October 2009

Celebrating New Life

Prayer Requests:

- **for new believers to be strongly grounded in their faith**
- **that Alison, a senior, will come to know Christ this semester**
- **fruitfulness in "Jesus Loves USC" outreach coming up this week where each class does something together to share Christ's love with the campus**
- **Destino breakfast—serving the Latino floors in a dorm on Friday mornings**

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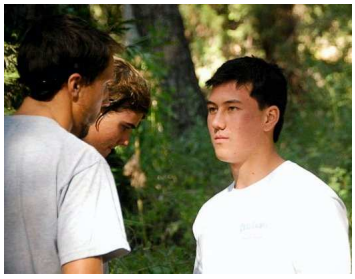
God is doing some amazing things at USC. We have seen five students trust Christ in the last couple weeks and our students are sharing their faith more than ever. It seems that God has been using student's lives, and their past experiences, to prepare their hearts for what he wants to do in their lives.

Andrew Chen (A.C.) is a freshman this year at USC originally from Palo Alto. I (Paul) met him after a weekly meeting and he told me he didn't have a spiritual background. His dad grew up Catholic and his mom had a spiritual side, but they hadn't raised him to believe anything in particular. But he had noticed that in the Bay Area people who believed in God were incredibly oppressed. He had always wondered why that was the case and figured now that he was is college he'd check out this Christianity thing. He had come to our meeting and was interested in going on our fall retreat.

Friday night at Fall Retreat Mike Berk, our speaker, was talking about how the gospel is a treasure and it's something we should cherish and give our lives to spread. After that first meeting AC sat down with two of our student leaders, Derek Roth and Jason Heim. They explained the importance of Jesus and how his death leads to our salvation from sin, and that night AC accepted Christ into his life.

Holly, who was led to Christ this summer by her sorority sister Sarah (who just became a Christian last year), had asked the planning team if she could be baptized at Fall Retreat. They had said there was a little creek next to the camp and so the team had agreed and Saturday afternoon they invited anyone that wanted to be baptized to come talk to the student leaders. AC, along with 7 others, decided to be baptized and make a public profession of their faith.

Each student was encouraged and exhorted by those whom God had used in their life before being baptized in front of the rest of the community at the retreat. After the sweet time of watching these students step out in obedience, everyone celebrated with songs, prayers, and many hugs. It was a powerful and wonderfully special time to see how much God is working in lives all around us!



A.C. prepares to publicly profess his newfound faith through baptism



Sarah shares some scripture with Holly before her baptism



Students sing and worship together near the creek following the baptism of several students at Fall Retreat