

city beautiful CHURCH

February 14, 2013

*“Our conversation was like
worship.”*

Jess Fong

Last June, my friends, Jess and Marly were out practicing curiosity and hope in the city by engaging people in conversations during our Go Forth summer discipleship series. They came across a radical religious group that regularly spends time by Lake Eola downtown and found themselves in a challenging conversation. When they were able to wrap up the dialogue, they headed away from the group, but a man chased after them. Uncertain of his motives, the girls cautiously responded to him.

William was looking for money and sympathetic to what they just experienced. He had been listening to their conversation with the radical group and expressed how he wasn't a person of faith but knew, *“What they were talking about is not the truth...”* He went on to share his story--he had a son whom he wanted to do *“right by”*, was out of work, and currently didn't have a home. His circumstances seemed bleak.

Praying for him, Jess recalled, *“He just seemed destitute.”*

Fast-forward to January. Our church was meeting outside at the Lake Eola Amphitheater for our Sunday worship gathering. Jess was standing in the back along the sidewalk that circles the lake as our church began to sing. A man and his friend walked by and she overheard him say, *“Isn't it cool how people love worshipping Jesus?”* Jess called after them, *“It is! Hey, you guys should join us.”*

As they accepted her invitation, the man and Jess recognized one another, but couldn't place each other. Soon enough, they remembered a conversation they had on a summer day last year on the other side of the park! Noticing a complete change in William's countenance, Jess said, *“You are so different! Tell me what happened...”*

“I realized that all of the bad decisions I had made in my life were related to the fact that I didn't have God in my life,” He told her. *“So, I called out to God.”* It was in that place of surrender on July 31, 2012 that William started to experience freedom and

hope. In fact, God also provided him with a job and a place to live. In the months that followed, William and his friend found that the Lord continued to lead them to head down to the lake in their free time to tell people of His love for them. The night he and Jess reconnected, they were out doing just that!

“William used to be homeless-- physically and spiritually,” Jess shares, *“but he's no longer homeless.”*

The Lord is so good. There are moments in life when He gives us glimpses into the fruit He is producing in and through the lives of people. What a gift it has been to hear about His work in William's life. To know He is bringing transformation to people in Orlando is a blessing and an encouragement.

THANK YOU for investing in what God is doing in Orlando!!



**musings
in
ministry**

UPDATE:

- Praise! As you may know, I was trusting God to raise \$7,620 at the end of 2012 in order to remain financially stable for the first few months of 2013. He provided \$5,000! Thank you for your generosity & prayers! I couldn't be here without you!

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