

The Mission We Must Prioritize

One of the great blessings over the past few months has been the opportunity for me (Jordan) to invest in a new group of students at **The Center for Biblical Studies**, cultivating a relationship with the sophomores in my Homiletics class. This is one of my favorite classes to teach as we open up the Bible and examine how to study and communicate God's message for the edification of Christians in the local church.



One of the reasons I love teaching at CBS is due to our mission to instill in students a **“Christ-centered view of all things — gained by a careful study of the Bible [...] pursued with a view to God’s glory, the service of the church, and the spread of the gospel.”** It is a joy to have fruitful discussions with students in class, examining Scripture, seeking to exegete the meaning of the text, and watching them figure out how to faithfully exposit the message and develop teaching points and application.



Jordan shares the evening devotion with the on-campus students in February.

Three of the men in class are full-time pastors, seeking to grow in their equipping for their ministries and putting what they are learning into practice immediately. But all other students are assigned to a local church connected to CBS for their practical work assignment for the school year. One of these young men, Jhun, had the opportunity to preach the message he developed in class on John 21:1-14 at his assigned local church and had this to say about the experience:

“Preparation-wise, the passage challenged me to dig deeper into God’s Word and appreciate how He blesses me with so much aid in my study, from our class to available resources; all humbling and helpful. But most importantly, this passage gave me a higher view of studying difficult (unconventionally preached) passages, that these passages are beautiful just as any other passages in the Bible.”

It is humbling to read through student papers and encourage them in these initial steps of a lifetime journey of preaching and teaching God’s Word.



One of Jordan's senior students, Allen, preaches in chapel, sharing a message centered on the call to full-time ministry from Acts 20:17-24.

I was reminded of the transforming power of Christ through His Word recently listening to one of the senior students I have taught previously, Allen, preach in our chapel. All of the seniors are assigned an opportunity to preach to their classmates in their final semester at CBS. What made the day particularly special was to see his family in attendance - his parents, siblings and grandmother. Allen was led to Christ by one of his best friends in high school, Nathanael; he was the first Christian in his family. He then proceeded to share his new faith with his family and over time led them all to Christ. Together Nathanael and Allen both surrendered to ministry and are now seniors at CBS. Now here Allen was preaching for the first time in front of his family!

This need to preach the Gospel boldly to the lost is, as Allen put it in his message, **“The mission we must prioritize.”** He went on to say, **“Whether in public or private, the servant of Jesus Christ does not fail to share the message of Jesus Christ.”** As a partner in our ministry, you are helping to invest in young men like Allen who desire to make Gospel-centered preaching about Christ the burning center of their lives!

Welcoming into the Local Church

It has been a busy few months for us at **LifeHouse Church**. The church celebrated its anniversary, concluded a two-year sermon study of the Gospel of John, and raised up one of our men, Rhayan, as a lay elder. It has also been a time of welcoming in to the church believers new and old. Cyrus and April (*pictured bottom left*) are a married couple who have attended our church for awhile now, and April grew up in a Christian home (her brothers both attend LifeHouse). Through listening to the preaching of the pastors and attending a Bible study, they both came to a clear understanding of the Gospel, giving their hearts to the Lord, proclaiming their faith through the obedience of baptism, and joining our church membership.

We also welcomed back a former member, Mara (*pictured bottom right with Nikki*), who has returned to the church after a season of struggle and doubt. Nikki and I have had the opportunity to counsel and disciple her for a number of months, and it is a joyous occasion to see God working in her heart and drawing her back to Himself.



Prayer Request

Over the past couple of months we have lost some of our support from churches whose missions giving is unfortunately down. Many churches have been affected economically right now, and that then impacts our family. We are deeply grateful to those churches for their years of financial partnership and know that they still stand beside us through prayer, but the reality is we need new supporters to help replace the loss. We know God is in control and will provide, and we are strengthened in our commitment to His work here in the Philippines. As we pray for God’s financial provision, we ask that you would keep this need for new supporters in your prayers as well, and if you feel led to give a one-time gift to our family and ministry, please follow the directions at the **[link below](#)**.

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The Nislys

Jordan, Nikki, Desmond & Amelia

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