

As most of you know, I had the opportunity to spend the last 6 weeks in Fort Collins, Colorado. For the first month from June 10-July 10, I became a student again and was there taking classes. What most of you are probably still asking is why and what kind of classes was I taking?

As part of Cru staff, we are required to take 11 core theological courses as part of our ongoing development over the first ten years of being on staff also known as Institute of Biblical Studies (IBS). The purpose of these classes is to help us grow deeper in our knowledge and understanding of the Word. We use Scripture everyday in ministry and so these classes are to help us in relating the truths of the Scriptures to those we encounter.

This summer I had the privilege of taking four core classes Monday through Friday from 9-3pm. My first two classes were Biblical Interpretation and Biblical Communication where I spent 4 weeks studying Genesis 12:10-13:1. During that time, I learned how to read, interpret, and communicate different types of passages which was so applicable especially as I continue teaching in small group and large group settings. I was excited to see all that I could pull out from one short passage and to see the fallen condition of man and redemptive solution of Christ that runs all throughout Scripture. I'm looking forward to use what I learned from these two classes to more effectively communicate and teach! I also took an Old Testament Survey class as well as a God, Bible, Holy Spirit class that were more lecture style classes. Although they weren't as outward in application, the content was refreshing and challenging and I definitely learned more about the text and feel more equipped.

Having been in school mode the past month in Ft. Collins, Colorado, having to write papers and prepare for a talk for classes, it was challenging to enter student life again, but I have been able to learn so much! My summer wouldn't have been complete without some good ol' intramurals where I got to play volleyball, basketball, and softball! Although classes were great, sports were a definite outlet for me!

I'm thankful for this past summer and the opportunity to grow and learn, make new friends, and become more equipped for what the Lord has called me to! Thanks to all of you who have been faithfully supporting me through prayer and financial giving so that I could dig deeper into the Word and learn how to be a more effective minister of the gospel! I am so grateful for each and every one of you!



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Jamie Daisy Lam 4456 Alakoa Street Honolulu, Hi 96821 Jamie.Lam@cru.org