



**Columbia Students
for Christ**

CSFC Newsletter

CSFC VISION:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God”

- 1 John 4:7 -

We seek to make the reality of God the deepest part of our lives by intensifying our relationships with God, believers, and non Christians.



From October 14-16 CSFC attended the CCC metro-wide Fall Retreat at Starlake Camp in New Jersey. We had the chance to enjoy the weekend away from New York City and understand God’s control over our lives as we walk with Him.

Highlights of October:

- CCC Fall Retreat
- Outreach Night
- Corporate Prayer and Prayer Booth
- Coffeehouse
- Ivy League Leadership Conference

Welcome to the first issue of CSFC’s newsletter!

Hi everyone! CSFC has created a monthly newsletter to share how God is actively working in the lives of Christians at Columbia and Barnard. Members of the fellowship share personal experiences and reflections on special events or large group.

CSFC’s vision is to intensify our relationships with God, Christians and non-Christians, and

the only way to do this is through love, the greatest characteristic of God. Through this newsletter we hope to portray the many ways in which God is the greatest reality of our lives.

“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:12





“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”

- Acts 2:42-43

Outreach Week

Prayer

Lindsay Kugler

Outreach week was a definite stretch for our fellowship. Leading up to this week we were having problems between ourselves, so it seemed impossible to pull together and show others how great it is to be a Christian. However, we started the week off right. Every Monday night we have a prayer meeting, and this week we used that time to come together and pray with each other, focusing on confession and community. We laid our selves down for God, and allowed Him to work through us. This is essential for spreading the Word, but also is key to having a God-driven ministry. God used that prayer meeting to show us how much we need Him in our lives, personal ministries, and our fellowship. He also showed how important it is to have Christian brothers and sisters for support, which was not only useful for the rest of the week as we went out sharing our faith, but for the fellowship as a whole. 😊



↑ Girls and giant Michelle at Fall Retreat.

CSFC gentlemanly seniors. ↓



Prayer Booth

Lu Han

So, once again I was reminded about how little faith I had. I really didn't think the prayer booth thing wouldn't "work" (whatever that means). I thought that no one would come asking for prayer or writing down prayer requests. I even expected some ridiculing. But of course, I was so wrong. People came, people knew they needed prayer, people realized there was some power in prayer or at the very least, that it couldn't hurt. Also it brought the fellowship together just a little bit more when we got together to pray for the people who asked for prayer. 😊

Outreach Night: a QuEST

Kai Chang

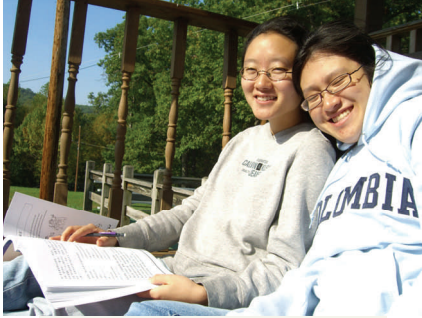
Many amazing things have been happening in the past few weeks but what impacted me most was the outreach night we had this past Thursday. As part of our outreach week events, instead of having a normal large group meeting, we trained everybody who came on Thursday on how to do contact evangelism using QuEST surveys and Knowing God Personally tracks. I was very encouraged that we had such a good showing of people. About twenty of us went

out to evangelize, several of whom never did contact evangelism before. We were

able to have over thirty spiritual conversations and gave several gospel presentations. I was especially thankful for the freshmen who came out to evangelize with us. I am confident that through their faith and the faith of those who went out, seeds were planted and hardened hearts were made less hard by our Lord. Please pray that this experience will only spark more heart for the lost and that the members of our fellowship will be encouraged to have a lifestyle of witnessing and evangelism. 😊



Michelle and Andrea
“studying” at Fall re-
treat.



Barnard girls, Grace, Lu
and Sabrina, and jazz
performers Victor,
Wenhai, Jon and DJ at
CSFC Coffeeshouse.



Reaching our dorms

Grace Yeh

It was overall a very odd experience for me, but in a good way of course. I had thought about going to my dorm (Elliot) to share with my floormates before Thursday, but Jess, my partner, and I went to the Quad first anyway. The whole time when we approached and talked to people and filled out surveys, I just did not have a good feeling about doing it at the Quad. I guess I was a little scared of going up to people, but that was only part of it. So Jess and I prayed about it, and I just felt really really desperate for the Holy Spirit to come. I felt like I needed to see and feel God. So then we went to Elliot, and I ended up talking to Kate, one of my floormates, who is also a Christian (Lutheran to be specific), so we had conversations that were already religion-based. As I was leaving though, Kate took one of my surveys and went next door to Laura, who had her door open (so did Kate when I walked in to talk to her). I didn't think Laura wanted to do the survey because she had already turned down Jess (poor Jess =/) but she actually was fine with it because she said she would “do anything for our floor.” So Kate basically did it for me, but I was standing right beside them, so as I saw that Laura has tried Christianity, is still searching, and on a scale of 1-10 she rated 10 as her desire to meet God personally, I just felt so strongly in my heart that I *had* to talk to her. By then we had to get back to Earl, but I was like, screw it. So I talked with her, basically following up on how she answered to some of the questions on the survey and had her explain further. She's basically an agnostic, and she used to go to a Catholic church where she felt the priest didn't know what he was doing, which basically turned her away from religious institution. But she believes in God as a higher being, and she believes in prayer, even that it doesn't have to be formally spoken words. Hearing this and also that they were leaving for a Halloween party in like 10 minutes, I decided to share with her my most recent experience with prayer, which is basically that it could be just you pouring out your emotions to God and even though both of you are silent, you know that God is there and He is hearing your cries, and you have this inexplicable peace in your heart. I was really glad that she was so open to hearing me out because we had never talked before, the most we did was saying hi to each other. I just felt like, and also hope that it was a good start for building relationships and eventually sharing on a deeper, spiritual level. I was really glad that my prayer was answered, that God opened my floormates' doors, literally, and led me to talk to them.



Reaching the Yard

Lillian Lam

Campus Crusade has been such a home to me. These past three years have been nurturing growth and warm encouragement from my fellowship, especially in the areas of being vocal about my faith. This past week our outreach event during large group, we went around campus student centers and knocked people's doors to conduct QuEST spiritual surveys. I felt especially compelled to reach out to my fellow Barnard women, so I took my friend Sophia with me and braved the corridors of Barnard. The

first three doors were not so pleasant, as we were turned away by some uncomfortable people. But when we knocked on the third door, we approached a girl who wanted to find a fellowship on campus. She had been curious about the Christian groups on campus, but never had the time to explore them. Sophia and I were so excited to talk to her! Somehow I had come to believe that God did not work as mightily at Barnard, but I was wrong. God is faithful, and as long as we're seeking His glory, he will prove to be in our midst.



Coffeehouse

Grace Yeh



Yi-Ting playing “Amazing Grace”.

CSFC Freshmen ladies at Coffeehouse.

Before it even started, I was already stressed out over decorations and getting the food. I was actually feeling a little discouraged about the program because it seemed so... lacking. But I was so wrong. All the performances spoke to me, some in a very personal way. I can't quite explain it, but it was good stuff. I think overall the program just brought me back to the basics, level one with God. From Yi-Ting's playing Amazing Grace, to Jon's poem that I had previously heard, it was like hearing the same thing but having different strings of my heart plucked. I remember Jon said something like, "By grace I was found" in one of his poems, and I don't know it just kind of hit me. I remember the feeling of gratitude that I felt when I first heard of these words, and tonight I felt it again. Then before the body worship Jess mentioned how amazing the theme just kind of spontaneously switched to grace, and honestly I did not think it was a coincidence. The body worship truly touched me; the junior girls did an amazing job despite the technical difficulties. I never used to get body worship, but this time the lyrics really spoke to me, and I actually got the motions as well =P It sounds kind of corny, but when people mention grace, I naturally think of, well, myself, since my name is Grace. I guess coffeehouse reminded me of just how simply amazing God's grace is, and despite of the struggles and burdens I've been experiencing these days, His grace is sufficient for me, for His power is made in weakness, as from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, one of my favorite passages. At coffeehouse, God told me, here is my grace, take it, it's more than you'll ever need.



Ivy League Leadership Conference

Michelle Chu

The Ivy League Leadership Conference, held this November 4-6, was a truly challenging one. The speaker, Greg Ganssle from the Rivendell Institute at Yale, had us examine Luke 5 and the characters in it. He challenged us to see ourselves in each of the characters and also see what we were missing. One of the points that really lingered in my mind was from the story of the paralyzed man who was brought to Jesus through the roof of a house by his four friends. The paralyzed man was far from God and had no way to get close to him except through his friends who forcibly brought him closer. The speaker conveyed to us that this was how we needed to be to our brothers and sisters in need. It is our duty not to leave our suffering brothers and sisters alone. This was a point that I had been thinking about lately: what it means to be a friend and what it means to encourage or be accountable.

Another point that made an impact for me was the point that we were meant to celebrate Jesus: that Jesus is cause for celebration, not weeping. I thought of how often I make my faith a struggle and a trial. Yet, that I know Jesus is a wonderful thing and one worth celebrating even in the midst of storms. The conference also made me think about my future and think more seriously about what to do after college. I had had tentative ideas but nothing too concrete. I cannot say I have any concrete plans yet but I did realize that I had been limiting myself. Hearing the stories of past and present graduates of the Ivy League and how they impacted the world for Jesus made me see how small my dreams and goals had been. I had been far too afraid of failure and had contented myself with small goals but I saw that these past graduates had relied on the Lord completely to use their lives and had been used in significant ways. I pray that I too can look beyond myself and be used by Him.



Upcoming events:

- Interfellowship large group
- John Jay Thanksgiving Dinner
- Interfellowship Thanksgiving Dinner