

# Santa Monica Summer Mission Project



June-August, 2011

I had a fantastic summer in Santa Monica with 90 students and staff. There, the students lived in great community, learned how to share their faith, and took on leadership positions throughout the project. They were being trained to live missionally in Santa Monica, back on their campuses, and for the rest of their lives!

I had the pleasure this summer of leading a Life Group (Bible Study) and discipling 4 beautiful young ladies. Emily (pictured left) is going to be a senior at Cal Baptist in Riverside. She is a Pastor's daughter, raised in a loving Christian home. She carried herself as the



“perfect Christian”, but as I got to know her better realized how much insecurity, shame, and feelings of unworthiness she was hiding behind. We met together every week and began to unpack some of the lies Emily was believing about herself, others, and her relationship with God. It was amazing to see her radically change throughout the summer. While reflecting on her two months in Santa Monica, Emily shared that “God completely changed my heart throughout the course of the summer. I wish I could tell you my heart changed instantaneously, but that would leave out the beauty of God’s mighty hand at work in my doubting, undeserving self. I am constantly humbled by the fact that God chose me to even be on project and experience His power and insane love. He showed me how incredible life looks when I step out in faith and glorify Him with all of me.

I can’t help but praise God for this incredible journey and for the fire that it ignited in my heart.”

## On project, Shun was shown the value of authentic community.

Just after finishing his last final of freshman year at UCSD, Shun packed up his car and drove to Santa



Monica, unsure of what the summer had in store. One thing he wasn’t expecting was the strong friendships that would form; “in high school I was a part of a championship football team where we were very close-knit, and even that doesn’t

seem to compare.” All the students lived in a motel we rented out for the summer. They did the basics together, but also became vulnerable with one another. Shun told me that one of the most amazing parts of project was the men’s community. “I have never been surrounded by so many men of God, especially so close to me in age. They really showed me what it meant to daily take up my cross and live as the man Christ called me to be. They truly helped me grow, making the men’s community a real ‘iron sharpening iron’ place in terms of faith, just as it says in Proverbs 27:17. It was awesome.”

**Prayer Requests:** \*For Emily to continue to grow in her walk with the Lord at Cal Baptist. \*For Shun to make good, authentic friendships at UCSD. \*The beginning of the school year at UCSD/SDSU. \*For Jessica, Robbi, and Craig, our Greek leaders at UCSD-that they would be missional in their houses and bold in sharing their faith.

*Thank you for your investment in students' lives! ~Courtney*