

# Joe & Felicity CONGDON

Campus Crusade for Christ | St. Louis Metro

August 6, 2009



## We're Back from Asia!

We praise God for the work He has done this summer. We had the joy of leading our team of fifteen students, three CCC staff (and their three young boys!) on a seven-week mission and training project to East Asia. **It would not have been possible without your support.** We are humbled and honored to be a small part of God's glory spreading to all nations of the earth. Please celebrate with us as you read these stories. You, through your prayers and financial support, are reaching the nations with Jesus!



Our Team



East Asia: Horizons 2009  
photo by Andrew Maxwell

## Sending Apostles to the Farthest Horizons

Our team was able to share the gospel with over 200 students through personal conversations we initiated on eight campuses and 31 of them responded by trusting Christ with their sins. God truly is changing lives in East Asia, a region on the brink of becoming the largest missionary sending base in the world. But Americans are not the only ones participating in preaching the gospel to closed nations this summer.

As you read this, a young man from one of these eight campuses named Harvey who became a Christian less than a year ago, is joining ten other Asian students in a Muslim-saturated city in western Asia. They are sharing the Gospel with some of the most unreached people on the planet, in countries closed to those with American passports.

When we met Harvey, he and about 30 other East Asian Christians like him were preparing to go out to four locations to spread the gospel. Our team had the privilege of hearing their testimonies,

使徒们去向最远的地平线

praying for them, and financially supporting their trips. When Harvey first heard the gospel two years ago from a student on a short-term trip like ours he didn't believe. He was actually so disturbed by the message that when he met our friend and fellow CCC staff member, Patrick, last fall Harvey began to debate with him in hopes of swinging him to atheism.

Patrick patiently loved Harvey and continued to talk with Him about Jesus. After a couple of months Harvey placed his faith in Christ and began to grow passionately in his faith. Last January, Harvey attended a discipleship conference that CCC held in his city. It was there that Harvey saw a video about unreached people groups in Western Asia. A people group is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread without encountering barriers of language, culture, or geography.

"Every time I watched that video on unreached people, I cried. I have been so happy with Christ in my life," Harvey told us, "I thought, *who will tell them?... I am that guy. They need to hear.*"



Harvey and Patrick



Gus, Luke and Joe

## Humbled by Grace - A Day on Campus with Joe

It was my day to go to campus with Luke. The previous week we had gathered over thirty students for an impromptu birthday party we threw for him. While the students ate a pineapple cake we purchased at a nearby grocery store, Luke stood for a short speech that we explained was a birthday tradition in America. Many students had gathered for the opportunity to meet Americans and form friendships with them.

Luke shared that he was grateful for the three most important things in his life, his friends, his family and his faith. He then gave a gospel presentation and explained why he was so grateful for Christ and what he accomplished on the cross. We were shocked that in personal conversations following Luke's speech most of the students wanted to hear more about Jesus!

It was our day to follow up with those we had met at the party. We called Gus first. He took us to a nearby

coffee shop, where we learned that he actually owned a Bible. His girlfriend was studying abroad in England and had been telling Gus of her trips to church there.

He was ecstatic when we told him that we could explain his Bible to him. After about an hour of conversation, Gus said, "I want this," and placed his faith in Christ! I was shocked to see the Spirit work on his heart before our very eyes. Gus had been prepared by the Lord to hear the gospel that day. Early in the conversation he confessed that he had guilt for things he had done and knew there was nothing he could do about it himself. I trained Luke to disciple Gus over our remaining four weeks in Asia, and we were able to plug him into a fellowship on his campus. Pray for the growth of this young Believer!

## Freedom to Believe - A Day on Campus with Felicity



Anticipating the 80 minute commute to campus, I was nervous because I had been feeling sick the past couple days in the sweltering heat. I definitely felt God's grace as we found seats on the crowded subway and bus rides there!

It was my first day to join Sarah at the number one political science university in the country, to encourage and train her as she shared her faith. Most students we met knew nothing about Jesus apart from his name.

After a few exhausting hours of approaching students who were either spiritually disinterested or who couldn't speak English at all, we met Ann and Xian, two freshmen, on a

bench in the garden. It was getting hot, so we asked them to move to a shady, more populated area of the garden.

We spent the rest of the afternoon talking with Ann and Xian. One of them had a Christian grandmother, and the other had been to church once with a friend. We asked them if they understood the main point of the Bible and they said no, but were interested to hear. They listened intently as we began to explain the Gospel.

Ann told us, "We have never heard these things. Our government teaches us to trust only in our country. But since coming to university, we have discovered that what our [primary school] textbooks said about our government were not true."

"Did your university teachers tell you this?" I asked in amazement.

"No. Our university is not free."

We continued to talk about Jesus, and just about the time we were telling them about the need for each individual to trust their sins to Jesus, I looked up to see two security guards approaching us. The girls immediately put the Gospel outlines in their bags and hurried away. The guards asked for our passports and questioned us about why we were on campus.

Thankfully, we had been trained in how to answer the authorities, and we were able to slip off campus to safety after some quick explaining. I noticed Ann and Xian across the garden watching us as we quickly walked toward the front gate.

Please pray that Ann and Xian would be moved by the Spirit to continue to investigate Christ. Their government doesn't want them to hear, but we know our Lord is sovereign over every detail of their lives!



Kyle from Missouri State disciples a student on campus



Our good friends, Tim & Aubrey, on our staff team this summer, with their 3 boys!



Zoey prays for the first time with Felicity to ask Christ for forgiveness. The next day her twin sister did the same!

Joe loved trying new food...Felicity, not so much...



### Coming Home

We had a great time, but we're excited to be back home. We're excited about the spiritual lives of the 31 new Christians in East Asia. We're excited about how the students who came with us this summer now have a new vision for the ways the Lord will use them wherever they go. (Some of them have decided to return for a year to Asia as missionaries!) And we're excited about the new freshman who will be stepping onto our American campuses in a few short weeks. We hope our excitement is contagious as you join us in praying for these requests:

- The faith of the new Believers we met this summer, that they'd grow, love the Bible and get plugged into a church.
- The incoming freshman on our three campuses: Webster U, St. Louis U, and Truman State.
- We are in desperate need for student leaders at SLU and Webster. Please pray the Lord would provide students who would passionately labor with us!
- Our marriage, that we'd grow closer to each other and to the Lord. Please pray we would prioritize Jesus over all else.

### Prayer Requests