

## HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



Left picture: Felicia and Destiny; Right picture: Sharon and Felicia meeting a boy while doing Harvey relief work in Houston last Spring.

As you heard about in my last full newsletter in late-November, we have been overjoyed that the Lord provided enough support for Sharon to do full-time ministry here in Boston. Her background as an immigrant from the Middle East made support raising particularly challenging but, goodness, she has an incredible impact on helping college students of minority culture be understood, uniquely challenge them in their walk with God, and help them know they can belong in a Christian community on campus, despite ethnic, socio-economic, political and cultural barriers that may otherwise interfere.

When I asked Sharon to look back and describe how her ethnic minority uniquely posed her to reach out to ethnic minority students, she shared this story:

“I think of Felicia Lee. I first met Felicia about two years ago, during my first intern year, when she was a junior at Brandeis University. I got to know Felicia well when I helped lead a discipleship small group with Felicia, who identified as Korean-American, and Destiny, an African-American student. As these two relatively shy, soft-spoken women began to open up, I found myself quickly identifying and relating so much of my own stories with theirs. I remember the many conversations about family dynamics, academic expectations, fitting into majority culture and many other ongoing parts of their lives as we studied the Word and wrestled through how the Gospel fit into all these aspects of life. Both of these women had dreams of going on to medical schools and providing for their families in the future. We talked and prayed often about what it looked like to follow Christ and influence their campus with the Gospel in the midst of all these pressures.

“Over the course of the year, we went through a book about overcoming fear and stepping out in faith. As we journeyed together, it was a joy to see these women surrendering more and more of their fears over to Christ, and trusting and following Him in new and radical ways. At the end of that year, Felicia trusted God and went on her first summer mission as a senior, and handed over her fears about not doing a medical internship over to the Lord. And earlier this year, as she graduated with a degree in neuroscience, she decided to take a gap year before medical school so she could do full-time ministry for a year.

“During that time, she faced the strong disapproval and opposition of her parents. So together, we fasted and prayed that God would soften her parent’s hearts during that difficult time. I thought back to my own experiences when my parents initially stopped communicating with me when they heard of my desire to go into ministry. I was able to relate to the opposition she faced from her parents as it related to so much of my own story and struggles with my parents. And not just relate to it, but speak the truth of God’s promises and faithfulness despite her circumstances since I had first hand seen how the Lord had carried me through similar circumstances. Today Felicia is in the middle of her intern year with Cru and the Lord is using her to impact the lives of many students and plant the Gospel seed at her Alma Mater and beyond.”

Thank you for being a part of these staff and students’ lives as they learn to trust God with their hearts and futures, for wherever or whatever the Lord has called them to!