & Elisabeth Kam ('24)**

# Bible Study Letters

**Dear CBS,**

The Gospel of John is peculiar in how, the more you read it, the more you find new questions hidden in the details. Maybe that's how all close reading is, who knows. But one thing our Bible Study group does know is that there is *always* more to talk about when it comes to reading John, or any other Gospel really. Every word Jesus spoke on earth was intentional, every sequence of events was carefully crafted by God to lead to the Cross, and every event recorded was written so that we may believe. No wonder our discussions so often flew by faster than we would like-- our group was just so eager to dig into the heart of God's Word for the sake of a more complete understanding of Christ.

Throughout this semester, we've approached this goal by trying different formats to push ourselves to ask (and answer...somewhat) good questions. Although our time together hasn't always proceeded as planned, our eagerness to engage

with the details and thirst to know God on a deeper level led to some lovely unplanned discussions where we could all marvel at the word of the Lord with new eyes. Above all, we have striven to see Jesus outlined in the Gospel of John with open, willing hearts and minds. What more could we ask for in Bible study?

Thanks to our Bible study members for always showing up (in spite of the chaos of long bathroom breaks, poor senses of location, and candy wrapper shenanigans) willing to tackle the long passages with sincerity and thoughtfulness. It is our prayer that you come away from this semester of Bible studies with (even just a little bit) more clarity of who God is, why He sent Jesus to the earth, and how Jesus used His ministry on earth. And as always, if you still have questions just throw them our way. :)

**With love,**

**Priscilla Liu ('24) & Meili Bowden ('23)**

# Bible Study Letters

**Dear CBS Brothers and Sisters,**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

– John 11:25-26

As we have read through the book of John together, we have been continually confronted with a very simple question: do we place our trust in Jesus Christ, and do we believe that faith in him is the only path to salvation? Through the weeks of this semester, we have seen Jesus' close and intimate relationship with God the Father, his sorrow and anger at the unnatural nature of death, as well as his full power over it, his love and care for his disciples and for those who will follow Christ through them, and his gentleness to us when we doubt as just a few examples of Jesus' love, power, and majesty.

I wanted to say thank you to all of you who came to read, think through, and discuss the meaning of the Gospel this semester, despite the terribly cold room, questionable ice breaker questions and new records set on Bible study length. I was in particular inspired by our collective discussion of all the ways Jesus' love and care shone through the passages we read, as well as the excellent application discussion on what Jesus' love means to us today in our daily lives.

As this semester draws to a close, I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to fill us with peace, strength, and love. May we continue to place our hope and trust in the Lord, as we reflect on Jesus' great gift of eternal life to all of us, by having faith in him.

**In Christ,  
Felix Hohne ('23)**



# Small Group Letters

**'Ello jello fello CBS,**

Although our weekends are known for relaxing and unwinding after the stressful weekdays of work and school, we can still continue to rest while studying by studying the Word of God and leaning on Him for rest! It might have been strange for some that we had small group on Saturdays, since it isn't really common, but some peeps are just busy like dat y'know? Wait a minute...our topic was a very serious and heavy topic wasn't it? Spiritual warfare? \*whew\* However, it still needs to be addressed so that we could learn what/who we are battling with as Christians so that we could understand how to better equip ourselves. It might seem like a stressful topic, but it can also be relieving to know that we can grow even closer to God throughout these battles.

Our group explored different aspects of Spiritual Warfare: what is spiritual warfare (none of us, leaders included, initially even knew), examining how the devil is still prowling about our lives, suffering, and, as a supplementary material, we discussed selected passages from C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape's Letters*. Lastly, we wrapped up our discussion delving into how Jesus is our ultimate guide to navigating a world shrouded in sin.

Our wonderful, majestic, beautiful peers have all given insightful questions and answers during each meeting. Even when our faith is tested in many ways, we can and should still believe in Him as Jesus had said:

*"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"*

- John 11:40

As long as we truly believe in God, we will be able to see the glory of Him. Isn't that great? What's even greater is that His Son had gone through living on this world Himself and have been tempted in many ways so He can empathize with us too in many ways (Hebrews 2:14-15 and 4:15). In the end we don't need to worry about anything actually and should instead "pray about everything" which will bring us God's peace that will "guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

As leaders, we were challenged through this material as well. Sometimes our discussions would spin concentric circles with no definitive conclusion. But even with uncertainty, we were always reminded to stay grounded in this truth:

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."*

- Ephesians 6:10-13

Although we may not encounter demons in our world as Christ did in Matthew 17:14 (Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy), we must be mindful and prudent of our actions for Satan is ever-alert and waiting to steal our hearts from Jesus. Only

through the almighty power and everlasting love of our Father can we ever hope to win this battle. We are so grateful to our small group who took the time out of their busy schedules to dive into this difficult topic with us. Our prayer is that you will remain rooted in the Lord and that you will

always trust in Him to guard you against the temptations of this world.

**In Christ,  
Elisabeth Kam ('24) & Jade Lo ('25)**

## Small Group Letters

**Dearest CBS,**

What comes to mind when you think about prayer? How do you pray in particular? What does a “good” prayer look like? We asked these questions to everybody in our small group during our first meeting way back in September. Each of us took time to write (and doodle) out our responses on index cards, then we went around and shared. After that, all of the index cards were stuck into our freshly-unpackaged green-turtle-themed group journal. Those index cards remain in the journal to this day, but they are now joined by dozens of journal entries, prayer requests, and praises that all of us have recorded over the course of the semester.

Prayer is important because it makes us more like Jesus and reveals to us the heart and mind of God. A good structure on how we should pray is the ACTS of prayer. Adoration (A) reflects our praises of God’s goodness, holiness, majesty, graciousness, and so much more that words can’t contain. Confession (C) allows us to reflect on ourselves, to acknowledge our sins and ask God for forgiveness. Thanksgiving (T) highlights all of God’s mercies and all that He has done for us. And finally, supplication (S) presents our earnest and humble requests to God and intercession for others.

There are so many powerful prayers throughout the Bible in which we can observe the ACTS of prayer and adopt such examples into our prayer lives. We studied several prayers such as Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication (2 Chronicles 6:14-42), the Prayer of David (Psalm 86), Hannah’s Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10), Mary’s Prayer (Luke 1:46-56), etc. These prayers reveal to us the faithfulness of God in every situation and the

heart we should have for giving Him praise and thanksgiving like these Bible figures did. No matter what hardship we are facing, God remains sovereign and through prayer we can establish a deeper connection with Him to know more about His will and glorify Him in all that we do. Our small group gave everyone the space to share about their interpretations of the prayers and how they wanted to apply them to their own prayer lives. Now that we reflect on the semester, we both believe that by reading the prayers of various figures in the Bible, each of us grew in our desire to pray more frequently and intentionally to God.

Now, the design of our small group is unique (okay, every small group is unique, but hear us out) in that it extends beyond the weekly Monday night hour that we have together. Yes, we have a group chat and yes, we meet up with each other individually when we can throughout the weeks. But more than these things is our shared journal, a physical reminder that our prayer requests, our reasons to be thankful to God, and even our worries and confessions are real enough to be put on paper and shared.

The journal, paired with our study of various prayers throughout the Bible, held us accountable for one another’s growth as children of God and fostered an environment in which we could share honestly what was on our hearts. Then, outside of the Monday meeting, the journal was gifted to one member to take home with them for the week to read and write in when they felt led to. Journal entries have varied from brief daily reflections to detailed accounts of God’s working through highs and lows of the week to doodles of cats. It is a journal filled with color and personality, with the prayers and

learnings of God's children. It is a journal that tangibly shows how a body of brothers and sisters can encourage one another through prayer and thoughtful sharing.

So to those in our small group this semester, it was truly such a blessing to learn and pray and journal with you. We have both been encouraged by your heart for sharing and your willingness to be honest about your walk with God. Hopefully

you can say the same-- that you were encouraged during our time together and are now more eager to pray to God in all situations. We give all the glory to God and praise Him for maturing us together this semester. As always, we are praying for you.

**With much love,**

**Meili Bowden ('23) & Sky Kim ('25)**

## Small Group Letters

Dear CBS,

This year's small group was a wonderful blessing to us and so encouraging to be a part of. It was so refreshing to start off each week with a joyous and intimate hour of sharing, reflection, and prayer. After sharing our highs, lows, and I-don't know of the week, we would read excerpts of Tim Keller's *Every Good Endeavor* and explore the relationship between our faith in Christ and our dutiful work in this world. We discussed what it looked like for us to be good stewards of our education at Cornell. We talked about the danger of comparing ourselves to others, the temptation of championing our identity through our grades and accomplishments, and the inherent dignity that God bestows in every job. We looked at passages in the Word, and saw how God had designed work to be good before the Fall, and also how believers like Esther were able to value their faith through all kinds of adversity. Throughout the week, we also had "mandatory" meetups, and were able to grow closer to each other through eating and drinking together for the glory of God.

As the semester progressed, we found our topic to become increasingly relevant to how we viewed and carried ourselves as students on Cornell's campus. As the prelims and stress came and went, we wrestled to find our everlasting,

ultimate hope in Christ. In our discussions, we proclaimed Him to be the one who gives us true life, and the reason that we can enjoy work of all kinds and endure many trials. Through Him, we found our practice sets, essays, and team projects to be ways in which Jesus' glory can be displayed and our dependence on Him can grow - instead of menial means that lead to a disappointing end. Thank you, small group, for your attendance, your hard questions, and your eagerness to seek Him first. As we continue in our studies and ultimately go into the world, may we never forget Christ in the picture. May the Lord's purpose shine brighter than all our desires, and may we entrust to Him all things - especially our work.

*Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
He will make your righteous reward shine  
like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.*  
- Psalm 37:3-6

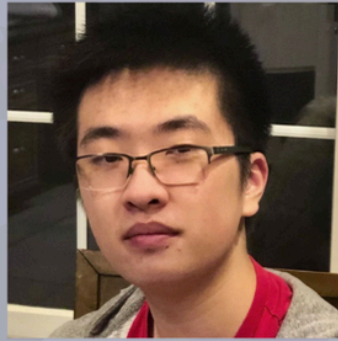
**In Christ,  
Daniel Woo ('23) and Nathaniel Chin ('23)**



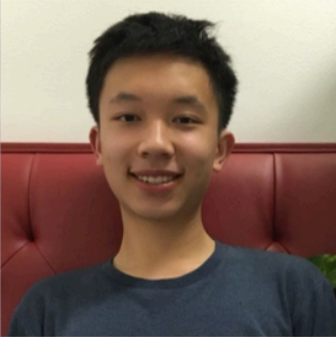
# Newcomers



Christine Chang



Steven Chen



Joshua Li



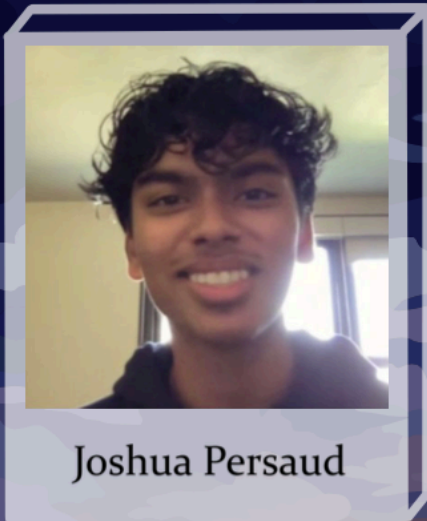
Teresa Lian



Jonathan Lin



Jeffrey Liu





# Christine Chang

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Hometown: Sparkill, NY || Major: Undecided || '26

*After many rescheduled dinner plans, Christine and I finally met up for dinner at Toni Morrison, AKA the best dining hall on North campus :). Christine had just come back from church that started at 2:30 pm which caught me by surprise. We caught each other up on our busy/eventful weekends and then onto other topics for which I can't remember exactly what we talked about—but we laughed a lot and ate yummy foods while at it!*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** school
  - \* **CBS:** community
  - \* **Class:** 2026
  - \* **Zoom:** past
  - \* **Worship:** joy
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** bussin'
- 

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

Cornell is really big but there are a lot of people. \*ahaha\* It's definitely a hard place academically sometimes but also spiritually. I guess that's why I like going to fellowships like CBS because unlike the other fellowships I went to it's a lot smaller. I really like the worship and the people there. I really like how close-knit the community is.

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

I guess just the amount of people there are and how big it is but also at the time how it is in the

middle of nowhere and how many fellowships and churches there are.

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

Dang, if money weren't an issue hmm...I feel like I would do a lot of worship because I really like worship. I think I would also still get a job so that I would also be able to learn and use that ability for whoever knows what I may need. Hmmm, specifically I guess I would continue to keep doing what I am doing right now like STEM-related.

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

Jesus hahhaa, my dog just because I want to see my dog, and my husband from the future.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope." - Jeremiah 29:11*

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"More like Jesus" by Passion

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

I think I just want to be really secure and not super scared about what I'm going to do. To just be at a place where I can completely depend and trust in God.

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

There's this musical about Jesus, and I've watched it so many times that I know what to expect, and I remember the first time watching it was so touching. Just seeing all the Bible stories playing out in real life and it made me see how much Jesus sacrificed and loved us so it was really touching.

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

Real - I try to be genuinely who I am, it's a work in progress and it's hard to be completely comfortable with yourself every day.

Emotional - cuz I am emotional aha

Playful - I always like to do stuff and fool around.

**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!).**

Maybe a food touring class where you can just go out and eat and explore the restaurants!

*It fills my heart to see how much love, loyalty, and faith Christine has for the Lord. The conversations I had with her touched me in many ways—how Christine carries herself and just for who she is as a person. I'm also impressed by the amount of slang she knows, which now that I think about it, I think having a slang challenge with Christine would be very interesting. I pray for Christine that throughout her undergrad years may she grow closer and closer to the Lord and continue to grow her love for the Lord.*

- QQ Lin ('25)



*“Everything the light touches.”*

# Steven Chen

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Hometown: Stirling, NJ || Major: Global Public Health Science || '26

*Following a 16-email chain, we finally met up on a 21°C early November evening in PSB. To my American readers, this is indeed quite warm. After a few brief intros commiserating about why no one likes November, we started our interview.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** Red Bear
  - \* **CBS:** Church
  - \* **Class:** Work
  - \* **Zoom:** Online
  - \* **Worship:** Spiritual
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** UTea
- 

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

The classes are harder than I expected, mainly because it's a lot of self-learning. As classes are very big, there are many people in office hours and it is hard to get individual help so I end up having to study independently. Campus is nice, but it is sort of similar to where I grew up, so not as exciting.

CBS: I think it's good because it is a smaller group so you get to know people better. It is hard sometimes because having so much work makes me prioritize things like when I have a group project and timing is also a problem for the chess club. But it's nice for me on Friday and Saturday nights to take a break from things.

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

A lot of people here irresponsible; it seems like something dumb is happening every day. We had the 6th or 7th fire alarm at 6am today.

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

I would be a game designer and be able to hire a team to make video games that I would think would be fun to play.

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

Past: A Roman Emperor. It would be interesting to talk to someone about ancient civilization and show them modern innovations.

Present: Someone working in the Department of Health & Public Health, in order to figure out what I am learning that is actually important and what they actually do.

Future: Myself in the future. My future self can tell me what mistakes to avoid.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"You miss all of the shots you don't take."

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"As a Volunteer". I remember it from childhood :)

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

My main goal is to find an internship & job opportunity that would be stable/comfortable, preferably in the field of public health.

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

The Matrix. It was very influential on modern culture, and a really good movie for its time, especially in terms of the CGI. A lot of cultural references are from that movie.

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

Reserved

Determined

Sympathetic & Compassionate

**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!).**

A cooking class; it is a really important skill to have, to be able to make healthy meals.

*With the interview concluded, it was on to Duffield! Because where else do you want to spend time on a Saturday evening?*

- Felix Hohne ('23)



*"Sunset Near North"*

# Joshua Li

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Hometown: Brooklyn, NY || Major: Business || '26

*My continued habit of running late to BoL interviews made a comeback. With the full knowledge that I had scheduled to meet Joshua at 7:15 pm I still ended up leaving Small Group after 7 pm and had to scoot (not the furthest distance) my way from Uris Hall to So Poong. Trying simultaneously to walk quickly without looking like I was trying to ditch the CBS person walking next to me, I took the smart shortcut of sliding through CTB so that I was only two minutes late for Joshua. We both stood in So Poong being indecisive about the menu for a few minutes before we ordered the exact same thing.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** Big place
  - \* **CBS:** Second home
  - \* **Class:** Busy work
  - \* **Zoom:** Fatigue
  - \* **Worship:** Relaxing and singing
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Good, but overrated
- 

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

I think Cornell is a new environment for me. It's a really big place with a lot of people and a lot of things to do on campus. And also open for a lot of opportunities for me in the next 4 years. CBS is a place where I can grow spiritually and a place where I can get to know people who love God. And also spend time worshipping on Friday nights.

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

How much walking there is. Like the slope or if you walk downtown, like, how far it is.

### 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 be an explorer. If money wasn't involved I'd go explore the world and then explore space.

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

Does it have to be one from each? I guess in the past I would wanna meet Koby Bryant before he passed away. He was really inspirational with his work ethic. Also Abraham Lincoln—I learned about him a lot in middle school and high school. Everything he did was pretty interesting. For the present it's my parents. I get to spend less time with them now. The time I spend with them during Thanksgiving and winter break is a lot more valuable now.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"The way to start something is to quit talking and begin doing." I think it's by Walt Disney.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

Probably "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham.

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

I think I would, like, want to grow more spiritually. Career-wise, I want to be able to have

a job offer after and just like know what I want to do—figure out exactly what I want to do during these four years so that I know what stuff I want to do after college.

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

That'd probably be *Avengers: Endgame*. When I went into the movie theater to watch it, I got the ending spoiled because someone was talking about it. So I want to watch it without actually knowing what happened beforehand.

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

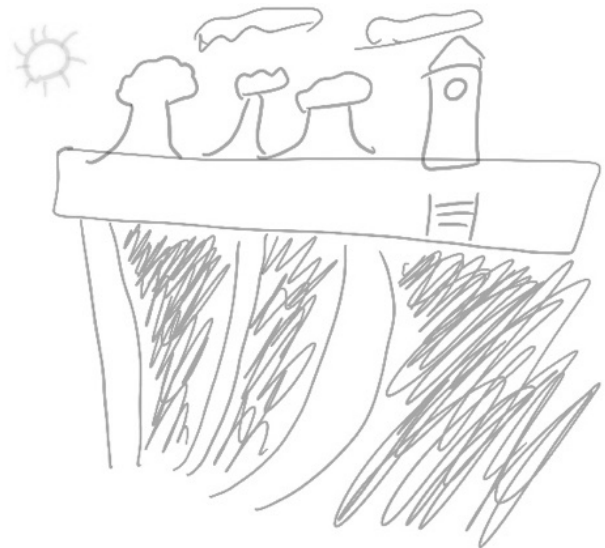
Hardworking. I try to finish everything due ahead of time. Adventurous—I like exploring new things. Also, supportive—I reach out to my friends from high school a lot even though we're at different colleges. I talk to my friends and listen to what they say.

**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!).**

I'm not sure if it exists or not, but I want to find a class for baking or making ice cream or desserts. Seems relaxing and a stress-reliever.

*That was the first conversation I've had with Joshua, and I certainly hope it will not be the last. We agreed that baking with its exact measurements is better than cooking and that we both do not know any Cantonese (although I am still confident that Joshua's skills exceed mine). Joshua, I am sincerely glad that you have found a home in CBS and I'm looking forward to seeing you grow in the Lord during your time here at Cornell. :)*

- **Beth Kam ('24)**



*"A lot of nature"*

# Teresa Lian

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Hometown: Battle Creek, MI || Major: Information Science || '25

*It was a dark and cloudy and ~-spooky~- day. The clocktower was orange for Halloween and a bagpipe player was playing outside Okenshields while the chimes played. Interesting combo of music. Teresa and I meet in the Willard Straight Library—the first semester that it's finally a library instead of a COVID testing site! We head inside Okies for dinner. Teresa seemed pretty relaxed—she only had one class today!! It was Advanced Burmese since she's super big brain, and there's only 2 people in that class :oo*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** red
  - \* **CBS:** friendship
  - \* **Class:** stress
  - \* **Zoom:** distracted
  - \* **Worship:** fun
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** \*head nod and laughs\* tasty
- 

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

At Cornell I feel like everyone studies so hard and it's very stressful. But CBS everyone really cares for each other and wants the best for one another.

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

The nature. Hmm, actually the food is pretty good. I didn't think I'd like the food at all when I came to college, but I don't mind.

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

I like taking pictures. I would want to be a content creator (like Instagram, TikTok).

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

My grandpa, Adam and Eve.

I just wanna see what life was like back then and how everything started before the Fall (in the Garden of Eden). In the Bible, it only talks about two of their sons. I wanna ask them about their other children.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Always pray to have eyes that see" the worst in people - I MEAN "the best in people - and a heart that forgives the worst." [LOLL]

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me"

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

I hope I find and know what I really wanna do in my life. I wanna graduate with a decent GPA. \*laughs\* I hope to make memories with friends during college.

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

*Cinderella* (the original).

I watched it before I knew how to speak English, so I don't know if I interpreted it differently the first time. In my head, I imagine it as a cartoon

that doesn't speak, so when I watch the clips and they speak English, I'm like wait...

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

Simple, introverted, curious.

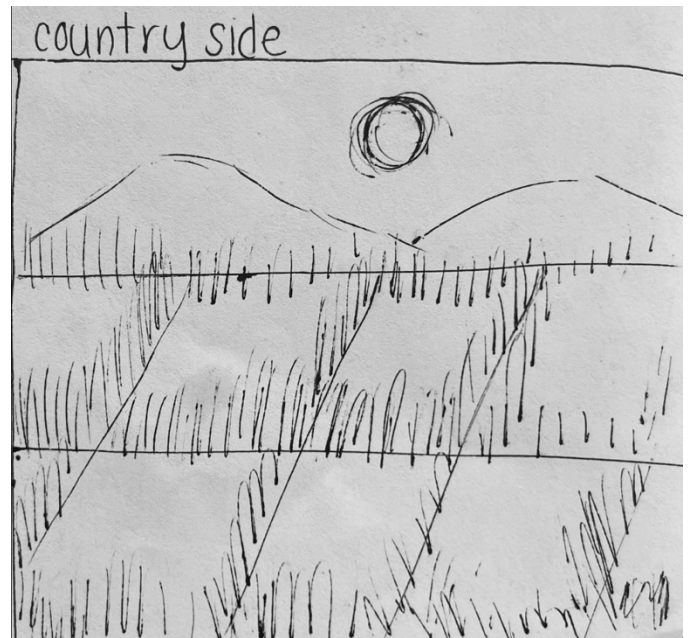
**10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).**

I really want to take the wine tasting class!!

*It was wonderful getting to chat with Teresa. She is super sweet and humble and has such a graceful personality! Everyone should get to know her. I pray that God would really use these few years of college to transform her life and help her grow spiritually.*

*We chat a bit more, think about getting dessert, but then decide to end the night. Hopefully I've successfully convinced Teresa to take CALS wines instead of Hotelie wines after my 5-minute rant AHAHA. Pls take CALS wines guys.*

- Rejoice Hu ('23)



"Countryside"



# Jonathan Lin

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Hometown: State College, PA || Major: Physical Therapy || '27

*It was quite a rainy Friday afternoon when I picked up Jonny from the West Tower of Ithaca College. We decided to get boba at Taichi and sit in their nice lounge area. We then began the interview.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Ithaca College:** College
  - \* **CBS:** Chinese
  - \* **Class:** School
  - \* **Zoom:** Online
  - \* **Worship:** Songs
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Boba
- 

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Ithaca College? Of CBS?

Ithaca College is a much smaller school than I expected. It's pretty nice though—all the classes are 30 people or less and I enjoy getting to know the professors. I like the environment but not so much the lack of space and sports equipment.

I enjoy CBS because I grew up in a female majority church. It feels a bit more like home. Unlike IC, CBS dives deeper into Bible reading and discussions. The welcoming gifts and birthday cards are really nice. Everyone is thoughtful and I like the smaller environment to get to know everyone easier.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Ithaca College?

When I came in I thought a liberal arts college wouldn't have that many religious or Christian people but I realized if you look for them it's pretty accessible. I was also surprised the

Commons is not a walkable distance. It's hard to go or shop anywhere outside of IC.

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

I would do music like playing gigs with friends. I play the viola and classical guitar.

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

Jesus for sure, my future wife would be cool, and my future self.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Hurt people hurt people." I like to think about how actions and words affect others and themselves.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"Sinking Deep" by Hillsong Young and Free and "We are the Free" by Matt Redmond

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

I hope to have good experience in PT in clinics. I also want to have improvement in my faith and stronger relationships. I see myself being more devoted doing devotional and prayers. I want enough confidence in my own faith so that I can show it to everyone and be proud of it and comfortable with having conversations with non-believers.

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

*Princess Mononoke*

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

Resilient

Sensitive - I'm more sensitive to other people's emotions and feelings.

Competitive - I do not like losing.

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

I want to take the Wines class at Cornell and maybe a class for self-improvement and how to train and prepare for things.

*We ended our interview learning that Jonny can draw pretty well. He had to go run off to an Ithaca College football game in New York City which was apparently a pretty big event as far as D3 football goes. We went back into the pouring rain and Jonny got back to West Tower all safe and sound.*

- Nathaniel Chin ('23)



"The only clock(tower) we have at IC"

"The only clock(tower) we have at IC."

# Jeffrey Liu

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Hometown: Brooklyn, NY || Major: Physical Therapy || '28

*It was a beautiful, warm Thursday in November, and I had just failed yet another interview. I was getting quite good at it, in fact. And so, as one does after a long day or an unfair prelim, I made a quick boba run for a boost of sugary caffeine (at KFT, of course) and got ready for another round of Zoom, but this time at the other side of the conversation. Unlike the previous interview, though, I was really looking forward to this one and getting to meet Jeffrey.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Ithaca College:** the campus, and taking walks around it because there is really nice wildlife and a fountain
  - \* **CBS:** fellowship and the community of people glorifying and worshiping God
  - \* **Class:** school and learning
  - \* **Zoom:** online meetings, and also connecting to my church back at home with events like service and prayer meetings
  - \* **Worship:** singing songs. I also remember my pastor saying that worship isn't exclusively singing, but rather inherent to what we do every day for God.
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** KFT and UTea. My sister worked as a boba-rista in a KFT back at home.
- 

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Ithaca College? Of CBS?

My first impression of IC was that it was overwhelming — I was in a new place entirely by myself for the first time with no parents to help

guide me like they used to. Finding a close group of people at IC and in CBS helped me not to feel so homesick, particularly in CBS as it's a reminder of home and my home church.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Ithaca College?

Everything is so far away from everything else! I have to take a lot of buses to get downtown and to Target — I always have to take a car somewhere. Back at home in Brooklyn, I was always able to just bike, walk, or take the train to get to the places I needed to [Ah, suburbia].

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

I would travel and eat around the world with a small group of friends. I want to do a cross country trip around the US, and travel to Japan, Australia, and London because I have never been to any of those places. I am actually considering studying abroad in Australia because there's a great physical therapy school there, and this summer a group of friends and I are planning to visit Japan.

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

Hmm, I definitely would always want my mom to be there. She's a great conversationalist — she's good at keeping things going. I would also want my pastor from back home to come. He's so funny; we could just be sitting there for hours talking about the most random stuff.

Finally...I would invite Chris Pratt. He's also a Christian and I admire how he stands so firmly behind his beliefs. And he's an amazing actor.

**5. What is your favorite quote or saying?**

I watch a lot of basketball, and my favorite NBA player is Kevin Durant. He once said that his favorite quote is: "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard." I personally find it to be a drive to push myself to be more diligent.

**6. What is your favorite worship song?**

"Death was Arrested" was the first song I learned to play on the guitar. I really appreciated it when we sang it last week during Night of Worship. [:D Please join Praise Team!!]

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

Graduation for me would be in 6 years. My favorite show is *Friends*, and I always envisioned that I would have a group of friends like that by the time I graduate. I feel that a lot of freshmen try to meet as many people as possible, but I really want to build a very solid, close group of 5 or so friends who I can always go to for anything, and whom I can support as well.

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

*Captain America: Winter Soldier!* I watched it again for the 15th time just 2 days ago. I love Captain America (the character) because he's such a role model for me. He's very noble, holds very much to his beliefs, and won't compromise on his values. I also like that he's always looking out for everyone, whether they are "good" or "bad." Also I would love to rewatch the action scenes for the first time again.

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

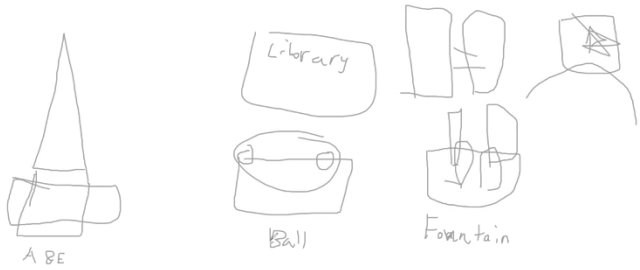
1. Encouraging: I took a spiritual gifts test once and I got the highest in exhortation, aka "Iron sharpens iron." I love helping others — the fruit of it is very satisfying because you can watch them be better versions of themselves, and it's great knowing you helped them get there.
2. Loyal: I value loyalty to the people I am very close to.
3. Joyful: I am a happy person. :)

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

I want to take Introduction to Ethics. I find it very interesting to see how other people's ethics are tied to their morality, and how it compares to mine. Everyone has a view and an opinion of everything nowadays, controversial or not, and I want to study why other people think what they think is right.

*Although we unfortunately had to meet over Zoom, Jeffrey's sincerity and genuine personality shined brightly, and it was hard to not to be cheered up just by talking with him. Little did he know, and little did I expect, that a simple conversation could be such a joy in my day that was otherwise not going at all how I hoped it would. I was touched to witness his passion for his career, his dedication to his friends, and his love for God. So if you ever find yourself having just failed an interview and/or you're feeling depressed and boba just isn't doing it for you, consider talking to Jeffrey (even if it's just over Zoom) for that little boost of serotonin in your day! :)*

- Emily Liu ('23)



Map of IC

**"Map of Ithaca College"**

# Johnson Liu

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Hometown: Brooklyn, NY || Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering|| '26

*Autumn leaves still fall  
Deciduously I walk slow  
Down Ithacan paths*

*Gloomy skies remind  
The spring is gone forever  
Yet we are still here*

*Wintry winds subsist  
While light postdiluvian rains  
Breed amelanchiers*

*Here in Duffield's halls  
This eternal recurrence  
Never seems to end*

*Dread begins to seep  
Before spotting Johnson there  
So I offer gum*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** Innovative
  - \* **CBS:** Reassuring/family
  - \* **Class:** Stressful
  - \* **Zoom:** Inconvenient
  - \* **Worship:** Christ
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Very overrated
- 

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

Cornell: It is a high paced environment but it's not bad. There's a lot to do here but as an incoming freshman it does take some time to adjust.

CBS: CBS is very welcoming. Daniel and Meili make sure that I have a home here, both in helping me in terms of giving me advice or asking me to hang out with them occasionally just to check up on me.

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

I like living independently by myself for the first time. It's surprising because my family works long hours and I thought I should be used to not seeing them but I realized that I easily get homesick.

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

I'd still be an engineer.

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

I'd definitely want to talk to my grandma because I haven't seen her in a while. Yeah, and my brother and my mom, just to catch up with them in person.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

It goes something along the lines like, "You are not your own thoughts. Your thoughts are just a reaction to what's happening to you at the moment right now. So don't take it too personally." And I've learned that through the hard way here.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"What a Beautiful Name It Is."

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

Definitely make new connections and lasting friendships.

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

The first *Jumanji* movie.

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

I would say humorous because I like to joke around a lot. I'm very curious so when I'm interested in something, I tend to lose track of time. And I would say I'm an overthinker because I tend to overanalyze situations and essentially tend to make things worse than what it has to be, so, yeah, that comes from me overthinking.

**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!)**

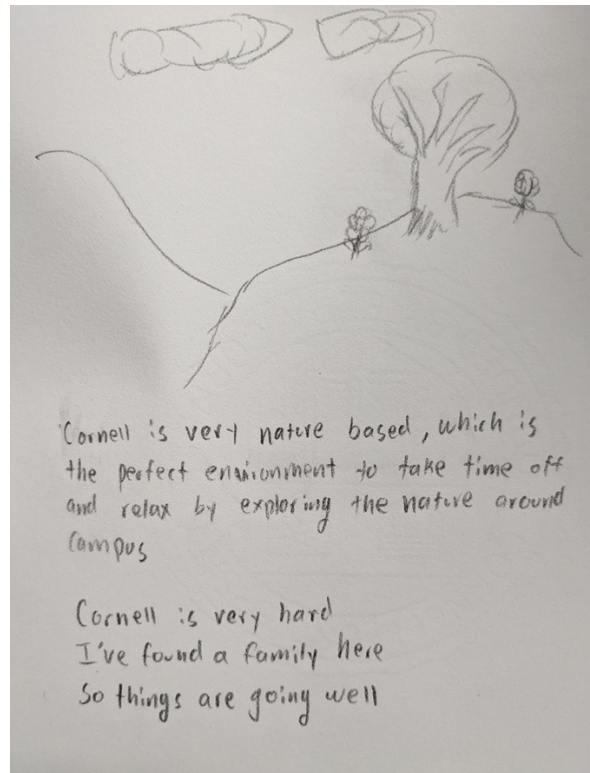
I think the ice cream making class at Cornell or the wine drinking class. I heard those two are very popular.

*Johnson and I talk  
On engineering grades  
Shame I can't relate*

*I am glad to know  
Johnson's great aspirations  
And his joy in us*

*I pray that our bonds  
Will grow much stronger with time  
In spite of college.*

- Leland Xu ('24)



*"Cornell is very nature based, which is  
The perfect environment to take time off  
And relax by exploring the nature around  
campus.*

*Cornell is very hard  
I've found a family here  
So things are going well."*

# Joseph Liu

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Hometown: West Chester, PA || Major: Biological Sciences || '25

*I met with Joseph in the middle of Libe Cafe on a Wednesday at noon. We chatted for a few minutes, talking about our busy weeks and endless assignments (turns out we both have papers due this week). Before long, we had settled down and were ready to begin the interview.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** Red
  - \* **CBS:** Bible
  - \* **Class:** Work
  - \* **Zoom:** Media
  - \* **Worship:** Music
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Sugar
- 

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

I think it's pretty nice so far, there are a lot of things to do and a lot of opportunities to get involved in stuff. For CBS, I think it's a pretty good group, everyone is very nice. It is a really nice community.

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

I guess Cornell is not as competitive as I thought it would be. People are willing to help each other out.

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

I really like learning about a lot of different topics so maybe just spending all of my time

reading about different things. *[Do you have any specific topics in mind?]* Um.. no, really just like anything. I like most things.

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

I think probably Jesus would be one. Maybe also my future self, it would be interesting to get that perspective. And then...actually, maybe my grandparents. I feel like I never really got to spend much time with them.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I have a favorite Bible verse but I don't remember the exact reference. Let me try to find it. It's Mark 9:24: "Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!'" *[Do you want to share why you like this verse?]* This verse is sort of like a paradox. Jesus is telling him to have faith but he is not sure if he has faith. But he is asking Jesus to give him faith. I feel like it is pretty interesting and also really relatable.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"Whom Shall I Fear" by Chris Tomlin.

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

Pass all my classes \*laughs\*. *[Is that it?]* Yeah.

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

Maybe *Star Wars*. I watched it when I was pretty young and it sort of shaped how I watch every other movie now.



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

Umm...I think maybe like passionate, determined, and hardworking.

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!).

Maybe wines because it's kind of famous. It would be interesting to take.

*I had a great time talking to Joseph today during our meeting. Although he was a little bit quiet and shy, I really enjoyed listening to his answers to the questions. I also really liked the verse from Mark that he shared, and I pray that Joseph continues to use those words as an encouragement for him pursuing his faith. May the Lord strengthen Joseph in all that he does and guide him through the rest of his time at Cornell and beyond!*

- Valerie Chen ('23)



bear

“bear”

# Joshua Persaud

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Hometown: Bronx, NY || Major: Physical Therapy || '28

*It is a Thursday afternoon in the middle of Cafe Jennie. I secured an exclusive spot at a table next to the center benches, something I had never done before: it was a sign (Thank you God!). With my computer at 5 percent and my iPad at 15, I was ready to conduct the fastest interview ever. I recalled the time when I received my freshmen interview at Cafe Jennie, blissfully unaware of what the next four years had in store for me (much more so for my interviewee, Joshua, who is currently part of Ithaca College's 6-year PT program). Sending the zoom link to Joshua via my iPad, I was immediately blessed with his cheerful smile and warm presence through the glass screen. And so the interview began.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Ithaca College:** Cold
  - \* **CBS:** Welcoming
  - \* **Class:** Stressful
  - \* **Zoom:** Annoying
  - \* **Worship:** Peaceful
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Amazing
- 

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Ithaca College? Of CBS?

Ithaca College so far... My first thoughts coming in was to hold no expectations, since I didn't know what I was getting into, but the people here are very friendly, and if you approach someone, they will reciprocate. The professors are also very nice and willing to help, and if you take advantage of the resources here I think you will get your money's worth.

For CBS, I'm not going to lie: going to Cornell and not knowing anyone there was nerve wracking. However, as soon as I got there on the first day, I felt pretty comfortable, which is abnormal for me! I was able to talk to anyone freely too, even though I'm pretty shy. I could be someone who could be vulnerable.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Ithaca College?

I guess how fast paced everything is. I think this applies to college in general, but in the beginning, I felt like I had nothing to do and I was bored, but as soon as everything started opening up, it feels like I'm busy 24/7.

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

Umm... I mean, I guess if money wasn't a factor, I guess I would probably be a teacher. I like working with young people, and the idea of being able to guide them and help them become great at what they want to achieve.

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

Wow... uh, I would say one of them would be my grandfather, because he passed away when I was two. That's something that I would appreciate. Second would be a younger me, so I can tell myself that it's okay to make mistakes and live life, I guess. I had more stress than I should have growing up. [*thinks a lot looking at the ground...*] Future me, too! Just to see how everything is going, and how everything works out in the end.

**5. What is your favorite quote or saying?**

There's one in my head, by Malala. There's a quote that I can't quote directly, but she said something along the lines of that the only way that we can find our inner peace is by not only educating our minds, but our hearts and souls as well.

**6. What is your favorite worship song?**

Oh, my favorite worship song! The first thing that comes to mind is "I Am a Friend of God." Also, "Every Praise."

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

By graduation, first and foremost, I would hope that my faith would grow astoundingly. I would also hope that I can feel proud and happy of things that I have done.

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

I'm a Marvel person, so I would say Avengers: Endgame because I love that movie! [smiles brightly]

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

Loyal, shy, upfront.

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

I honestly don't know, but there's one right now called ICE. [What's that?] Basically you are placed into a setting with a doctor and get to work on patients with them.

*Simply put, Joshua is a fantastic person. I had the absolute pleasure of interviewing him, and wish him nothing but the very best for his first semester. I pray that during his college career, Joshua would do nothing but cling to Christ: in his thoughts, words and deeds, may his faith grow as he wishes it to grow: astoundingly. Would the Lord reveal Himself to Joshua and hold Him fast. Would Joshua seek Him first in all things and continue to grow in awe of Christ and his saving.*

- Daniel Woo ('23)



"Freezing with friends"

# Candy Wu

---

Hometown: Columbus, OH || Major: Undecided || '26

*I opened the weather app, "light rain", but it was more like two drops fell. Maybe it's because I'm meeting someone sweet so the rain didn't want to sour the mood. Finally, my interviewee opens the door to her home away from home while snacking on 旺旺 (Want Want) seaweed rice crackers, a salty snack contrasting with her sugary name, Candy. She leads me through the maze of floors in Clara Dickson before we reach a quiet lounge where the interrogation commences.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** Bear \*hehe\*
  - \* **CBS:** Church
  - \* **Class:** Hard 😊
  - \* **Zoom:** Bad. I don't like Zoom. ...this will be in BoL right? \*hehe\*
  - \* **Worship:** Songs
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Yummy
- 

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

Um it's a very beautiful campus. I love the sunsets. I would say it's very...it's much harder than I expected class-wise. But there are a lot of opportunities for me to explore whatever I want. CBS is very very welcoming. Everyone doesn't hesitate to reach out and grab lunch and everything so it's a very fun time and makes me feel comfortable during bible study to share my thoughts.

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

I think it's just like how difficult classes are and how fast paced everything is and yeah and how much walking we have to do. \*nervous-ish laugh\*

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

That's such a good question! Um I think I would still do what I'm still doing like becoming a vet or specializing in surgery. I really like the idea of creating animal prosthetics even though I don't really like biomedical engineering but ideally I think it would be very cool.

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

Mmm probably my future self, and kinda ask her like what I could've done better or differently in life and then...I don't know I'm still thinking. This is so hard. Umm. Mmm, yes, I would...I would talk to \*points finger as idea pops up\* Jesus. I don't know, I think that would help my faith a lot and then...I would say BTS but the language barrier so I don't think I would have a good time. Mmm, oh, I think it would be so much fun if I had dinner with Robert Downey Jr. because I'm a Marvel fan.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Work hard, play hard." Yeah, and I think I really like that because I don't really have a passion or high talent like other people like they're sharp \*uses hands/arms to make a triangle peak shape\*.

I'm not well-rounded so I have to work hard to get good at it and I can't get to it naturally and I want to have fun as well and have a good balance.

**6. What is your favorite worship song?**

Mmm, I really like "Build my Life". Um...I'm still thinking...I also like...I don't know what it's called, it has *no guilt in life, no fear in death*. \*hums to song\* I'm gonna google it. \*grabs phone\* Mmm, "In Christ Alone"! It was my phone paper...my phone wallpaper for the longest time. \*hehe\*

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

Mmm, to make really good...like...really good friends that I can stay in touch with for the rest of my life and then find a good balance between work and relaxing and to find something I'm willing to do for the rest of my life.

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

*Hidden Figures*. Um, it was my motivation to become a mathematician in sixth or seventh grade and it was a very very well-filmed movie.

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

That's so hard. Um. \*thoughtfully thinking\* Hardworking, because I'm not really good at anything so I have to try really hard. I'm also like...mmm...like an overthinker. Yeah, I think that's kinda self-explanatory \*hehe\*. I would also say that yeah um I'm quite caring because I love people because I just like I don't want to hurt anyone.

**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!).**

Mmm, can it be multiple classes? [*Yeah!*] I want to take the ice cream making class and the wine class. Because I think food science is so interesting and I want to know what they put in ice cream to make it so much better and wine making because I think it takes so much skill to make alcohol...I mean to make wine because it takes so much skill because the fermentation process can go terribly wrong and yeah. \*hehe\* [*I think that's a wine tasting and pairing not a wine-making class but I could be wrong but I think the more popular one is the wine tasting one*] I feel like I'm more interested in making than tasting. Knowing how to make wine is really cool. My mom has tried to make wine before but it didn't go really well so yeah. \*small laugh\*

*Although Candy may just be a freshman, her mind is already flowing with thoughtful ideas and insights. Wanting to strengthen her faith in God? Check! Striving for a good work-life balance? Check! Figuring out her likes and dislikes? Check and check! I believe that she is smart and capable of many things, she just needs time and faith in God that He created her just like how she is to learn to appreciate the process of learning rather than just the end result. You got this!*

- Jade Lo ('25)



#bigred #cornell  
#(can'tdraw:)

"#bigred #Cornell #ican'tdraw :)"

# Kevin Yang

---

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta || Major: Business Administration || '26

*It was a beautiful day outside, but because of conflicting schedules, procrastination, and distance issues, Kevin and I had to meet online – through our trusty friend Zoom. We caught each other up on what we have been up to and settled in (him at the Esports room and me at home) for the many questions we had ahead. I took a sip from my little iced coffee cup beside me (used straws because we don't want brown teeth) and commenced the interview.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Ithaca College:** Pretty easy, small
  - \* **CBS:** Friendly, a lot of great people, always a good time & a place to learn good stuff to apply on his walk with God
  - \* **Class:** Interesting, a lot better than high school classes
  - \* **Zoom:** Exploitable (allows me to slack off)
  - \* **Worship:** Essential, brings people together to praise
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** Very good, makes me bloat
- 

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Ithaca College? Of CBS?

Ithaca College: People here aren't as academically focused as I would like. It's tough to find peers that will keep you accountable due to a lot of distractions. But it's easy to gain connections with professors and faculty because a lot of people don't utilize a lot of good resources. Campus is nice—everything is very walkable and really relaxing.

CBS: Since it's smaller it enables you to get to know everyone and keeps you more involved. It reminds me of youth group at home in both Calgary and Ohio!

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Ithaca College?

That it's easy. For example, Calculus is fairly easy for me, it seems more like a review (might be due to Ohio schooling).

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

My dream job would be becoming a race car driver. I want to spend a lot of time with family and help people in need, maybe working to rent houses for cheaper or for free.

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

Jesus (would be kind of scared but would want to ask a lot of questions), Jim Clark (famous racing driver who passed away), and Oliver Blume (the CEO of Porsche)

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"With every negative that happens to you, there's always a positive outcome."

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

Living Hope

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

I hope to prepare myself for my career. I feel like my main focus is to do well in school, but I also want to have a mentor (e.g., in finance, marketing) by the end of graduation.

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

*Baby Driver*. It's a romance/action movie about a teen who is stuck at the life of crime as a getaway driver.

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

Gentle/kind - I try to have patience with people and give them the benefit of doubt

Mature (for my age) - I'm not interested in the same things as my peers and am more focused on the future

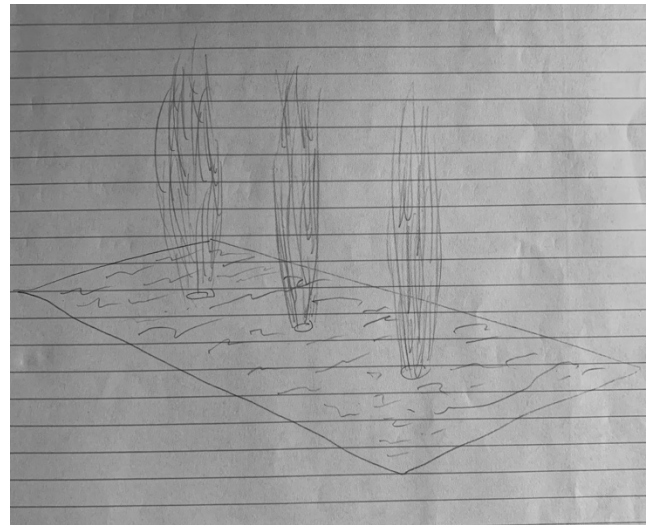
Carefree - I'm just cruising along and don't worry about grades as much as long as I'm learning...I just want to enjoy life!

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

A physics class about driving dynamics.

*Kevin and I have yet to meet up, so this interview was a great opportunity for me (and eventually the rest of us) to get to know more about him. What surprised me the most was that he does car racing in Ohio (even though he won't get his license back until December but that's another story XD )!! We ended the call by sharing pictures of our dogs and promised each other to meet in person some time soon.*

- Dawn Zee ('23)



*"Fountain at IC"*

# Jemima Yoon

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Hometown: Los Angeles, CA || Major: ILR || '25

*It's a fall Sunday afternoon that has a bite to it as I head to Duffield Hall for my interview with Jemima. I slide into a freshly vacated alcove seat and sigh in contentment. A few minutes and a flurry of slightly confused messages later (Jemima and I both get lost easily), we sit down and begin.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** clocktower
  - \* **CBS:** welcoming
  - \* **Class:** tough
  - \* **Zoom:** nostalgia
  - \* **Worship:** music
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** sometimes
- 

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

Umm...I was a little worried before coming to Cornell. People would ask me, "Have you visited?" and I live too far away so it's not convenient to visit. But I did do a lot of research before applying, I was just scared Cornell wouldn't have the same appearance as it looked in the pictures and that it was the wrong choice. I think part of it was imposter syndrome: what if my peers were really overachieving and I never end up feeling like I belong? But now that I've talked to more people here, I know that even if they have had internships or impressive resumes, they are still people.

I didn't hop around too much in different fellowships, but I also didn't know what to expect when coming to CBS other than what the instagram page showed (not much). But the first

time I came to Large Group, people were really warm and welcoming and I liked that it was more like a church meeting with lots of prayer instead of just focusing on being social.

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

I didn't expect the campus to be so big! My old campus was bigger so I thought coming to Cornell wouldn't be a big deal, but living here has changed my opinion. Even going up the hills and walking to North takes a bit more time than I expected. The slope definitely makes a difference.

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

I don't know about a dream job because I'm still deciding what I want to pursue as a career, but I think I would want to invest more time in reading. I'm open to any genre; I've been into more nonfiction and mystery lately, but I also like reading about random studies in academic articles sometimes. I guess if money were not an issue and I were to translate my love of reading into a job to try out, I would be a writer.

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

Hmm...I never know how to answer these types of questions...my mind is blank. BTS? But I can't single out three of them... Okay, I would like to have dinner with my grandma who passed away a few years ago. We didn't have a close relationship because when I was younger my



Korean skills were lacking and we didn't see my grandma that much. Now that my Korean is better and since my parents say we're pretty similar in our little actions (we both tend to hoard things apparently) and personalities, I would want to get to know her over dinner.

For the second person...we're not eating dinner all together, right? Then I would want to have a conversation with my high school self about choices. There are some that I could have chosen better and things I'm glad I chose that I would like to talk about.

And then...not my future self, I don't want to face that. I'd like to eat with my younger sister who is now a senior in high school. I would say she is my best friend and I used to be able to go home much more often. Because I live so far away now, we don't talk as often as we used to and I miss her.

**5. What is your favorite quote or saying?**

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." - Milton Berle

It sounds so cool! And I like to apply it to myself when I want to quit complaining about how life doesn't go the way you want it to. There are times when we should wait for God to work in our lives but there are also times when we can do something about whatever situation we are in!

**6. What is your favorite worship song?**

"Though You Slay Me" by Shane & Shane

It just really resonates with me. I grew up in a Christian family but I never really chose to be a Christian and commit to my faith until right before college and discovered this song then.

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

\*Sigh\* I really hope to know what I want to do right after graduation, even if it's not my long-term job. Another thing is that I hope to build a

strong, supportive friend network by graduation.

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

Definitely Minari. It was criticized because it was so slow-paced, but I think that's the beauty of it. I'm actually scared to rewatch it because it might not live up to the beauty of the first time. I enjoy it because there are a lot of little habits in the Korean immigrant family the film centers around that were echoed in my life too and the way it was filmed and how the plot unfolds is charming and wholesome.

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

Empathetic, ambivert (the more you get to know me the louder I get and my social battery is unpredictable depending on the people and environment), and conscientious.

**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!).**

I feel like I've answered this question for college apps haha. I want to take the Autism at Work class in ILR because I'm interested in disability rights and how employment is still difficult for the disabled even though there are laws in place specifically for their benefit.

*A little over an hour has passed in lovely conversation interspersed with small breaks to accommodate my slow typing speed. As we wrap up, Jemima and I both have a smile on our faces, happy to have gotten to understand each other a bit better. Feeling all the freedom that Fall Break gifts us, we amble together to Collegetown where we say our goodbyes. I look forward to how Jemima will grow and mature in her walk with God!*

- Priscilla Liu ('24)



“Conquering the Slope: A Daily Battle”

# Joseph Zhang

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Hometown: San Jose, CA || Major: Physics || '26

*I entered Novick's Cafe on North Campus at 3:20 pm on the Saturday of Fall Break with high hopes. Not only was it my first time at the fresh/hip/classy coffee spot, but also the day I would interview (the) Joseph Zhang for BoL. Sipping iced caffeinated beverages + meeting up with a cool freshman + sitting on weird, expensive furniture = a great day in my books. At 3:30 pm sharp, Joseph walked in with a bright smile on his face in an unmistakably blue REI jacket. "I feel free!" he said, referring to the first day of break (and a long night of finishing up class assignments). He ordered a Tropical Berry Green Tea to sip on during our chat, a bright pink drink that matched the atmosphere of the crisp, sunny day in Ithaca. What a perfect setting for a lighthearted interview with one of our newest brothers in Christ.*

## Word Associations

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- \* **Cornell:** red
  - \* **CBS:** Goldwin
  - \* **Class:** Rockefeller
  - \* **Zoom:** mute
  - \* **Worship:** guitar
  - \* **Bubble Tea:** straw
- 

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

For Cornell, (okay this sounds superficial but) the dining is really good. I really like being able to eat whenever I want to. It goes without saying that classes are very rigorous; I expected that, but it has been very real going through it. It is also

very naturey. For CBS, the vision verse really stuck out; I really liked it. I also enjoyed when Pastor Scott spoke. I have been going to small groups and it has been a nice break from schoolwork. In general, it is a great community.

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

It's kind of hard to answer because I expected things to go mostly as they have been going. I expected a lot of walking, and that's what I got. Although, I did not expect that classes would be so imbalanced (in terms of workload). The weather was expected, and I expected my sleep schedule to become wonky and it did.

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

I would still study the same thing (physics) because it is fulfilling to study something that is deep—to be able to get up from doing a problem and understand it better. I think that is very satisfying. I haven't done much besides studying (I mean, I'm a student), so...maybe making food, being a chef. There was a period of time when I would make pizza every night—t was basic pizza, but being homemade it brings it up a notch. It was enjoyable and I really liked doing it with my dad.

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

1) Bill Evans, who was a jazz pianist. I like his music and he died pretty young. It seems his music has a melancholy tone to it and I want to

know what inspired that. It would be cool to hear him play something live.

2) Peter the Apostle. It would be cool to see his personality.

3) Henry David Thoreau. He had a very interesting perspective on isolation.

### **5. What is your favorite quote or saying?**

“Has it ever struck you that life is all memory, except for the one present moment that goes by you so quick you hardly catch it going?”

- Tennessee Williams

It's from a book introduction, but I don't remember which book it is. I like it because I think it is true. It has a sort of experiential aspect. I tend to remember a lot of things and then look back and get nostalgic. It makes life sound a little empty, but at the same time it is confirmation of that fact that so often I spend time thinking about the past. There are good and bad things to think about in the past.

### **6. What is your favorite worship song?**

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” There's the verse that says, *And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.* I think I often get distracted by the things of this world, and sometimes it is hard to turn my eyes off of the dark things in life. It is both a reminder and comfort—a reminder to not get sucked into things that people tend to deem important (which is really hard), but also a comfort to know that the many dark things of life are not things you have to focus on.

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

I came to college to learn, so I hope that I do well. But I don't want to be someone who gets sucked into it to the point that I have no time for anything else. Still, I want to make sure I get done what I need to get done. There are also so

many opportunities to learn because of all these classes. In terms of faith and being independent...I don't have my family around, so it's up to me to keep my faith. To maintain a habit of reading the Bible, for example, without someone pestering me to do it is the type of independence that is important. And it will only be more important in the future. There are also a lot of cool opportunities outside of the classroom; I hope to join something that I enjoy, hopefully when I have a better grip on managing time. But that's in the future.

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

*The Million Pound Note* was very amusing.

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

1) Optimistic. It has been pushed into me because I have realized that the best way to get through challenges is to be optimistic about it.

2) Bookworm. Not that I'm a literature fan, but the idea of sitting down and reading a book on a cozy, rainy day... I could do that for hours. It is low energy but still interesting and not perceived to be wasting time.

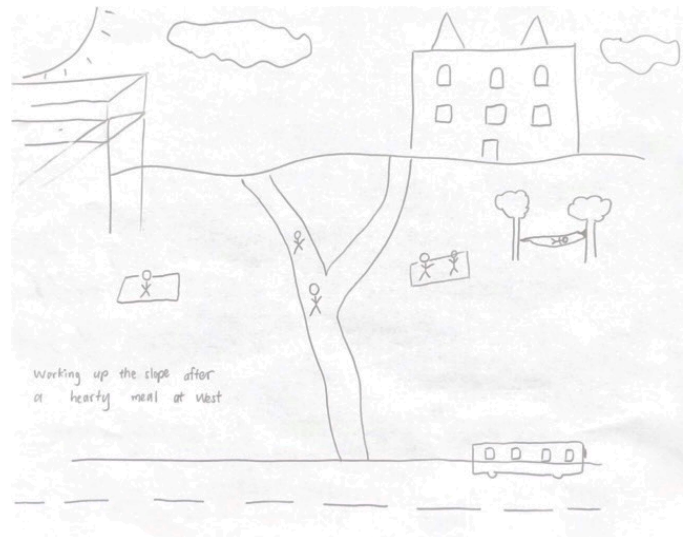
3) Hopeful. I find a lot of enthusiasm in small things and really feel excited even though I keep it to myself. Like don't you love going to the airport? Or going on a walk?

### **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!).**

There are so many classes here that it will probably be real \*laughs\*. Electricity & Magnetism. I will be taking it next semester, but I remember learning it before and not really grasping it. I can't think of an imaginary class though.

*As I walked out of Novick's after saying bye to Joseph, I felt like I just had a chat with a wise philosopher who has pondered the depths of life for many years. In every answer, Joseph was intentional in forming answers that were honest and reflective of his real thoughts. He is truly a pure, wise soul. Though I am an old person (senior) who theoretically should have everything in life figured out, I couldn't help but wish I had asked for Joseph's advice while I had the chance. I took heart, though, and praised the Lord for bringing him to Cornell to learn with eagerness and mature in faithfulness. There is plenty of time for all of us to get to know Joseph more over the years and tap into both his wisdom and optimism. Welcome, Joseph, to your home away from home! :)*

- **Meili Bowden ('23)**



*"Working up the slope after a hearty meal at West"*

# Fall Retreat



Pumpkin Carving



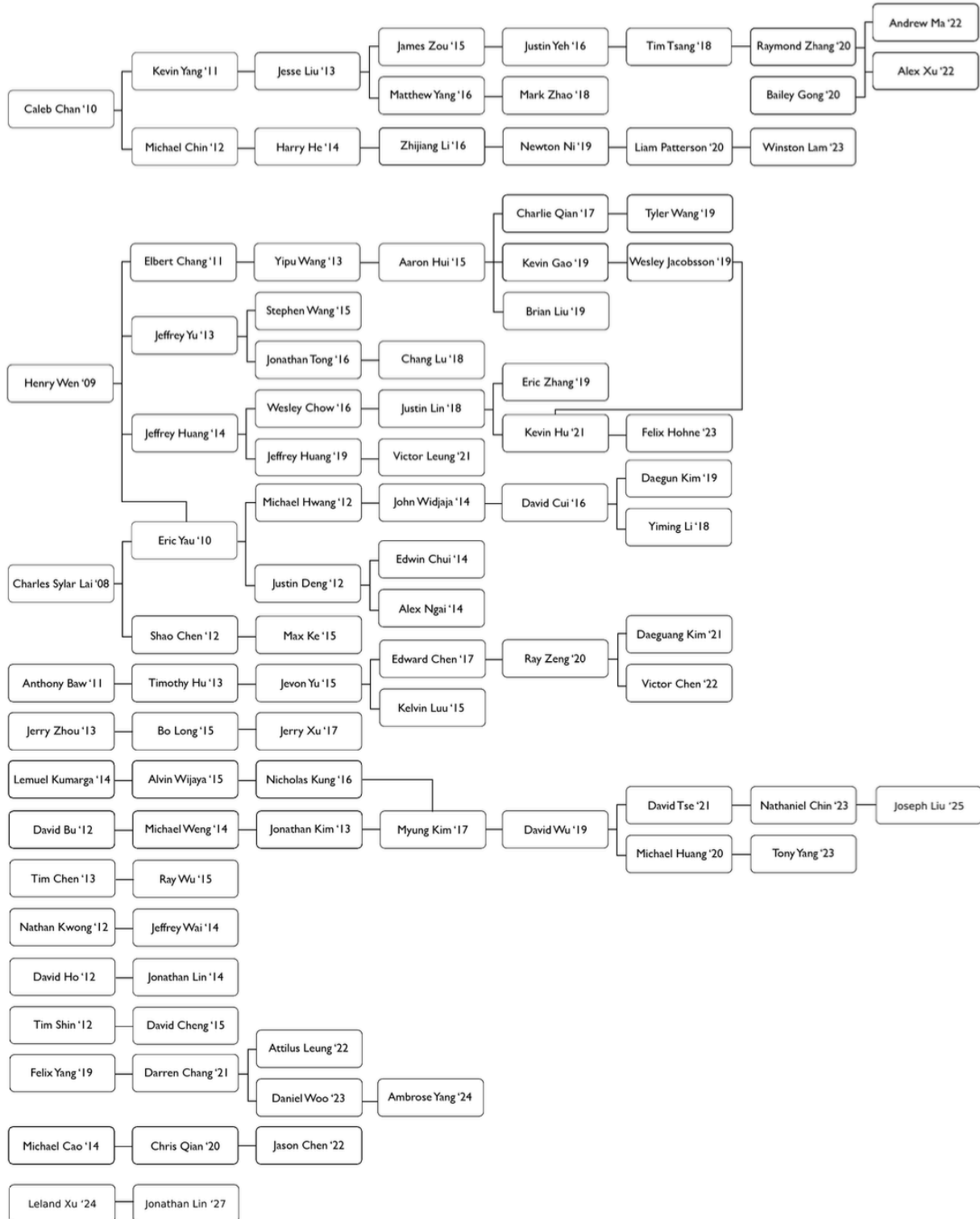
Group Photo Shenanigans





# Prayer Partner Tree

## Brothers of CBS





# Sherlock Holmes Felly Dinner

