

BWC

boston winter conference



Every Campus Crusade for Christ staff member has a full-time role at BWC to help make the conference successful. This newsletter was produced by the 2009 BWC Historian Team.

King - a male sovereign; a man who holds the chief authority over a country and a people. In order for God's Kingdom to come to earth, we must yield all authority over our lives to the true King.

The fourth annual Boston Winter Conference hosted 246 students at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The Reverend Doctor Stephen Um opened the conference by discussing how Christians, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, should live.

Dr. Um teaches at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and pastors CityLife Church in Boston. Dr. Um was a perfect match for college students in the northeast. He has a distinct, reserved, and intelligent way of analyzing

Ben Burns, the director of Campus Crusade for Christ's College Prep seminars and improv comedian for Comedy Sportz, spoke Saturday night. He said the defining characteristics of Kingdom citizens could be seen through how they treat other people, the King, and the King's business.

James White, the senior pastor of Christ Our King Community Church in Cary, North Carolina, closed the conference with four different talks. White encouraged students that it's not too late to turn (repent) and say yes to the Kingdom of Heaven. White spoke about The Lord's Prayer by showing how Jesus followed his own directions when he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. White explained it is okay to ask God to "let this cup pass" but we must remember to end with "not my will but thy will be done."

of these times were scheduled throughout the conference for students to attend, and each time they had the choice of nine different workshops. Topics included learning about the power of the Holy Spirit, how to mentor younger students, and how to balance a budget in a godly way.

By the end of the conference the sinking feeling of homework assignments and attending classes had returned to students. Many of them fought the feeling by staying up as late as possible on the last night of the conference. Students gathered in groups all across the lobby playing cards, games, or just talking about all they had learned. At the far corner of the lobby a small group of students from different campuses came together for impromptu worship. Fueled by just a piano, guitar, and hand drum they sang long past 3 a.m.



scripture and speaking publicly that reflect student attitudes and intellect.

Dr. Um shared about his childhood, his fear of rejection, and his drive to achieve the highest level of success to prove himself capable; many students connected with his story.

In addition to key-note speakers, BWC also provides two days of workshops, a day of outreach in the city of Boston, and evening activities for students. The workshops are what separate BWC from other CCC conferences and summer projects. Four

By Tuesday morning, it was clear the Kingdom had come to Boston, taking up residence in the Sheraton, only to be sent out again through students as they returned to universities across the Northeast.

Serving the City: Day of Outreach

Hundreds of college students flooded Boston streets and subway stations Sunday afternoon, all of them sent out from the Sheraton. The Day of Outreach, the pinnacle event of the conference, sends students by their campuses to volunteer at local churches and follow up CCC ministry opportunities on Boston campuses. Students handed out flyers for new church services, boxes of food to needy neighborhoods, granola bars at subway stations, and started up conversations at Quincy Market and other food court areas.

Students from the University of Connecticut (UConn) walked to Heart Change Fellowship, a church plant in the city. They went door-to-door conducting a community-needs survey and handing out business cards for the church. Laura and Mike, two students from UConn, shared about a woman they met on the sidewalk.



"[She's] a single mom and after we asked a few questions she immediately began to open up," Laura said. "She shared about what she's suffering through and asked us about God's character. We presented the gospel to her. At the end we read the prayer aloud. She said she had never prayed that before, so she did with us."

Students from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMass) volunteered for Hope Fellowship Church in Cambridge, where they passed out free granola bars and church info cards. On their walk to the church the students ran into Frankie and Debbie, a homeless couple they had met one year earlier during the 2008 day of outreach. The couple recognized the students and immediately picked up the conversation where it had been left.

"All I remember seeing was Debbie sitting on the stairs crying," said Sam, a sophomore at UMass. "Justin, with cerebral palsy, went to go sit down near her and comfort her... That opened up the door, so Jeff and I just came up to her and tried to share the gospel about how there is a God out there who really has a plan for her."

Students from multiple campuses went to the Old Colony housing development in South Boston to hand out boxes of food with Grace Community Church. In addition to helping the church serve the community, BWC used this event to reach the entire city. Three news stations and the *Boston Metro* came to Old Colony to cover the story.



Matt (right) on stage at BWC

My Experience:

"I went to BWC 2007, where for the first time I understood what it was to truly have faith in God and how that could impact my life by having a personal relationship with God. Last summer came and I fell hard. During the first [semester] in 2008 I was slowly getting less involved to the point that I wasn't even sure if I would go to BWC.

Then I got a call from Greg Friesen, a staff member, saying that someone wanted to put their payment for BWC in my name. I made up my mind to go knowing that God provided for me and was definitely calling me.

BWC 2009 gave me the strength and knowledge to pick myself back up and refocus my life on God who was waiting for me to come back."

From Matt, senior at UConn

This conference would not be possible without prayers and financial support from people like you. We cannot thank you enough for your help – please know, both staff and students are eternally grateful for all of your support.

We're officially in Boston as of February 4th! See our blog (www.thorn.cccministry.org) and upcoming prayer letters for more on our transition and new jobs. Thanks and God Bless! ~ Jonathan, Kerri, and Zoe