

InterVarsity At Southwestern College



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December 2007

Filled at Fall Conference

From November 9-11, 120 students from all over San Diego travelled to Catalina Island for InterVarsity's Fall Conference titled Soul Food. Some were Christians looking to learn more about God. Others were non-Christians searching for more in general. But all of them were trying to answer the question, "What are You Hungry For." Every one of the students came hungry for more. More than the broken families they came from. More than the bad relationships they were involved in. More than drugs and alcohol. They used these things to fill them in the past, but these could never really fill them. Only God could do that for them. Only Jesus could truly quench their thirst.

14 students from Southwestern attended the conference, three of whom were non-Christians. Although the conference was only three days, God worked quickly and powerfully through the speakers, small groups, worship and through prayer. Each main session the students were

transformed when the speakers identified what they thirsted for, how to fill that thirst with Jesus and how to continue to be filled through sharing your faith with others. Two of our students in particular, Larry and Steven, responded to the talks with a commitment and recommitment to Jesus. It was amazing to see the students bond so quickly with one another in their small groups. God even ignited one student, Angel, in her passion to pray for others. In total eight students at the conference made first time commitments and nine made recommitments. Praise God for the work that he did that weekend!

Please pray that the transformation that happened at Catalina would continue back on campus. That the students who experienced God would want to share Him with their friends back in San Diego.



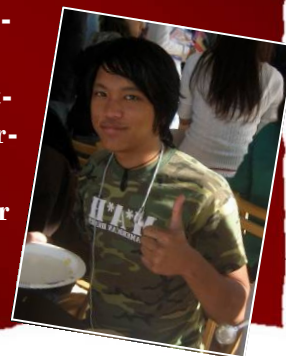
Students Leading Students

In a culture where staff generally are the ones leading the students it's refreshing to see a shifting of influence. This semester we have come to see more students leading their peers whether it be through Bible study, worship & prayer nights or through discipleship. Praise God for this shift. It has been amazing to look around and see students intentionally leading and sharing their faith. Whether it be through Aaron leading Bible, study, Hannah teaching her friend Maricel how to pray, Evan bringing his friends with him to the homeless shelter, or Arturo leading his friend Brian to Christ, our students are growing in their influence.

Please pray for those students that are leading their peers, that they would continue to have influence. Also pray for new avenues of influence among the students.



Larry grew up Catholic but was very distant from God. He had many things that prevented him from relying on God such as alcohol, drugs, girls, or a job. At Catalina he realized that those could not be used as excuses anymore and in response made a first time commitment to Jesus. Since then he has been inviting his friends to InterVarsity knowing that God has something for them as well. Praise God!





Praises

- For a fruitful semester.
- That the Latino population on campus are receiving the gospel through the Spanish speaking Bible study.
- For our new advisor, Maya.
- For 20 people who came to our first worship & prayer night

Please Pray

- For Jeff, Larry and Brian as they are starting their relationship with God.
- For our students as they head into the holiday season.
- For our group as we are going through changes.
- For my fundraising. I am 81% funded and only need \$9k.

Personally Speaking...

Growing up my identity was heavily dependent upon outside forces. Many things would determine it such as popularity, performance, success or failures, what others thought of me and how I was emotionally feeling at the time. Although these can highlight some aspects of my life, I have been realizing they are not indicators of who I am deep down. In the end the truth of who I am is determined only by what God thinks of me. God has been bringing up these issues of inadequacy and worth a lot this past semester. Whether it be in my every day job as a staff worker leading students or as a worship coordinator and worship leader at my church, I am constantly reminded that my identity rests not on what I do but who God says I am. This has been a stretching process. Especially when God brings up things that I don't like about myself such as pride or selfishness which is not easy due to my perfectionism. But it is encouraging to know that finding our identity rooted in God's love is not a one time thing but rather a process. He will constantly be redefining us.

Please pray that I would continue to find my identity in God. Also pray for perseverance during this tiring season.



The Power of Worship & Prayer

It's said that you can tell the popularity of your group by the number who come to your main meeting; and you can tell the popularity of Jesus by the number who come to the prayer meeting. In our very first worship and prayer meeting called WP40 we saw just that. Students, both Christian and non-Christians, came to receive prayer and worship together. About 20 students attended the prayer meeting, 6 of them were non-Christians. We never thought that a meeting would be that attractive, let alone a prayer meeting. It was amazing to know that people are attracted to our group not just because of the people in it but rather they are attracted because Jesus is present.

Please pray for our next WP40 on December 20. That the students who attend would encounter God in a real way.

Gearing Up for Spring Semester

As fall semester comes to an end, it is amazing to see the work that God has done in our group. Three Bible studies (one of them specifically for Spanish speakers), a monthly worship and prayer night called WP40, community building sports gatherings, several trips to a homeless shelter downtown to serve others, helping out migrant workers after the San Diego fires; God has brought so much growth and change. Praise God that his work is not done. We know that He has so much in store for spring semester. We will continue to have Bible studies on campus and will have our monthly worship prayer nights. Our large group meetings will be changing to one that not only feeds the students spiritually but also develops them into leaders that will influence their friends and peers.

Please pray for our group as it will be going through changes next semester. That no matter what our structure looks like the students will still be receptive and God will continue to be glorified.

Thank you for your partnership this past year. It is encouraging to know that through your support God's work is being done at Southwestern. As the end of the year is approaching would you prayerfully consider blessing the ministry further through a one time gift or by committing to support the ministry regularly, as I only have \$9k more to raise this year. I have enclosed an envelope if you wish to support the ministry further. If this is something that you are interested in let me know. Thank you again for everything. Blessings this holiday season!