

asian christian fellowship

No Rinky-dink Servant Evangelism Here!

Angela Chen

March 6, 2002—Schenley Ice Skating Rink. The weather has been warm all day, so we don't really know if the ice will hold up. We posted on bboards, and we put signs around the dorms and academic buildings, but we don't really know if enough people are interested in skating tonight. Then again, free ice-skating is pretty cool the night before midsemester break, so maybe a lot of people will go... maybe too many. What if we don't have enough cars making rounds from the UC? *whew* Good thing it's not up to us to take care of these things!

Let's just pray hard and see God work tonight! And, once again God shrunk me down and showed me the way He works when we do things for Him. The ice was perfect despite the warm weather. (I have no idea how.) The rink was filled to the max, but nobody was left behind. Enough rides, enough room on the ice, enough hot chocolate, enough grace for my lack of faith.

See Ice Skating, back page

A New Year's Party, Chinese-Style

Vincent John Lee



The year is 4699.

The sky is dark. Hundreds of decapitated corpses are mercilessly strewn out in the open for public display. The air, rich with the aroma of roasted flesh, echoes with the cackles of elderly Chinese women responsible for their demise. Their judgment day had come. Their fate sealed.

And they tasted like chicken.

Sound to you like the opening to a futuristic sci-fi thriller? It should be (my idea first). But nay! Rather, these were indeed some of the sights and sounds beheld at the banquet hall of the North Hills Alliance Church

on February 16th, at the PCC [Pittsburgh Chinese Church] Chinese New Year Banquet!

The evening began in grand style with (what else?) a festive potluck dinner. Endless arrays of authentic Chinese dishes lined long tables, a mix of catered food as well as authentic dishes just like grandma used to make.

But dinner was only part of the night's activities. An evening program followed which showcased a number of impressive performances of traditional Chinese art. Talented PCC members performed pieces of Chinese opera and recited poetry from the Tang dynasty. Others sang traditional folk songs familiar to many in the audience. Other highlights included musical pieces featuring traditional Chinese instruments, such as the vibrant *Er-hu*.

Some in attendance came at the invitation of PCC members who took advantage of this outreach opportunity. They listened as Pastor Chang delivered a message reminding us of how great and sovereign God's faithfulness was to our church this past year. And lastly, the night was concluded with an uproarious skit by our very own Youth Fellowship, themed with a strong message: love one another.

Of course, what kind of New Year's party would be complete without dessert? Moon cakes of all kinds, cakes, pastries, drinks, and other delicacies were served, bringing a tasty conclusion to the night. And in the end, some were brought closer to faith in Christ by sharing in the celebration of a strong cultural bond common to both Christians and non-Christians alike.

It was certainly a good time had by all. And if you do happen to make it next year, take heed of this word of advice: exercise caution when encountering meat products of unknown origin.

Because they don't call it the year of the horse for nothin', you know.

Vincent Lee likes the meat in his Chinese dishes identifiable.

A big "Thank You!" goes out to everyone who contributed!

Ministering Across Cultures

Jonn'e Cheah

I recently attended InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's annual conference: Ministering Across Cultures. MAC is a cross-cultural program that trains you to be effective both in ministry and dealing with cultural conflict.

It was probably the most intense conference I've ever been to, but I definitely learned a lot. My two favorite sessions dealt with understanding our basic values and our methods of dealing with conflict.

Basic Values

Picture this scenario: *You are meeting together to work on a project. You show up on time, but the other guys show up an hour late. You all work hard, but every now and then the other guys just decide to take an hour's break and talk. The whole process ends up taking twice as long as it would have if you hadn't taken any breaks. You wonder how they could be so lazy and uncommitted.*

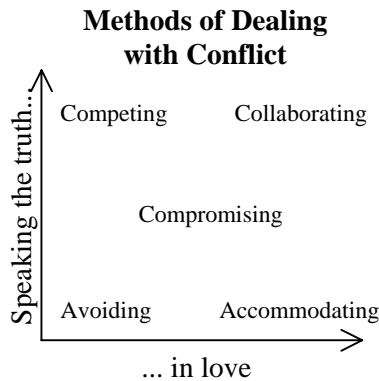
You may never be in this exact situation, but we have all encountered people who are different than ourselves. Often, our initial reaction to them is to assume that they are wrong. However, across cultures, basic values differ vastly. The main values we learned were Time vs. Event Orientation, Holistic vs. Dichotomistic Thinking, Crisis Orientation vs. Noncrisis Orientation, Achievement Focus vs. Status Focus, Task Orientation vs. Person Orientation and Willingness to Expose Vulnerability vs. Concealment of Vulnerability.

For example, in the scenario above, the other guys in the project arrived an hour late. To your Western mind, you most likely assumed that they were irresponsible for arriving that late (come on, even we Asians aren't that late for things). But in their culture, time doesn't matter so much. The event is the important thing, and arriving an hour or even two or three hours late is not an issue. Those guys also took really long breaks and sat around to chat. Why? Well because in their culture, the person is more important than the task. They place more value on the relationship than they do on getting the job done.

It was in that last area I found myself the most convicted. I always have a full schedule, and extra stuff that I should be doing if I had the time. But I don't make as much time for people in my schedule as I should. Sometimes the task doesn't matter; it's more important to build strong relationships.

Methods of Dealing with Conflict

The other part of the conference that really spoke to me was the section on dealing with conflict. Now, I think I'm a pretty peaceable person; I always try to avoid fights and tell other people not to fight. However, I started to see during the weekend that I wasn't just



being peaceable, I was avoiding conflict, and that's not godly either; plus it gets some people really upset with you.

Try testing for yourself how you respond to conflict:

1) Say your roommate keeps borrowing your things and doesn't return them, or returns them crumpled or in bad condition. What do you do? Do you a) lend them just as readily each time? b) give your roommate a lecture on being responsible? c) say, "yes you can borrow it, but please be really careful and don't ruin it because I paid \$70 bucks for that shirt?" d) start avoiding your roommate whenever she has that "borrowing" gleam in her eye?

If you picked a) you are probably **giving in**, b) **confrontation**, c) a form of **compromise** and d) **withdrawal**. Jesus would be at the top right on the diagram, because he perfectly reconciles speaking the truth in love. But who of us really knows how to do that all the time? Real **collaboration** is when both parties have all of their main goals met and nothing in the relationship is sacrificed in the process.

I'm sure you can think of other conflicts. Maybe your roommate keeps bringing his girlfriend over to spend the night, or maybe you serve at church and your coordinator only wants to do things a certain way.

Watch your actions this week and see how you respond to those different than yourself and those with whom you have tension or conflicts. Oftentimes, just wondering what Jesus would do helps vastly. The real point of all of this is ministry and letting God use our lives and our actions to show Himself.

(If anyone is interested in talking more about these issues, my email is jcheah@andrew.cmu.edu. The two books that we used during the weekends are *Ministering Cross Culturally* by Lingenicher and Mayers, and *Cross-Cultural Conflict*. I'd be happy to lend them to anyone who is interested. And I'd definitely recommend

everyone to go to MAC next year; this was only a tiny sample of all they talked about.)

Jonn'e Cheah reminds us that when it comes to MAC (ministering across cultures), think, WWJD (what would Jesus do?).

Girl Talk

Belinda Chang

Well, when Angeline first asked me to write this "blurb," I thought she was crazy. After all, I spend my days in the smelly clusters writing stuff that computers understand. It's been a long time since I've had to write anything that real live people are actually going to read and try to understand.

So here I go, into the wild blue yonder.... I was asked to summarize my thoughts about the women's dinner. As I'm sitting here, trying to think of what to write, all I can think about are the subs that we had that day. As a side note, you should never ever write articles about a dinner if you haven't eaten dinner yet... Or you just want to talk about food. So I'm going to talk about food right now, in hopes that maybe my tummy will stop making funny noises.

And since dinner was half of the title, we can't really leave the food aspect out of this now can we? I love food. So of course I had nothing to complain about. I was quite content with the subs and with Julie [Ott]'s yummy pasty salad. And not to copy Campbell's in any shape, manner or form, but the food was M'm M'm Good!

Now, onto non-tummy related topics. Sigh.

Those of you who know me well or those of you that read my away messages often know that I like to babble about my childhood. I can't wait for the day that I'm mother so that I can share those infamous "when I was younger..." stories.

When I was a wee little kid, there was this game called Girl Talk. I'm not sure how many people actually remember this game, but it was the "cool" game to have. In case you don't remember or have no idea what I'm talking about, Girl Talk was a game where you did dares and shared your deepest, darkest secrets. And every time you failed to do one of your tasks, you would get this red plastic zit to place on your face as punishment. Now, I was always really bad at this game, because I never had any interesting guy stories to share, so, I always ended up with an embarrassing zit-filled

face. This naturally gave me the impression that plastic zits = pain = boys.

What do girls talk about when we get together? Boys. Now, guys, don't you feel all warm and fuzzy inside now? So I don't know why anyone would think that the women's dinner would be any exception. And for those of you who do...well, I'm about to set you straight.

Yes, we talked about boys, on topics ranging from dating to marriage and the roles men and women take on. And lucky for the guys, Julie was there to set our thinking straight. And although I can't really speak for the rest of the ACF chicks, but I'm pretty sure the general consensus would be that she was a huge help. Julie was quite informative, answering questions about topics that were still unclear after retreat. Yay, Julie! We love you! And so now, zits != pain != guys (for those of you that aren't programming-savvy, in English that just means that guys aren't so bad after all).

And so that would be my summary. I'm sorry if you expected anything profound. And I'm sorry if you wanted to know more about the dinner. My sincerest apologizes, but there is a reason I didn't major in English...

Belinda Chang is majoring in Computer Science.

April Birthdays

1 – Grace Choy
14 – Takford Mau
15 – Chris Lin
18 – Malcolm Ong
21 – Dave Charlton
26 – Richard Chen (the Junior)
26 – Tim Lo
30 – Belinda Chang



April Calendar of Events

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

5 – Spring Break (no ACF)
12 – Jesus Week Activity (CMU campus)
19 – Bible Study #6: Hosea 11-12
26 – Ethnic Identity talk

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.

Jesus Week '02 Is Coming Up!

Kevin Fine

Jesus Week 2002 is only a few short weeks away! Starting right after Carnegie Mellon's Spring Break, Jesus Week is the week from April 7th – April 13th.

What is Jesus Week?

Jesus Week is a week of events including a BBQ, a forum, a few talks, and a concert. Our theme this year is "Welcome to Church." We're dispelling common misconceptions about church, Christianity, and God Himself. Look up www.jesusweek.org for more info!

The campus is our mission field. Our goal is to make the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ visible, relevant, and attractive to every student at CMU, so that all have an opportunity to make an informed decision to accept or reject the claims of Christ (John 3:14-16).

What does this have to do with me?

Get in on the act! Help out with prayer, servant evangelism, publicity, speakers, special events, finance, CMU relations, and worship. Everyone can and needs to pray for God's power in our ministry. Everyone can take shifts guarding and painting the Fence. Everyone can help chalk sidewalks and post flyers. You can also help with creative publicity ideas!

Cell groups, we're asking each of you to serve the campus through 2 different servant evangelism efforts and hold each member accountable to use Jesus Week as a springboard for personal, relational evangelism.

Get personal! *The most important part of this ministry is everyone personally building relationships with existing friends, building redemptive relationships and making new ones with the opportunities that Jesus Week provides. Invite them to a BBQ and a talk, hang out with them at the Fence, use the events to start spiritual conversations, follow up by inviting them to join a GIG group (Groups Investigating God) with you so you can personally talk to them about our great God! You are the foundation of the ministry, not the events. The success of Jesus Week banks on all of us as believers reflecting the glory of the living God and dispensing the love of God as we rub shoulders with people who have yet to know Him.*

Get your wallet! =P As Tim Lo mentioned, Jesus Week has considerable costs. We are fully confident

that God will provide, realizing that He provides through *people*. Please consider how God wants you to use the blessings He's given you to bless others through this ministry. If each ACfer contributes an average of \$20, we can raise well over \$1000 – this money goes directly into ministering to the campus. Pray to God, and then give cheerfully whatever His passion for CMU compels you to give – no more, no less. That's all we ask. To give, please contact Tim (tlo@andrew.cmu.edu) or Clifton (cliftonl@andrew.cmu.edu).

Get fired up! We the Jesus Week leaders are fired up, and we hope you are, too! I personally believe that God will use this ministry to impact our campus far beyond our hopes and dreams. Let's be faithful and full of faith in response to His great calling, and let's just see what great work He will do through us!!!

Kevin Fine (kfine@andrew.cmu.edu) is on fire for Jesus.

Ice Skating

(continued from front page)

Having the rink to ourselves was really awesome. People were walking around the ice in their shoes, people were playing "Duck, Duck, Goose" in the middle of the rink, people were spinning around in a clothesline, but best of all everyone could do whatever they wanted without guards breaking up the fun.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this servant evangelism so cool. Thanks to the cell groups involved: Living Sacrifices, Living Testimony, Lives of Light, and Team Discovery Channel. A special thanks to all the drivers who shuttled from school to the rink. Thanks to everyone who came and brought friends. And, thanks to those of you who had fun—you're in charge of this next year. Make it an ACF tradition!

Angela Chen is so cool! She co-leads Living Sacrifices.

God Talk

Prayer Meeting Information

- **CMU Prayer Meeting** - Mondays, 4:40 – 5:40 p.m. Wright-Rogal Chapel (UC Chapel, CMU)
- **Pitt Prayer Meeting** - Fridays, 5:00 p.m. Chinese Room, Cathedral of Learning (Pitt)
- **Jesus Week Prayer Meeting** Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:00 p.m., Wright-Rogal Chapel

For more information about prayer meetings, contact Angela Chen at apchen@andrew.cmu.edu: "I'm in charge of prayer now ☺"