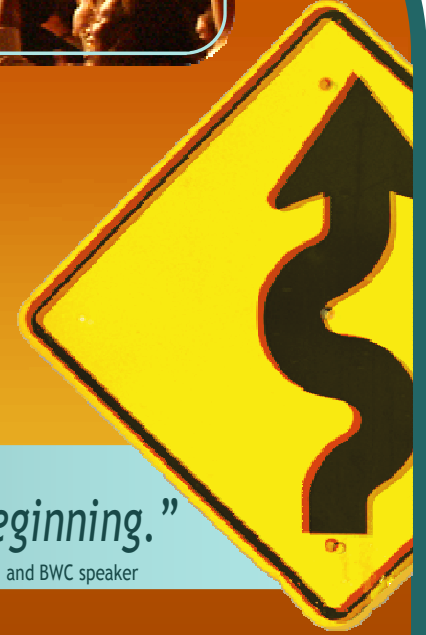




bwc|07 boston winter conference | january 3-7, 2007

# fearless



*"The end of a conference is really just the beginning."*

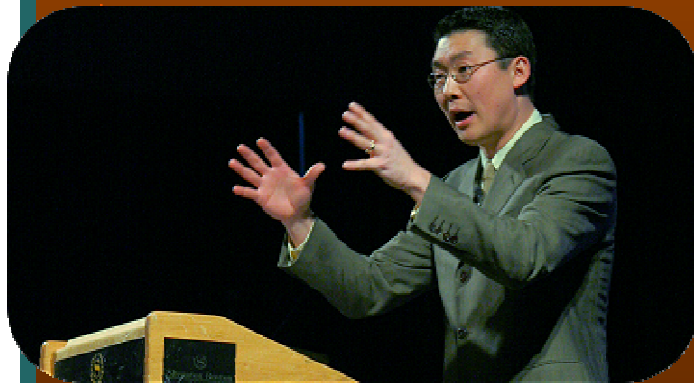
- James White, Pastor of Christ Our King Community Church in Cary, NC, and BWC speaker



It is a disease that affects us all. It has the potential to take over your life and paralyze you. Thoughts of dangling from immense heights, incurable diseases, and loneliness all incite this emotion: fear. Jesus speaks directly to this issue when he says, "Do not be afraid." He gave that command more than any other. He knows that all of us struggle with fear. His perfect love can make us fear less.

During the second annual Campus Crusade for Christ Boston Winter Conference, 285 college students converged upon the city to grow in their faith, build relationships, and give back. They arrived envisioning what their lives could look like without fear of failure or rejection, and were given the tools to make their hopes a reality.

Pastor Stephen Um started the week by speaking about the fearless love of the Gospel, how Christ's perfect love drives out fear. He pointed out how success-driven our culture is and how much we fear failure, but reassured us that it's okay for us to fail because we need to learn that our identity does not hang on such an idol. Nicole from the University of Maine Orono said her relationships would be the opposite of what they are now if she could fully trust God's justification of her in Christ. "Trust would be a given. I wouldn't have to worry about other people's opinions of me, because I would know that what God thought, was of the utmost importance." The students of the





*"The topic of fearlessness didn't resonate with me at first, because I didn't realize I struggled with it. But as the conference went on, I realized I do struggle with fear of failure and disapproval.*

*I never really saw those areas of my life for what they were before now."*

*~Emily, Syracuse University*



Northeast region learned this week that fear has one formidable foe: the love and forgiveness found in Christ.

Once we understand that God's love frees us from fear, the next step in the journey is to risk confronting the sin under the surface. Conference speaker Liz Swanson encouraged students to courageously admit that they don't "have it all together." Shane Deike challenged the group to use what they have learned by sharing it with a world that is hungry for Christ's touch. The Day of Outreach offered many opportunities for students to take risks in evangelism and fearlessly share the gift of Christ with others. These included sharing the gospel with people on the Boston Common, helping repair fire damage in the inner city, and handing out boxes of food to needy families. Jennifer from Brown University remarked, "I feel I have grown in compassion for people today as I've shared my faith with them."

At the conclusion of the conference, students were excited to return to their campuses, not only to practice letting go of their fears, but also to help others do the same. For Nicole, attending a seminar which answered tough questions about God and taught how to share those answers boldly was very valuable. "A lot of people have questions about how a good God can allow evil to exist. This seminar taught me what the Bible says about this issue and equipped me to answer the questions my friends ask."

Steve from the University of New Hampshire says he is ready to apply what he has learned here to point other people towards Christ. "I can help calm non-believers' fears about God only through the Gospel—there's no better way. During the conference I gained a lot of head knowledge, but on the last day something clicked. I don't have to worry about my own sins or fear others' opinions of me, because Jesus took care of that on the cross. God is so good."

To live a fearless life, to "be strong and courageous" is not a new message for us; but to glorify Christ by facing what we fear most—whether that may be sharing the good news with our family, trusting God to provide our every need, or failing others and risking being rejected—this is our call to action. When confronted with what terrifies us most, may we hear the words of our Lord to Joshua: **"Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."** What encouragement! He is with us and His power rests on us. For when we are weak, truly, we are strong. Remember Beloved, His grace is sufficient, even for you.

