



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

FALL 2009



BROWN

TURNING LOST STUDENTS INTO CHRIST-CENTERED LABORERS
FOR A LIFETIME

Remade for God's Will

By Rob Ranney '08.5

Many Christ-loving students were summoned to the 2009 Ivy League Student Leadership Conference in late October, myself included. While my alumni status set me apart from the student body the conference was targeting, it was nonetheless impactful. Powered by worship, guest speakers, and small group discussion, the Ivy Conference asked students to prayerfully consider full-time ministry and challenged me personally in more ways than I expected.

On the drive up, I was praying to be broken and remolded over the weekend. My prayer was answered. Though I cannot share in this brief article all that I would like, I will share a few thoughts about how God remade me for His will over those few days.

One phrase that struck me from Holly Sheldon's (she is a Campus Crusade for Christ International staff member who worked in East Asia for the last twenty years) talk was, "Are you going to dedicate your life to vocational ministry, or are you going to get a job, get a house, get a spouse, and get plugged into a church?" It called to question the lukewarm Christian lifestyle that is so prevalent in

the Westernized world today. After hearing what Holly and others had to say that night, I experienced a profound clarity about my role to actively spread the Good News; a calling to have a personal ministry



Rob Ranney

regardless of whether I pursue full-time ministry or not. Until that weekend, I felt I had to wait until I had this Christian life all together before I mentored and shared with others. But I'll never have it all together, so what was I waiting for? Jesus meets each of us where we are, and He can use you and me to reach others with whatever life experiences we have. God's message to me was clear. The wait was over. The time is now. I have since then engaged many of my good friends, and extended my love

for those with whom I already have a deep Christian bond.

Another significant part of the conference for me was the scheduled solitude, where each student was allotted alone time to reflect on what had been said, and hear what God was saying to them. We were instructed to ponder what we hadn't surrendered completely to the Lord, be it our desires, our ambitions, our past, or our fears. What God brought to the surface during these 45 minutes was illuminating. Where I wasn't trusting God in my life, and what I was still holding onto soon became clear. I had felt blessed to have found my calling as a digital artist, but realized that I had abused that path. My creative passion had led to idolatry. While I had recognized how fortunate I was to have many talents, and opportunities to cultivate and

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- Rob Ranney '08.5

share those gifts, I realized I struggled with issues of pride and self-worship. I was so worried that in giving my life to God I would lose who I was. I failed to understand that God brings us closer to who He intended us to be. All we have to lose when following Him are the false misconceptions that we have allowed to define us.

This conference marked another huge milestone in my growth as a Christ follower. I left the conference refreshed with a renewed thirst to glorify and serve Him. I now have a better understanding of what the Lord desires for me in my time on earth. I look forward to a lifetime of sharing His love, growing continually in my Christian walk, and being remade constantly for His will.

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Transforming AIA

By Katie Wood '10

Throughout my four years at Brown, I have grown incredibly from being a member of Athletes in Action. When I came to Brown, I realized that I could choose to be anyone I wanted in this new place filled with a wide range of people and beliefs. Yet, I decided to stay true to my calling as a child of God.

The first couple of years were a little rough since only a few people would show up to the large group AIA meetings, and the women lacked a consistent Bible study. However, I grew exponentially during those first two years. I knew that if we shared our love for God with our teammates then the potential for growth within AIA and the potential to impact Brown's campus would be limitless.

As a ministry, our focus shifted to not only include the students who came to our meetings, but

to the people who we share our lives with every day, our teammates with whom we struggle through hours of grueling practice. What better opportunity is there to show people love than when you both have walked your last step and have reached the end of practice or a tough defeat together! We began to pray for our teammates: asking God to help us talk to them, allowing them to see God in us, and asking Him to open their hearts. Since then some of my teammates have told me that they want the same thing that has forever changed my life.

We have a great thing going on here at Brown as over 40 athletes are involved in small group Bible studies, around 50 athletes attend large group meetings, and over 20 attend the Northeast Winter Retreat held every year. Our vision is to have every athlete on campus know someone who is truly following Christ every day. With constant prayer and a solid support group, we believe that God will move in a mighty way on Brown's campus, specifically within the athletic community.

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To contact Katie, email her at katie_wood@brown.edu ■

Being silly at the Athletes in Action large group meeting!





A few of the Brown ladies at the Ivy Conference

Sending Students to East Asia – A Brown Tradition

By Brodie Herb

Every year, for over ten years, the Campus Crusade ministries at Brown University have sent students to East Asia on summer project. This partnership has consistently brought life change to both the students sent and the East Asian students that have so warmly received them. This past summer Julia Kim '12 trusted the Lord to use her to reach her peers in East Asia.

Julia shared, "I have learned so much, and seen God move so much among the students and within our team. The gospel is so powerful. This fact seems too basic, but despite its importance and simplicity, it's something I still manage to forget so often when I get afraid. God reminded me of this fact repeatedly when I took steps of faith (though it took a while) and just shared. Students whom I thought had very little interest, of hearing the gospel,

became eager to learn more. One student who had never met a Christian before in her life, upon hearing the gospel, became very interested in reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus."

There are many similarities between the students in East Asia and those that live down her hall. Julia recently expressed in a letter, "Among the students that I talked to, the ignorance of the gospel was so great." Julia, after regularly sharing her faith and being trained in ministry skills, has expressed an increased desire to share the love of Christ with her friends. She is always trying to better use her time and rearrange her schedule to allow for increased time engaging in spiritual conversations. Relating her experiences in East Asia to those at Brown, Julia says, "Towards the end of the trip, I realized that though we had shared the gospel with a few students, there were still so many unreached students left."

While in East Asia Julia was able to see one of the greatest

blessings in life. "I was at a restaurant with my friend and after hearing the gospel, she accepted Christ." It was an incredible experience for Julia to see the Lord use her to change the eternity of a friend! Julia continued to say, "After we separated that day, I checked my phone, and I got a message from another team member: 'I'm praying for you guys.' I looked at the time he sent it, and I realized that that was around the same time my friend chose to receive Christ. Prayer is huge!"

Summer projects continue to be one of the best things we do in our ministries. God faithfully multiplies the investment and sacrifice of time and resources in all those that participate, support, or are reached by the ministry of these great mission and leadership opportunities.

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Find out more about summer projects at www.gosummerproject.com. ■



Julia Kim '12



Reconciliation Without God?

On Monday, February 8th, 2010, Brown University will be hosting its first *Veritas Forum* in the Salomon Center on the Main Green.

The *Veritas Forum* (www.veritas.org) is a university event that engages students and faculty in discussions about life's hardest questions and the relevance of Jesus Christ to all of life. The forums are created by local university students, professors, and ministers, while shaped and guided by the headquarter Veritas team.

Our guest speaker is the President and Founder of the *Yale Center for Faith and Culture*, Miroslav Volf, and our topic will be, "Is Forgiveness and Reconciliation Possible Without God?" Volf is well known and well respected in academia, so we're hoping that this event will attract students and professors of all religious and spiritual backgrounds, including those that consider themselves atheist, agnostic, or skeptic. We are praying that they consider the relevance and necessity for Christ.

Additionally, we're hoping this event will further advance the already growing sense of community among the various Christian campus ministries at Brown. Even though this event will be primarily coordinated and directed by CCC Staff,

Jarrold Lynn (Brown '05, M'07), all of the Christian ministries will be playing key roles to glorify God in this endeavor.

Learn more about the Veritas Forum at www.veritas.org/brown.



CHC Christmas party

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

Praises!

- ◇ God provided a Protestant Chaplain who truly supports our mission.

Athletes in Action

- ◇ Every week, new student-athletes have attended our weekly AIA gatherings where we unpack the Gospel.
- ◇ Tyler '11 and Luke '12 led their football team in Christ-centered prayers before every game.
- ◇ Sthef '12 has started a Bible study specifically for her basketball team.

College Hill for Christ

- ◇ Students are serious about serving the campus and having personal ministries.
- ◇ Students are taking steps of faith to make sharing the Gospel part of their everyday life.

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for ...

- ◇ More Brown students to turn to Christ as we share His Gospel on a more regular basis.
- ◇ More financial sponsors who can help students attend life-changing conferences and mission-trips.

Athletes in Action

- ◇ Students to further explore the relevance and impact of the Gospel to every area of their lives.
- ◇ Students to make time daily to connect with God.
- ◇ Students to faithfully and honestly pursue God over their winter break.

College Hill for Christ

- ◇ More students, especially underclassmen, to take leadership in our ministry.