APRIL 2008

What's been happening…

It has been an eventful semester so far, though it seems to be quickly winding down. God has definitely been moving here at USC and we've been blessed to see and hear about some people whose lives are being transformed by the gospel. Starting in mid-February, we challenged our students to go out to the campus in the spirit of the "sending out of the 70" and step out in faith to start spiritual conversations and share the gospel. It has been fun to hear stories of faithful students who are taking risks for the sake of Christ. One freshman girl from my bible study has been using her meal times for a purpose other than just feeding her body. While she would often end up going to the dining hall alone, she has decided to use the opportunity to meet other "lonely" diners. She has been able to start up some good conversations, getting to know people and find out where they are in relation to Christ. Another girl, Casey (who came to faith just last year), felt God challenging her to be bold for Him and as a result has been able to share the gospel with one of her coworkers and some girls in her sorority.

Along with that, we've been seeing God do some really great things in the Greek system . Just last week, one of our staff and a student leader were able to lead a sorority girl to faith in Christ! She had been coming to the monthly Greek Life meeting, just checking things out. There have been several bible studies started up in Fraternities this semester as well, with Christian students stepping up with a desire to reach their brothers with the gospel.

Another cool story, is that of Maria. She accepted Christ as her Savior earlier this semester when two of our staff were out sharing on campus. She has since been meeting with staff member Steph Wee to go through some foundational bible studies and is growing like crazy. She expressed an attitude we all should have when she told Steph how excited she is and that she can't wait to tell her family all about Jesus. She is even planning on going on a summer project his summer!

We have also been getting to know and spending time with our new friend Halle this semester. She is a grad student from Iran that just started studying here this semester. It has been really fun to get to know her and share knowledge of our different cultures. God brought her into her lives as she "happened" to walk past us as we set up for our weekly meeting a couple of months ago, and since then He has surrounded her with Christian friends, most of us on staff with Campus Crusade. She has been fairly open spiritually, not holding to (but highly influenced by) Islam. We and others have had the chance to share the gospel with her a few times and she continues to ask questions. She even came to church with us on Easter! She doesn't believe yet, but we are still praying God will reveal the truth to her.

We got to see our parents, along with nieces Hope & Caily, when they came for a visit in March, which was very fun. Plus, we got to spend a day at Disneyland with our team during spring break after we visited 3 other campuses in L.A. to see about potentially starting new CCC movements there.

What's coming up…

We've also been spending a good amount of time preparing for our trip to Tokyo this summer. We now have our team together: 3 staff and 11 students, 5 of which are from USC. We will have a young team, mostly freshmen and sophomores. This will be exciting, but will also bring challenges of less experience and maturity. We are hoping and praying that God will use the next 6 weeks to prepare us and our students before we get to Japan.

We've already begun to plan for the fall. We just had a brunch for Jr. and Sr. women involved with us to get feedback to help us better serve and build them up. It was great to hear from them and we are excited to see how we can try new things next year. This weekend our team will be meeting, along with our student leaders, to figure out our leadership team for next year as well. We will be challenging new student leaders to join us in the fall within the next few weeks. We're also hoping to get the major events of the first few weeks of the fall semester mapped out so that we can hit the ground running in August.

We appreciate your continued prayers and partnership in our ministry here at USC and around the world!

Love,

Paul & Trina

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