

The Challenge

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A Time to ADVANCE

By Seulgey Kim, CC '03

When I first decided to participate in A Time to Advance, I had no idea that I would be so blessed by it. I knew from what Phil had announced at large group that we would be trying to reach out to the homeless but I remember wondering how that could possibly take up two days. And as always, God showed me just how little I really understood about His great faithfulness and love. The first day, a group of about 10 of us got together in the wee hours of the morning (okay, so 9am isn't that early but it's early during spring break!) to have breakfast, praise, and spend some time

alone with God. It's amazing how quickly an hour and half can fly by when you're sitting by yourself, listening to music, reading the Bible, and trying to grow in the Lord. It's unfortunate that often we find ourselves so caught up in other things that we don't give ourselves the chance to really spend time with God.

Then came my favorite part of the first day: lunch! Well, no, Hamilton sandwiches are good but not that great. My favorite part was getting together in groups to read Acts,

share, and pray. My group was Haemin and Mary (small group rocks! =D) and we started to read Acts. I have to admit that staying coherent during the entire time got a little hard towards the end but that didn't mean that the Book of Acts was any less powerful. Oh, and sharing and praying was awesome. I just hope that the other groups were as blessed as we were.

When I woke up the second day and looked outside, my hopes sank

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PASSION 2000

By Haemin Rhee BC '02

On Friday, March 24th, Rutgers University in New Jersey sponsored a Passion praise night. I'm sure many of you heard about this event and maybe even attended with me. But for those of you who don't know who Passion is or have never even heard their name, let me fill you in on one of the most influential young adult ministries today.

Passion is most well known today for their praise band, which has come out with several albums over the past 4 years. Although the band has touched many people with their music, Passion ministries is actually comprised of pastors, conference coordinators, and many other staff members. The band is just one aspect of their ministry. They formed this ministry

with the vision of uniting Christian college students from all over the United States. Here's a little something from their website to give you some background:

"Passion exists under the umbrella of **Choice Ministries, Inc.** Rooted in a desire to impact the college campus, Choice is led by **Louie Giglio**, who has served for ten years in the local campus setting and has been at the forefront of collegiate ministry for over fifteen years."

Since 1997, Passion has held a conference for college students every year, but this year they will hold One Day. One Day is the culmination of everything the people behind Passion have been working for. It is not a conference, or a festival, or a demon-

stration. The purpose of One Day is for college students around the nation to come and pray and seek God's face. The slogan they've been using to promote this event is "What happens when a generation comes to pray?" It makes me think, "What would happen if tens of thousands of students like me came to one place and pray together?" I think it'd be pretty amazing.

Two weeks ago, I wouldn't have known a single fact about Passion, aside from knowing that they had some CDs out. But the reason I'm promoting One Day so much now and telling you all this is because of the incredible experience I had at the Passion night at Rutgers. Ok, well, first let me clarify something - Rutgers University (mainly Korean Christian

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Oh Give Me a [Spring] Break!

By Esteban Kim SEAS '02

Spring break came and went by really fast! So Esteban, how did you spend your one-week of freedom? My original plan was to hang out with friends and catch up on a lot of work, but God in His way said, "Nope, I don't think so." Instead, I ended up being part of the urban missions project hosted by InterVarsity (IV). The experience was eye opening to a lot of things about myself and the needs of the city.

Before jumping aboard this urban mission thing, my attitude toward the city was that it was there for our entertainment and that Harlem was not the cool place to go. I did not seriously consider these places as grounds for God to do mighty things. I guess college life swallows me up to the point that anything beyond Columbia campus does not really exist, well at least in my world. Urban mis-

sions gave me the chance to break free from this view by ministering to the city through its various activities.

Our dynamic team of 19 collegians first took flight down to the NYC Rescue Mission. Once there, well...it wasn't like we were in a sweatshop but it wasn't all fun and games. Let's just say that is was all good: our group was content in moving and sorting clothes by the thousands. Among other places our group helped out with Times Square Church, packing lunch and feeding the homeless, helping out at some of the residents' homes, and tutoring at Harlem Square Mission up at 125th. Tutoring was the best part because it was more personal and interactive. From what I saw many of these kids need a lot of affection and love because most of them have hard



family backgrounds.

In all this I was blessed because I really felt I was doing what I was made to do: to glorify God by restoring His Kingdom. I do believe that I glorify God through my school work and that God will one day use it to further His Kingdom, but sometimes it is really hard to see that when I'm constantly doing problem set after problem set every night. Being on the front lines gave me the feeling that I was fulfilling my purpose. This experience taught me that it is very important that I sometimes be on the front line of the battle and out of my comfort zone. Of course not everyone can or should go out with a bayonet. It all depends on how you want to love God and what God places in your heart, whether it is by doing something like what I did this spring break or by praying. God did not make us all hands but also eyes, feet, hair etc. But we can't use this as an excuse and ignore the need around us.

Most of you know the story of the Good Samaritan, if you LUKE-UP (HAHAHAHAHA) Luke 10:30-37. After Jesus lays out the Greatest Commandment, that is to love the Lord with every thing you have, He goes on to state the Second Greatest Commandment which is to love thy neighbor as yourself. A lawyer then asks him

A Time to Advance

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because the weather was dreary and we were supposed to go out and talk to the homeless people. But again I learned that my hopes were so far from what God had in store for us. We made dozens of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (chunky, grape jelly, smooth spread, strawberry jam - variety!), prayed, and headed out. Once again I was with Mary and this time Mikey was sent out to protect us =). Then it started snowing...hard! But in spite of the weather, we were able to hand out a couple of sandwiches to homeless people off-campus. The whole group met and headed down to King's College to hear... Bill Bright! speak. He didn't preach to us but his words were incredibly inspiring. He spoke of

the vision that God had given him and how it had grown from a one campus fellowship group to the nationwide success story (through God's faithfulness!) it is now. Imagine what we can do with just a little bit of faith. Not only did we get to listen to Bill Bright, we actually got to talk to him for a little bit and get his signature on the free books they gave out. And Phil, well, he was even more blessed because Bill Bright actually laid his hands on him and gave him a vision for prayer evangelism!

What a jam-packed two days! I didn't expect to be so blessed during spring break but thankfully God convinced me to sign up for Advance and what a time of fun, fellowshiping, and growing in the Lord.

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Random Thoughts and a Prayer

- Anonymous

Life? Why does that word always stay on my mind?

Why do I always profess it's the most important thing, but never live it?

Tick, tick, tick, it goes by. Am I alive?

I do not know.

God, you have given me the most blessed life a man could have.

Loving parents, precious friends, social comfort- none deserved.

What I have I done?

I do not know.

People come and go, days bye and bye. So many faces, so many chances.

I say that I want to love, but how? I do not know.

Where will they go?

That I do not want to know.

Let's have fun! Oh, it's great. But tomorrow it's no more.

What will I say on my last day?

It's been fun?

I hope not so.

Cause let's face it. When I see you face to face,

I'll see all that I have laid to waste.

Time, effort, opportunities, souls.

Life is sunny. But will it ever be beautiful?

Lord, I pray it so.

Give me the water! I want to drink your presence.

Be my eyes, be my lips, be my cross.

No more distractions, we both know what they are.

No more hiding, we both know where I am.

Take my heart and rip it apart, only leave the burning part.

Lord, I offer you my life.

Oh Give Me a [Spring] Break!

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who the neighbor is? Then Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. I confess that sometimes I act like the Levite or the Priest and walk on the other side of the street and ignore the need. Yes I've come face-to-face with the fact that there is a need out there that I have been neglecting. But I really don't want to be like the Levite or the Priest and I bet that many of us feel the same way. We love others because God loved us first. We understand that loving our neighbor comes from loving God first, not because we love others on our own, but because God's love overwhelms us, causing us to love others.

Unlike Kazakhstan or Mexico I did not really view the Big Apple as grounds for missions, thinking that there is no need in the city like there is in underdeveloped countries. But God has slowly been changing that view; through this spring break experience my eyes have been opened to the need here. I understood that there is as much need here as there is in whatever country I could name. Thank God that "Columbia in the city of New York," is not in some grassland place like Wisconsin where we can only minister to cows =). For me this experience has been a big step toward breaking the walls that separate the community and me and hopefully God will continually open my eyes to His heart.

MISSIONS CORNER, CHINA

Prayer request for the Christian Church in China



In the latest World Watch List from Open Doors, China is said to be the world's third world violator of religious liberty. When the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took power in 1949, there were only around 1 million known Christians in China. Today, after 50 years of persecution, they are over 70 million Protestant Christians meeting illegally in unregistered house churches throughout China, in a population of 1.2 billion. The CCP is actively trying to annihilate the Church in China by destroying its property and imprisoning its pastors. In a step welcomed by Amnesty International, the U.S. State Dept. will move a resolution condemning China for its violations of human rights including religious liberty, when the UN Commission on Human Rights meets in Geneva between **March 20 and April 27, 2000**. Pray for the Christian leaders and workers in prisons and labor camps, and for their families. Pray also for international pressure and intervention to be effectively applied to China.

(Original source: World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) Religious Liberty Prayer List)

**For more information on recent world missions news and prayer requests, e-mail perspectives_ny-subscribe@egroups.com*

PASSION 2000

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Fellowship) sponsored the event, but it was actually held in the main sanctuary of Calvary Korean United Methodist Church in East Brunswick, NJ (my church! =D). Also, another thing I need to clarify is that this event was not a concert. I know it was advertised that way, but it's more like a praise night. Well, now that that's clear, let's move on to the events of the night.

About 20 of us from Columbia (from Campus Crusade for Christ and Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship) traveled down to East Brunswick early Friday afternoon. We were psyched and so anxious to get there, that when we arrived at 5pm, we were disappointed to find out that the doors didn't open until 6:30pm. So we spent our time eating and chatting with some other early arrivers and when lines started forming around the entrance, we were the one of the first ones there. I was so excited for that night and had so many expectations. Even with my high expectations, God was still able to blow me away.

It took quite a bit of time getting everyone seated so the night started a bit late, but once the band started playing, God started moving and stirring the entire place and everyone in it. The band started off with "Jesus, Lover of My Soul (It's all about You)" – the slow version – to open the night. They wanted to start with that song to declare that the night was going to be dedicated to Jesus, and Jesus alone. As we continued worshipping, the Spirit was continuing to move in people hearts and even their bodies. People (including me) were jumping, dancing, shouting, raising their hands in the air, and singing from the top of their lungs, with all their heart. It was amazing and incredibly encouraging to see and hear the people around me praising so passionately (no pun intended). Of course, not everyone was jumping and dancing around, but that's understandable... we all praise in different ways. But regardless of whether or not people were dancing and going crazy, I knew the

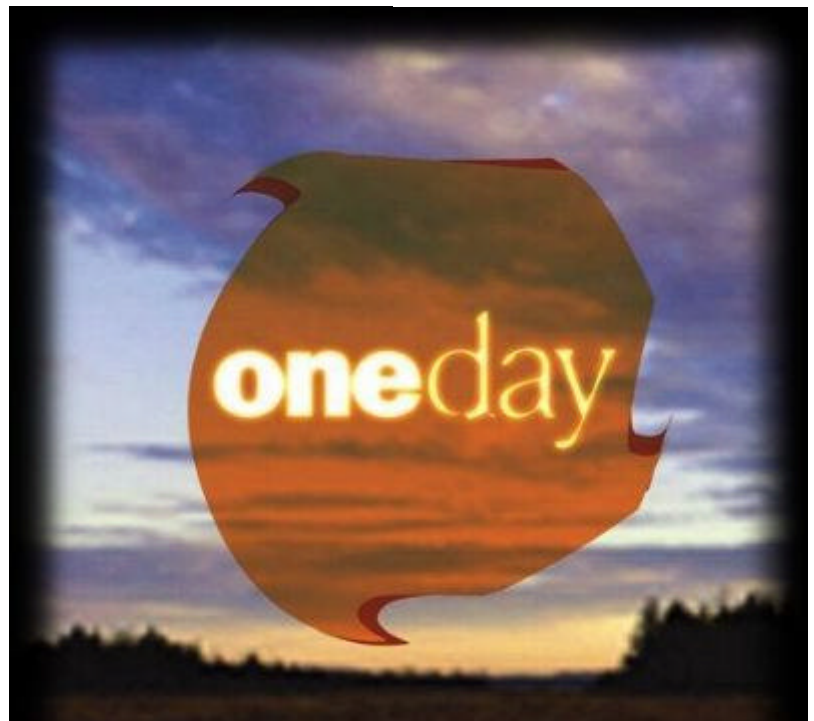
Spirit was stirring the hearts of each individual in that room. How do I know, you ask? Because I felt a sense of peace and joy that I hadn't felt in a long time. My heart was overflowing with so much joy that I wanted to just shout! Yet, at the same time, I was filled with so much peace from being able to relieve so much stress and anxiety that had built up from the things going on in my academic, personal and spiritual life. My hope is that God touched other people that night with the same or even greater level of intensity.

As the night progressed, the band talked about One Day, their vision, and other information relevant to the May 20th event. Afterwards, we took a picture with the band and some of us talked to them, thanking them and such. I didn't want to return to school that night for fear of falling into the same routine I always fall into. I didn't want to come back to a place that was so spiritually dead and be brought down by that. Of course, I came back to school that night and as expected, the stress started building again. But the best part of going to Passion, was not the music, or even the people. It was meeting with God again and

having Him remind me that the joy He gives is not temporary, nor does it fade. Sometimes, I do let the circumstances in my life hinder me from living a truly joyful life. But when I get a moment to myself and reflect on my day or week, I realize that there is so much more to live for and so much to be joyful about. God reminds me that He renews His love, joy, and mercies everyday – not just at a concert or praise night.

Passion was amazing and their ministry is great, but one day, people won't know who or what Passion was, or what One Day was. Maybe some will, but like many things, it'll probably just pass over and be forgotten. The one thing that will remain and be remembered is God and the way He worked through them. I encourage all of you to consider attending One Day. The registration deadline is coming up, but if you want to spend 2 days just seeking God and praying with fellow students from all over the country, One

Day may be what you're looking for. For more information, check out their website: <http://www.oneday2000.org> or <http://www.passionnow.org>



(This poem is especially dedicated to my friends out there who get troubled by circumstances beyond their control. Many times we find ourselves frustrated by the complexities of our own lives and others that we love. But I encourage all of you to admit your helplessness and look at it to be a good thing, a very good thing because He's in control. So just trust in Him always, and you'll find helplessness at its finest.)

HELPLESSNESS

Glory in the highest...

I want no other way
So even as I fret often
in evil
I must trust
even as the whirlwinds threaten to choke me

And spit me out
as if they had a right to

But no one does
No one else can
but the One who is in control
do i believe that?
then why do i fight so much?
when i'm clearly fighting something i cannot win.

as if i had a right to win anything...

Sometimes it is SO easy to let go and accept
but usually i find myself writhing aimlessly
yet there is a purpose...
why?
why do I keep wasting my time?
and lose my focus?

when there is nothing i can do...

helplessness at its finest
That's what it is.
you can make me feel so good, you know that?
but only when i let you, right?
too many times i turn it into selfish unhappiness
Sovereignty.
right?
sounds like a king to me.
a king who loves me, though?
too good to be true.

glory in the Highest...

helplessness at its worst
excuse me as i digress...

as if i had that right to digress...

me, a servant?
why me?
to submit so i can feel helpless

...
too good to be true
...

but You will help me, right?
no matter how much i fret
or rebel
or try to steal the scepter away
as if You're not looking

as if i had a right to take anything from the King...

i am sorry.

please forgive me my Lord.
i am helpless
You are not.
and i love You...

glory alleluia.
glory, glory, glory...

-Bob Koo 2/29/00



Shout Outs!!!

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue's Challenge. It is great to read about how God is working in people's lives.

- Jimmy Ahn

I give props to every small group leader, past and present for their prayer and commitment to our ministry.

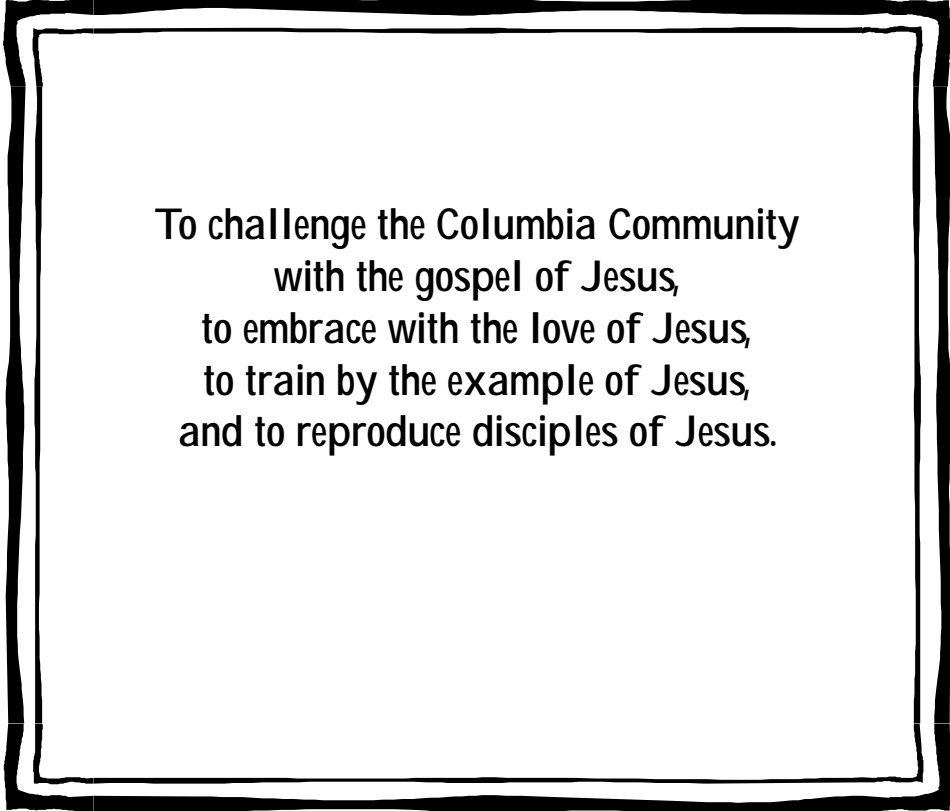
You guys are DA BOMB!

Hi Jong Ah, Liz, and Larry,

Continue to press on and be bold for Christ...YEAH!!

FRESHMAN CLASS
PRAISES GOD THE
LOUDEST!!!

To ALL Seniors: 4 MORE WEEKS!!



**To challenge the Columbia Community
with the gospel of Jesus,
to embrace with the love of Jesus,
to train by the example of Jesus,
and to reproduce disciples of Jesus.**

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