



As summer comes to a close and we enter into this Fall season, there is much to be thankful for. I wanted to share this story with you from one of our staff, John Ke, a Cru intern who came to Epic Wildwood this past summer. I hope it encourages you as it reminded me of the joys of this job and that leading is worth it!

"I remember initially approached with the idea of going to Wildwood early in the spring and being hesitant for a multitude of reasons: I didn't know if I could raise support for my 2nd year of interning and go on mission, I really wanted to go back on mission in North Myrtle Beach where I had gone as a student, and most importantly, **I wasn't sure how I would fit working on an Epic team after being immersed in a majority-culture team at the University of Minnesota.**

As a student, I had never been involved with Epic and had only started really exploring the connecting between my ethnic identity as

an Asian-American and my faith because I had been tasked to launch Epic at the U of M. However, after connecting with my coach, with my intern coordinator, and with the Wildwood directors, it became very apparent that Wildwood would be the best place for me to be this summer, developmentally and spiritually.

One of the takeaways for me being immersed in an Epic environment for the summer as a CFM staff was the mix of the familiar and unfamiliar. In working with students, in one moment, we'd be going through familiar CruPressGreen content, and the next, navigating through the unfamiliar of discipling students who didn't attend a Big Ten university and had a different college experience. In staff meetings, in one moment, we'd be talking about the International Dinner, which I had gone through as a student on summer mission, and in the next moment, I'd be amazed at the fact that I was under Asian-American leadership. Even in our off time as a staff team, **in one moment, I'd be surrounded in our kitchen with familiar smells of Asian food, the next moment, watching our staff team do karaoke together (You would never see us do that on my staff team in Minnesota!)**

Amidst this dichotomy between the familiar and unfamiliar, I found a place where I belonged. The unfamiliar experiences were frankly the result of my Cru world colliding with my Asian-American world for the first time. I learned to love and appreciate the unfamiliar, recognizing them as opportunities to see a conjunction between my faith and ethnicity. In most of my life, I had never had the chance to see faith and ethnicity collide, even in contexts like Asian-American churches. In those arenas, the focus had always been on faith, rather than ethnicity. **Epic Wildwood was my first real opportunity to see both faith and ethnicity celebrated together."**

If you'd like to help support what God is doing please go to:

<https://give.cru.org/give/View/0551103>

Staff Acct #0551103

We envision Asian American movements mobilized to take our place in God's redemptive mission, and 1) seeing they have a unique place in missions history and the future of missions, 2) that they are bridge-builders - representing both the empowered and the powerless of society, and 3) they are coming together, fully surrendered, actively engaged in God's work.

**Jamie Daisy Lam**  
**20542 Divonne Dr.**  
**Walnut, CA 91789**  
**[Jamie.Lam@cru.org](mailto:Jamie.Lam@cru.org)**