

# asian christian fellowship

## A Weekend to Remember: 2002 ACF Winter Retreat

Tonnie Ng

OK... so let's take a moment to reflect a little bit about the ACF Winter Retreat that took place about three weeks ago at Whitehall Camp. For those of you who didn't get to go, you missed a really great retreat. I can't remember the last time I laughed so much or so hard!! The guest speaker, Pastor Andy Tso, was hilarious. I loved how he combined his talks with great stories about himself, his experiences, and his family, and the spurts of Chinese mixed with English, commonly referred to as Chinglish, was enough to send me into fits of hilarity more than once. (By the way, I fervently apologize to anyone unfortunate enough to sit next to me during those times... I know I have a tendency to umm... project my voice without realizing it sometimes. So again, I apologize.)

Looking back on the retreat, trying to remember what was said and shared, I realize that I learned much more than I had originally thought. Sometimes it's so easy to get caught up in the ways of the world—what people value, what they strive for, what they believe—that it can be very difficult sometimes to keep God in the equation, too. Yet it's not about what we want or value or believe; it's about what God wants for us, what God values, and what God teaches us to believe. I know not everyone believed everything Pastor Andy talked about in some of his discussions, particularly the parts involving the roles of women, but to all those who question what was said, I want to challenge you to look to God for the answers rather than look to the examples of the world. I'm not saying that all the women who hold positions of prestige and power are in the wrong; on the contrary, more power to them, but I am suggesting that maybe God didn't intend for His world to be this way, just as He never intended for people to kill and oppress one another.

Although it's true that I did take a lot away from all the discussions on the roles of men and women, the most important lesson I learned came not from one of Pastor Andy's talks but from observing all of you over the entire weekend. The most valuable lesson I learned was how important it was for us, guys and girls alike, to be there for one another, to be a friend to someone regardless of

how well or how long you've known each other. Three weeks ago, I watched as a room full of almost 100 people came together to comfort a friend in need of reassurance. I was touched by the encouragement you gave one another during and after the self-esteem workshop, and I was honored to be allowed to sit in on and participate in a conversation that brought two friends closer together. I realized that although guys should remember the phrase "Christian chivalry" and girls should strive to remember to be strong, yet helpful (I don't like the word submissive), we should always remember that God brought us together to support, teach, love, and learn from one another, because He loves us.

*Tonnie Ng reminds us that we are to be reflections of Christ's love.*

## An Invitation

His Beloved



Don't you miss the great time spent with friends while doing community service? Are you looking for an evangelism activity? Then come join our Independence Court origami project. It's a great way to reach out to the community. The residents love the colorful papers and young people. If you are interested please contact our cell group.

His Beloved

*Jojo Dong is a member of His Beloved. Contact her at [zdong@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:zdong@andrew.cmu.edu) if you are interested in joining their project.*

***A huge "Thank You!" goes out to everyone who contributed!***  
*The leaders of ACF reserve the right to edit submissions for appropriateness.*

# To Clarify What I Shared...

Wynne Lee

Hello. I think I need to clarify what I shared at retreat. The gist of what I said was supposed to be a word of encouragement to be involved in fellowship during college, but I started to choke on tears as I went on to explain how work had been very hard my first year. I got quite a few questions about that afterwards, so I'm going to share a little more about that and where God has been taking me.

I might have scared some of you when I said work had been really hard. It would be fairer to explain that it's my first time working in the manufacturing industry, outside of a Christian environment. I was spoiled by having only ever worked with children or with adults in a Christian setting. And even college shielded me from a lot. I had been in a bubble for four years.

But I don't hate it. It's been a learning experience that has had its very difficult, yet rewarding moments. I should also tell you that I was very blessed to have a Christian for a boss, who shielded me from a lot of the harshness. He didn't have to do that, but he did until he slowly let the floodgates open. This way I would learn on my own, yet not be overwhelmed. And all of it has made me just a little bit stronger. It wasn't exactly how I thought I was going to grow, but then again, if I knew the plans, it wouldn't have been as rewarding.

It was also hard finding a strong body of fellowship. My fellowship is lukewarm, and I have yet to see us have the same fervor I see at ACF. And as much as I love the people there, I can't help but wonder sometimes if they go because they're shopping for a significant other. Don't get me wrong—I think dating & courtship is a blessing, when its purpose is centered on God. But it's distracting when dating itself becomes the purpose. That stumbling block, coupled with a lukewarm fellowship, and the everyday stresses of work—just really make me miss ACF and college all over again.

So anyway, I'm sorry if I frightened you. I was really trying to put more emphasis on getting involved with fellowship. It doesn't have to be ACF, but be a part of one. You probably can't see it now, but trials and tribulations really prepare you for a lot. Maybe you can't use it now, but the lessons you learn come in pretty handy. The same old fellowship of people you see every week will become your strongest spiritual partners. The painful moments you deal with during college will make you spiritually stronger and better prepared to deal with bigger issues.

I know college isn't easy. Gosh, I wanted to drop out freshman year! But I was determined to stick it out, and I learned. Because I dealt with a whole lot of stuff in college, I know how to pray for difficult coworkers, desperate men, and somehow through it all, still stay pretty focused on Jesus. BTW, I'm really not all that wise. :P I just learn from my experiences.

And finally, I want to leave this verse with you: Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers (and sisters!), I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. [Philippians 3:12-14]

Your loving sister, Wynne

*Wynne Lee is one of several ACF alumni who returned for the weekend to attend this year's Winter Retreat.*

## acf-yak bboard

Chris Lin

Just wanted to let you know that if you are tired of getting acf-yak emails directly in your inbox, you can access it as a bboard by subscribing yourself to user.acf.acf-yak

To do this, telnet into a unix machine like sun4.andrew.cmu.edu. Bring up pine, and go to the bboard folders. Type s to subscribe and type in user.acf.acf-yak

Unfortunately it's only available for CMU users right now. I've got a similar solution for UPitt users but I'll need a few volunteers to test it first.

Still confused? Email me and let me know – I'm a poor CS major that can talk only in techie terms ;)

*Chris Lin is still reading Tolkien, so unconfuse yourself by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/acf-yak> to find out more. Email him at [lin3@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:lin3@andrew.cmu.edu) if you need help getting started.*

*Angeline Wong got confused and renamed Chris Lin's longhorn.*





# Spackle for the Future

Ron Urwongse

Walking into the Espe School for the first time was a truly amazing experience. I had heard stories of how large the building was and how much Pittsburgh Chinese Church (PCC) could use the additional space. I had even seen blueprints and photos of the building as PCC raised funds to purchase it.

But actually seeing it with my own eyes, feeling the vastness of the hallways, walking into the innumerable rooms, and climbing up and down the stairs – only then did I realize how great of a blessing the Espe building was to the church.

We walked out of the snow-encrusted landscape and into the now heated building on a cold and blustery Saturday. It had taken us nearly 45 minutes to drive through the snow to the Espe building from Oakland. For some of us, it took a little bit longer because the directions were a little bit off.

As we walked in, Pastor Tom and Gordon Ott greeted us at the door and guided us into the building. They gave us a brief tour of the building, walking us into each room and describing how the church would use each room. It was mind-boggling to imagine all the ways the church could use the building for God's work.

And imagine we did. We joked that the long hallways and the many rooms would be great for laser tag or paintball. We imagined what it would be like to have an ACF Winter Retreat at the building, and we imagined installing a Jacuzzi on the roof of the building along with a barbeque pit for social get-togethers.

After the tour, Pastor Tom instructed us in the skills of chipping away dried paint, removing nails and tacks from the walls, and then spackling the damage that we had inflicted upon the walls.

Spackling walls is probably the most fun thing you can do on a Saturday. Well, probably not, but it's a close second. You take this paddle, and you put this gunk on the paddle, and then you smear the gunk all over the wall. You do that over and over again until the wall is smooth. It's great!

It was definitely cool to see ACFers working alongside PCCers. It was a great reminder of the relationship between the fellowship and the church – how PCC has supported the fellowship and nurtured it to grow over the years. It was also a vision of how we could labor

together in the future to reach out to the community and present the Gospel to the people of Pittsburgh.

That Saturday was a memorable one, and the folks at PCC are very grateful for the time and labor the ACFers put into the building. There will be more workdays, and we will keep you all informed on opportunities to help out with the building and any other opportunities to support PCC in its ministry. Keep up the good work!

*Ron Urwongse spackles the way for future ACF and PCC ministries.*

## Retreat Photo Treats!



“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you are also doing.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NASB) Fellowshiping and writing spur notes, fun-filled features of every retreat!



“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to him!” – Ephesians 1:18 (TLB) A treasury of seniors! How many will come back for retreat next year?

*Ron Urwongse handpicked these photos for the newsletter. ☺  
Angeline Wong came up with the verses and captions.*

# Take Prayerlessness Down to Zero!

Prayer Meeting Information

- **Mondays, 4:40 – 5:40 p.m.**  
Wright-Rogal Chapel (UC Chapel, CMU)
- **Fridays, 5:00 p.m.**  
Chinese Room, Cathedral of Learning (Pitt)

*For more information, contact Captain Prayer—  
I mean Danny Bang—at [hbang@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:hbang@andrew.cmu.edu).*

## March Birthdays

- 2 – Lily Liu
- 9 – Kevin Fine
- 11 – Michelle Bang
- 16 – Rodney Goh
- 23 – Jojo Dong
- 30 – Crystal Hsiung
- 30 – Stephanie Ng



*We want to celebrate your birthday! Let Angeline Wong know when yours is by emailing her at [alwong@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:alwong@andrew.cmu.edu).*

## Jesus Week

Kevin Fine

Jesus Week is coming up fast—we only have 44 more days until the kickoff event! Please consider how God would use you to bless this campus through the ministry of Jesus Week. First and foremost, we're encouraging every believer to start praying for and building relationships with our friends. JW will be a great opportunity to invite friends to Christian events that they'll enjoy, and it will open the door for us to share the gospel with them! Besides that, we have lots of preparations in the works. Pray for the JW leaders—Tim Lo (Finance), Christine Oh (Prayer and Fasting), Dave Auger and Ron Urwongse (Publicity), Geraldine Ling and Talida Urwongse (Servant Evangelism), Tim Chen (Special Events), and Heather Krogh (Worship). And pray for me as God uses this little man as head servant. Please consider how you might help in one of these areas. True revival requires each part to do its work (Ephesians 4). Our next planning meeting is Saturday (3/2) from 1-3pm in the [UC] Alumni Lounge on CMU campus. Join with us as we take a missions trip to Pittsburgh; God is going to rock our worlds =)

*Kevin Fine is one of many servant leaders on the Jesus Week mission.*

## March Calendar of Events

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~acf/02schedule.htm>

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6 (NIV)

With this, ACF's theme verse for the semester, in mind, take a look (we encourage you to read the passages ahead of time) at what's coming up this month:

- 1 – Bible Study #4: Hosea 6-7
- 8 – Mid-Semester Break (no ACF meeting)
- 15 – Bible Study #5: Hosea 8-10
- 22 – Cell Night: Night Market
- 29 – Bible Study #6: Hosea 11-12

Events begin at 7 p.m. on the specified Friday. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the First Baptist Church. Rides, as appropriate, leave from the UC Circle (CMU) and Wm. Pitt Union (Pitt) at 6:30 p.m.

## IM Sports Info

Bryan Wang

This season we have a new ACF record of 8 badminton teams! Good luck to all the teams in their games! Also, basketball season has started, with the ACF team having a tough loss to HKSA to start the season, followed by a win (forfeit) over PIKA. Our upcoming games will be at:

Sunday 2/24 1 pm against Delt Scrubs

Tuesday 2/26 10:30 pm against Armageddon

Please come out and support your fellow ACF members!

Another sport that is coming up to look forward to is:

Basketball (3 on 3)

(email [bsw@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:bsw@andrew.cmu.edu) by Feb 27 with your team)

*Bryan Wang organizes sports activities for ACF. Watch for emails about pickup football or volleyball, or contact him at [bsw@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:bsw@andrew.cmu.edu) for the latest ACF sports information.*

## **verbumDomini**

The official word of God

Jesus say, "God wen get so plenny love an aloha fo da peopo inside da world, dat he wen send me, his one an ony Boy, so dat everybody dat trus me no get cut off from God, but get da kine life dat stay to da max foeva."

- John Tell Bout Jesus 3:16 (Da Jesus Book)