



university presbyterian church
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One Purpose

Fall 2010

From the fullness of his grace we have all
received one blessing after another.
John 1:16



Our Faith Journeys

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Editors' Introduction Letter



Rev. Soon Chung is the senior pastor at University Presbyterian Church. If not tending to his business, then he's spending time with his kids, cheering on the Bruins, or feeding people.

A blessing is not complete until you share it!

For this edition of One Purpose we asked UPers to share testimonies about what God has been doing in their lives. We wanted to give people the opportunity to share what God has been teaching them and how God has answered their prayers. We hope that you will be blessed through their testimonies and that their blessings continue on through you!

Faithfully yours,

Editors of One Purpose



Enjoy the Good Times

Clockwise from top: Pastor Soon and the guests at the Presbytery Meeting; the beautiful ladies of UP; Albert and Phi chilling at the spring retreat; Hojin helping out with the check-in at the retreat; the seniors, their speakers, and the hosts gathering for a group photo; Taekyoon, Marthew, and Ling attacking the refreshments.



Fresno Urban Internship by Kevin Nguyen-Le

From his blog, Kevin Nguyen-Le shares the last day of his adventures at Fresno Urban Internship offered by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.



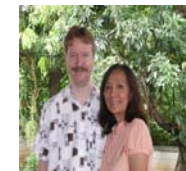
Listening to God at the Hospital by Yvonne Chang

Yvonne shares her experience as a chaplain intern at the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica this summer. Read how she still came to be the light of Jesus despite being forbidden to proselytize.



Getting on the I-5 Freeway for a Quality Time with God by Yumi Lee

Yumi shares how experiencing God's blessings can happen in the unlikely of places and time such as when you are stuck in a traffic at the I5 freeway.



A Testimony from Thailand by Nhuvan Erickson

Nhuvan Erickson, a long-term missionary, shares how by faith, she has begun her journey to be a worker for the harvest of Heaven in the underdeveloped countries in Southeast Asia.

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Submissions are welcome! Please send any submissions to:

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Summer

Clockwise from top left: Agape beach bonfire; Bible Study on Food: Marthew and Christine showcasing their tiramisu & Dutch apple pie, demonstrations of various dishes by Laine Furukawa with Taeho filming, and Esther & Pastor Soon with Alex as the cameraman; at the center, Agape Huntington Beach trip group photo.



A Testimony from Thailand, cont.

want anything to happen to them. But we arrived safely to our destination and several months later, the boat we had been on sank, because there was a hole in it. Again, we see God protected us during our time there.

”The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”
- Matthew 9:37-38

God is sovereign and faithful. We went to the northern part of another country where I had never been. This was near China. Despite my lack of knowledge in these areas, I had to be our guide because our friend was not able to go with us. I needed to get train tickets for all of us to go back to the city so we would be on time for our flights, but we could not be sure if there were any available. God’s faithfulness answered our prayers and overcame present obstacles, and we got the tickets. Wow! Praise God, we were all safe and returned to our countries.

Oh, Lord, You were so gracious to us. By faith, I trust the Lord will continue to do great works in the lives of each person who was with us in Thailand, China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

By faith, I trust in His Word that says, “One day every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Jesus told His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37, 38).

P.S. While I was writing this, God again showed his faithfulness and how he knows the desires of my heart. I tried to look up the verses in the N.T. where Jesus said that we need to pray for more missionaries. When I opened my Bible, a little card fell out with the exact verses that I wanted: Mt. 9:37, 38. When I saw the card and the verses, I was overcome with joy that brought tears to my eyes. Jesus is so, so good and He is very much real.



The local Vietnamese villagers listening to the Gospel that is being preached by Kerry and Nhuwan.



Kevin Nguyen is a 3rd year UCLA undergraduate who loves to dance!

From the blog: Fresno urban internship



By Kevin Nguyen-Le

Our last day at ministry:

All of us interns wrote letters to each of our kids, which I hope all of them keep and remember us this summer. We had a farewell party and made root beer floats with our kids.

We also ended up getting surprised by Val, because she made us these huge Farewell cards for our kids to sign.

Everything was great until two high school girls, totally not with our program, burst into an argument that turned into a fight. It was horrible. An older man tried stepping in and cried out, “The kids! The kids!” But the damage was already done, and the children didn’t care. All the kids saw it and got excited. It was ridiculous. We had to evacuate all of our kids pronto. But my patience was wearing thin in this serious situation, because some of my kids were trying to do silly stuff like hiding so I couldn’t find them while they watched the rest of the fight. But thank God, we got them out of the park and headed back to the complex.

Fresno Urban Internship challenges young Christians to spend their summer being the light of Christ while living with the families and children in the neighborhoods of Fresno plagued by violence. He shares the last day of his ministry there. You can catch more of Kevin’s stories from Fresno at <http://ahhfui.wordpress.com/2010/09/01/update-6/>

And it was here where I had to explain to Joseph, who was one of the kids under my charge, why I didn't want him to watch the fight. Joseph was complaining that I wasn't letting him and the other kids watch the fight. It was here that I was reminded once again, that violence is an everyday reality in Fresno. Violence is not only considered a norm within Fresno but also an amusement. Sometimes, I would hear my kids in ministry say, "Oh, did you hear about that one kid last Saturday? I was there. Man, he got jumped!" When I asked Joseph if he thought people getting hurt was funny, he actually said yes.

It broke my heart to know that this was the reality in Fresno... and that Joseph, who was still very young, couldn't understand why violence was wrong. To him and other kids, violence involved guns, knives, and other weapons. Since fist fights didn't involve weapons, Joseph thought it was okay to punch or kick people when he felt angry or thought someone wronged him. It was a reminding WOW about what went on in Fresno. Someday, I hope he'll understand why violence is wrong, and that he can definitely do things to avoid

it and make the world a more positive place. Then I spent my last hours playing with my kids for the last time, and eventually gave them our goodbye cards. I had a very heartfelt goodbye with Andy, who was like my little brother, and I knew he was really disappointed to see me go too. I hoped to see all of them again next year somehow.

"I was reminded once again, that violence is an everyday reality in Fresno."

kids and I kept having really long sighs.

And I remember as if it were yesterday. I was on the ride home with other interns. It was quite depressing in the car. All I could think of was the



Kevin with the children he lived with during his stay at FUI.

Fresno Urban Internship, cont on pg. 13



Through faith He brought me to Thailand as a single person. Later, I married Kerry and we are serving our King of Kings in Thailand and the countries nearby. By faith, my husband and I have led short-term mission teams to different places. If you ask me, "Am I qualified or ready for this?" The answer is "No," but by faith, I do.

One of the trips, which I will not forget, was to Cambodia and Vietnam with a mission's team from your church. We had not planned to walk in the rice fields or go across the river at dusk and in the rain. There were possible dangers, such as snakes and centipedes and we had to, and I realize again

that God is so, so good. We walked and walked. Some of our shoes got stuck in the mud. My husband and I even saw a centipede that may have been poisonous.

"Am I qualified to do this?" The answer is "No," but by faith, I do.



A Bible story time for younger children at a local Christian school in Vietnam.

The same wooden raft we used to cross the river sank a couple of months after we crossed and 17 people died. However, God was good to us, taking care of us.

Later on during our time in Cambodia, we took a boat across the biggest lake in Cambodia with about 15 people altogether. While we were crossing, there was a storm. I thought, "It is ok for us if our time is over on earth, but what about the rest?" We looked back at our younger brothers and sister in Christ and said to ourselves that we felt sorry that they experienced this, for this was their first time in Cambodia. We were also concerned since we did not

2010 ANNUAL BROOMBALL NIGHT

October 29th, 2010
11:40PM-12:40AM



What is broomball?

It's like a hockey game on ice, but instead of the ice skates you wear your shoes!

Instead of the hockey sticks, you have brooms!

\$5 for each person

Brooms and ball provided by UPC

Dress Up in Costumes Optional!

Carpool available at URC 2nd Floor 11:00PM

Meet at the Ice Arena by 11:20PM

Ice Skating Rink in Van Nuys (On site parking)

14318 Calbert St. Van Nuys CA 91401

Listening to God at the Hospital

By Yvonne Chang

This summer I worked at the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica as an intern chaplain for eleven weeks. The program was called Clinical Pastoral Education and the goal was that through visiting patients and reflecting on the visits, I would learn how to offer better pastoral care.

I have to admit that I was skeptical at first about the care that I, as the chaplain, could give to a patient. I anticipated that it would be difficult to build enough trust with a patient for him or her to want to open up to me. Surprisingly, I found that people in the hospital were more willing to open up about their lives than I thought they would. Many people were lonely and perhaps scared and they appreciated having someone to talk to. As a chaplain, this meant that I had the opportunity to build relationships with people in a

way that I would not have been able to otherwise.

As I visited patients, I believe God was telling me to listen and learn from different patients and as a result of this listening, I found a compassion growing for them. Rob was a patient in his late twenties and a recovering alcoholic. He told me that he had not cared for his mother for most of his life but now recognized his mother's love. She was his main source of support - while he was in the hospital she took care of his two young daughters and held prayer meetings for him in her home. He struggled with the fact that his younger brother was taking the same path in life that he took and was understanding God's justice in unfair situations. I was struck by his transparency in sharing the mistakes that he has made, the lessons that he has learned and his on-going struggles. I thought to myself,



Yvonne is a staff at UP and the collegiate ministry director. She loves the Lord of the Rings movies!

“What can I do for Rob?” and I realized that my talking with him and praying with him was the best help that I could offer him.

This summer God also challenged a long-held belief I held that in order to care for another person, I needed to hide or ignore my feelings, beliefs, and personality. I was explicitly told that I could not proselytize in the hospital and this inhibited me at first. I was overly conscious that I would be seen as proselytizing and therefore I was very careful about what I would say to patients. I decided that I would try to show my faith in actions and not in words. What ended up happening was that I found myself uncomfortable with people asking me questions about myself and what I believed. If someone asked me a question about my faith, I was afraid that my response would be construed as proselytizing. If the patient asked me a question about myself, I tried to focus the attention back to the patient because I thought that offering care meant that the conversation should not be about me.

After a while, I began to feel very inauthentic in my visits. I felt I could not get past a certain level with patients because I was not allowing myself to respond to patients from my heart and I was hiding the “me” that patients wanted to connect to. Through some soul searching and conversations with people outside of the hospital, I learned that God was telling me to be free. Free to share who I am and what I believe if I was asked and even at other moments in conversations when it seemed natural to do so.

Listening to God at the Hospital, cont.

Through some soul searching and conversations with people outside of the hospital, I learned that God was telling me to be free.

Yvonne proudly shows her badge as a chaplain intern for the UCLA Medical Center.



A TESTIMONY FROM Thailand



From left: Marthew, Seunggon, Eun Young, Nhuvan and Kerry.

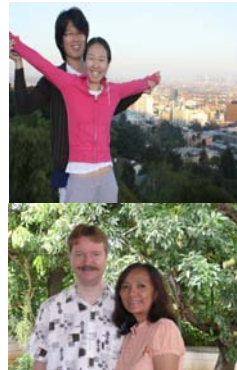
By Nhuvan Erickson

It was so wonderful how my life changed when I believed that I was a sinner and that Jesus, the only Son of God, came to earth and died on the cross for my sins and the sins of the whole world. I understood that He died, was buried and rose again on the third day, just as He had told His disciples. He showed His love in dying for me and I know He died because He was buried and I can trust in His power because He rose victorious from the dead. Before that I was very stressed and depressed and could cry all day, but now He

has given me much joy. Before he saved me, I could not reach out to help others because I was feeling sorry for myself.

Now that I have experienced His love, the Lord has given me a heart of concern for others. When I am struggling, the Lord reminds me again and again to continue to trust in Him and His power and love for me. He continually reminds me of these verses, Galatians 3:11 and 1 Thes. 5:24: “... The just shall live by faith” and “Faithful is He that called you who also will do it.”

A Testimony from Thailand, cont.



Marthew Wong, Eun Young Bae & Seunggon Jeong are faithful members of our community who have gone to Vietnam and Cambodia last summer for a short-term mission trip. Kerry & Nhuvan are missionaries in Thailand and alumni of UP

His heart was filled with sadness that he was leaving, but also with a complete joy that the Father had greater things in store for them.”

I am so blessed that I got to understand a small fraction of God’s immeasurable love for His city, Fresno, and all the people of Fresno, including our kids. And it was in this moment, that I came to the realization that this was probably what Jesus felt at Gethsemane as he saw the time had come for him to leave his disciples, and go take his place on the cross. His heart was filled with sadness that he was leaving, but also with a complete joy that the Father had greater things in store for them.

God taught me to really love these kids, and for me, a guy who doesn’t really cry much, to have cried and had my heart broken for these kids this summer was a life-changing experience. God had definitely changed me and filled my heart with a lot of love.



I was not to check my personality and beliefs at the door but I was to minister with my whole being – mind, soul, emotion and personality. With this new mindset, I was able to go to a deeper level with patients. One patient asked me challenging questions about God and I felt free to share what I believe as well as the fact that I did not know how to answer some of those questions. Another patient shared with me about how he had walked away from God and we ended up praying together to turn his life back over to God. With other patients, I felt that the best thing for me to do was to offer a listening ear.

I was not to check my personality and beliefs at the door but I was to minister with my whole being - mind, soul, emotion and personality.





Getting on the I-5 Freeway for a Quality Time with God



By Yumi Lee

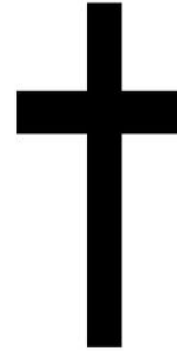
There is a journal that I keep, something I started about a year and 4 months ago to keep track of my walk with God. Something amazing about writing journals is that the more detailed and often you record about your days and thoughts, the more clearly it becomes a revelation of what and how God has been working in your life.

I knew I wanted to share something about my walk with God in One Purpose for a while, but it took me quite some time to get my first sentence started. I was reaching the deadline for submission, (and actually passed a few days) and was in dire need of something to get my thought process going.

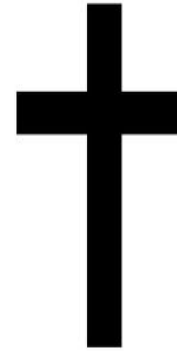
Then what came to mind was going through my old journal



When we reached where we were staying during FUI, I started reading my kids' goodbye card that they put together for me. It was a messy, but beautiful card. I was very surprised of their heartfelt messages. My kids told me that I made an impact on them, that they loved me, that they would miss me, that they wanted me to visit them again next year, and of course, the usual shenanigans my kids do (They were told to sign the card and They LITERALLY signed their names on there. Oh my dear kids....).



Before, I wondered how I would feel after leaving FUI. Midway through FUI, I realized how little time I had left... and predicted I'd be pretty sad leaving FUI... and maybe even having a hard time trusting God with my kids' futures when I left FUI, but I was pretty sure I wasn't gonna cry about it.



But it happened. Reading the card was the tipper. I suddenly felt my eyes becoming watery and I was thinking to myself, 'Lord, what is happening?'

C'mon, this can't be happening.' And after a brief struggle in my mind between repressing these feelings and letting them out, I finally told myself, "It's okay to cry," and I just cried.

My eyes are a bit watery as I'm typing this but I want to make this clear. I wasn't crying because I was just sad. Of course, I was sad that I was leaving them. But I was also crying for joy. Joy that God's work was done here in the summer, at FUI, and in these kids' lives, and that I got to be a part of God's plan. Joy to finally accept that God would do great things in these kids' lives and have plans and a future with hope for these kids. Also that God would provide others who would continue to impact them in the future. I finally could say to God that I would trust my kids to Him, because He was already doing things before, during, and after I would leave Fresno... and He loved them more than I ever could."

accept that God would do great things in these kids' lives and have plans and a future with hope for these kids. Also that God would provide others who would continue to impact them in the future. I finally could say to God that I would trust my kids to Him, because He was already doing things before, during, and after I would leave Fresno... and He loved them more than I ever could.



Clockwise from above: the congregation gathers to watch the beach Baptism; Katie, Rachel, Steven and James having fun at VBS; teachers, volunteers, and kids all enjoying body worship at VBS; Pastor Soon with Jiyeon, Ji Eun, and Ling who are waiting to be baptized.

Memories



entries, where I hoped to find something that grabbed my attention to begin the reflection on how God has blessed me throughout the past few years.

There are actually numberless things that I could testify about the good works of God in my life, probably millions in each day if I really sat down and began to write about every single second of how God has allowed me to live out each moment under His provision, protection, and loving care.

How God has allowed me to live out each moment under His provision, protection, and loving care.

But to focus on one particular event, I would like to share about how God has blessed me in the past year in no other place than the infamous Interstate-5 Freeway.

For the longest time since August 28, 2009 (and probably before that, too) my prayer was 'to move back to LA'. As simple as that sounds, it took me about a year to have that request granted. and If it had not been by the grace of God and His blessings, I would probably be still making 70-mile roundtrip commutes on 3-4 days out of the week.

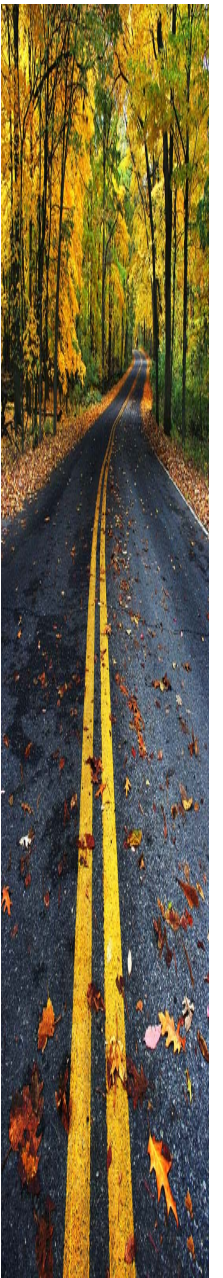
The traffic on the I-5 as you may all know it by experience, is HORRENDOUS. There was one time that it took me over 2 hours to get home from LA to Buena Park at 11:20PM. Random freeway closures and never-ending constructions were not always the reason for

the unexplainable phenomenon. I recall one Saturday afternoon when it took me over 2 hours just to get to Downtown LA that I literally cried out loud in frustration while still driving in the car.

But believe it or not, living far away from church and experiencing countless encounters with the worst-LA-traffic-ever didn't result in a horrific nightmare of me going insane and becoming excruciatingly angry and gnashing my teeth at all times, but instead turned into valuable and memorable blessings in the past year of my life.

You may be asking, 'How could being stuck in traffic be in any way, A BLESSING?' But as I look back on those days of sitting through hours and hours

Getting on the I5 Freeway for a Quality Time with God, cont.



in traffic, I can say that it was probably the most gratifying moment that I was able to just sit (and I do really mean, just 'sit') and spend some quality time with God. Sometimes I would just pray out loud in desperation for His mercy to help me not get so angry and yell at other drivers; sometimes I would practice my horrific harmony without embarrassing myself for sounding so horrible in front of others; and sometimes I would listen to encouraging Words on the radio and be blessed in ways to be strengthened for the rest of the day. The point is that whatever I was doing to survive through the agony of being stuck in a traffic jam, God was using that moment to meet me and draw me closer to Him.

the I-5 Freeway, there is really no LA traffic jam that can take my joy away from spending some quality time with God.



Yumi Lee is a UCLA alumna who graduated in 2009 with a degree in Architectural Studies. Yumi now lives in Brentwood (Praise the Lord!) and works in Westwood, and is one of the interns at UPC. Yumi continues to harmonize to songs while she drives, but the practice time may have been cut short due to a 1-mile commute distance.

Whatever I was doing to survive through the agony of being stuck in a traffic jam, God was using that moment to meet me and draw me closer to Him.

I think as stressful and both emotionally and physically draining it may have been for me to commute from home to LA in the past year, I could really say that it was a time of blessing to meet with God on a regular basis, wherever it may have been.

And how grateful and blessed am I, that now having been fully-trained in the course of traffic at



Beach Fun

Clockwise from top left: Yunkyung and Da Young under a parasol; Jiyeon, Yehwan & Andrew after successfully submerging(?) Yumi with beach sand; Wooghee and Jiyeon pose for the camera; baby Micah curiously glances up at Seunggon and Christine; UP beach volleyball in Santa Monica-Seuggon and Tim high-fives after scoring a point

