

## Regional Events: Traveling the West Coast

Written by Jon Liu

I was blessed to speak at two regional events in the Fall: SoCal student leadership training and NorCal student leadership training. I will be flying up to Seattle, Washington in early December to teach a student workshop and connect with our staff in the Pacific Northwest region.

At these Fall gatherings, we talked about evangelism. At the SoCal regional event, I framed evangelism as boasting: boasting about God's work in our lives (Jeremiah 9:23-24). At the NorCal regional event, I framed evangelism as reconciliation: proclaiming the Gospel in a way that restores people (2 Corinthians 5:16-19). For the Seattle regional event, I will be teaching a workshop on evangelism. It will my first time in Seattle; I will be working with the staff to understand the evangelistic needs of the students at our UW, SU, and SPU chapters.

It was a blessing to engage the next generation of student leaders. My responsibilities and role on the AACF



*AACF NorCal Student Training*

Leadership Team have kept me in the office for the majority of my week. I spend the majority of my days in front of a computer: communicating, planning, and advocating for AACF. Getting out of the office to minister to students face-to-face was refreshing. It reminded me of my call to ministry: why I decided to go into ministry. It was about people.

I learned in seminary that ministry is the cure and care of souls: to preach the Gospel to the lost and to shepherd God's people. Although I have ministered over video chats, text messages, and phone calls, nothing beats the face-to-face, in person conversation. When I go to a person and make myself available to them, I am saying, "I am committing this time to you. You have my full attention." It is a gift to the other person. It is my blessed privilege. In AACF, I have the honor of empowering students to discover their calling in God's kingdom.

Please pray for these student leaders. They are the next generation that will bring the Gospel into their homes, their neighborhoods, their churches, their workplace, their community, and the world. Pray for me. That I will not forget to get out of the office and respond to the opportunity to do face-to-face ministry.



*AACF SoCal Student Training*

## AACF SoCal Staff Training

Written by Jon Liu



*Top Row: Victor (SJSU, LT) Jon (LT), Betty (UCI), Helicon (USCB), DJ (Speaker).  
Bottom Row: Evelyn (UCSD), Ashley (CSULB), Bruce (USC), Melanie (USC, LT)*

The featured photo is the result of our AACF SoCal staff training seminar on social media led by DJ Chuang. How better to capture the atmosphere of social media by having each of the attending staff take a selfie and then arrange our devices together for a group photo!

DJ helped the AACF staff examine how the world is changing in communication, culture, community, church, leadership, and work. Social media is the platform for this change. Here are a few of the highlights from the seminar:

- Communication has become the “many to many”. Because of social media, anyone can have a free stage to share their opinion.
- Culture has become global. Because of social media, anyone can experience the culture of a different part of the world.
- Community has become “glocal” – global and local. Social media can connect you with a friend down the street and across the ocean at the same time, and both can be close friends.

These changes have implications for ministry. We have the opportunity to do ministry 24/7. We have the opportunity to share prayer requests immediately around the world. We have the opportunity to creatively proclaim the Gospel to unreached communities. Social media can be a platform to share and embody (communicate) the Gospel. Social media instantly connects us to friends in different continents. Social media creates a forum for innovative expression through videos, photos, and written word.

Our time with DJ was educational and inspirational. It oriented us to the changes that are happening around us. It gave us awareness, a third person perspective, to our current cultural setting. It also challenged us to dream about the future of campus ministry. We wrestled with the question “if this is the trend of culture, how should we do ministry?” Although we did not come to any strategic conclusions, it reminds us that we need to be both, adaptive and steadfast, when proclaiming the Gospel and ministering to the lost.

With trends, we take on Paul’s attitude from 1 Thessalonians 5:21, “but test them all; hold on to what is good.” Social media presents many opportunities and pitfalls. But we examine them and wisely use them for God’s glory.

### Upcoming Ministry:

UCI Large Group

 Dec 2

Seattle, WA Visit

 Dec 4 -6

San Diego, CA Visit

 Dec 10-13


CUMC Youth Retreat

 Jan 15-17

AACF Staff Retreat

 Jan 29-31

### Prayer Requests:

 Please pray for time management. I have a full schedule of ministry: teaching, speaking, development, learning, and connecting with staff. Pray that I will have healthy priorities between being a disciple of Christ, Kylie's fiancé, a family member, and a campus minister of AACF.



## Speaking at ACF CSULB Men's Retreat

Written by Jon Liu

Sixteen men gathered at Camp Metoche in Angelus Oaks to *Stand As One*. Their theme, taken, from Philippians 1:27, speaks about living a life worthy of the gospel. Paul calls the Philippians to "stand firm in one Spirit, striving together as one." These men desired to understand what it means to be united as mature men of God. I had the privilege of speaking for the retreat.

We talked about four ways to Stand As One: 1) stand as one on the gospel, 2) stand as one on the gospel in God's purpose, 3) stand as one on the gospel in authentic community, and 4) stand as one on the gospel in boldness.

The gospel message was the starting point for our time together. It makes it possible for people from different backgrounds to stand as one. The gospel does not remove our differences, but it is the platform for forgiven sinners to stand as one. The gospel allows humanity to reconcile with each other and God.

The gospel gives us purpose. I framed purpose with this question, "what does it mean to be a man of God?" I was convicted to talk about maturity. I focused on one aspect of maturity based on Titus 2:6, "Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled." Self-control is the capacity for self-awareness and others awareness in order to start or stop a behavior. It takes intentional compassion, self-denial, and discipline to grow in self-control.

The gospel leads us into authentic community. The promise of forgiveness by grace invites us to love unconditionally. That means we allow God to love us unconditionally; we transparently and completely bring ourselves before God. We present our authentic selves to God. By the gospel we realize that we are authentically broken and by the gospel we are authentically redeemed and restored. We present our authentic selves to one another, entering into authentic community. The gospel invites us as we are, all our shame and guilt, into community to receive forgiveness and to be transformed according to the gospel.

The gospel empowers us to be bold. 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." We examined our timidity towards risk and commitment. The Holy Spirit allows us to face risk and make commitments.

I was blessed by the privilege to speak for these men. I saw a group of men draw near to God and come into authentic community with one another. I saw a group of men take a step toward maturity in their love for God, care for one another, and self-awareness. It was a weekend of fellowship, tears, prayer, praise, learning, and fun.



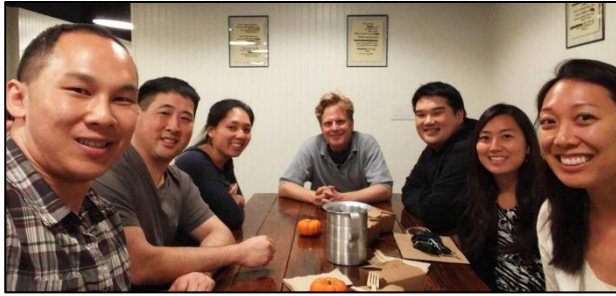
## Fundraising Update

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Each of your gifts has allowed me to do ministry on a fulltime basis. I am blessed to have the privilege to do vocational ministry. I am still looking the close the gap in my fundraising in order to continue ministry year-to-year. I am praying for partners to pledge a monthly sustaining gift. I invite you to pray about becoming a monthly partner. You can go to [www.jems.org/support](http://www.jems.org/support) and click on "Donate Now." In the first drop down menu select "ACF Campus Minister." A second drop down menu will appear; select "Jonathan Liu." Then complete the rest of the form. If you have any questions contact me at [jon.acf@gmail.com](mailto:jon.acf@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Small Groups at FCBC

Written by Jon Liu and Kylie Yano



I have been in Los Angeles for 5 months. When I moved to LA, I began attending FCBC LA; Kylie, my fiancé, grew up at FCBC LA. Both of us decided that we would attend FCBC LA. It has been a transition for us. Even though Kylie grew up at FCBC LA, she was returning as a young adult; she needed to figure out how she would interact with friends (who also matured and changed) and service opportunities (existing ministries and new ministries). For me, Jon, it was a completely new church – new traditions, new pastors, new people, new location, and new ministries. In this transition we are praying to be life giving members of the community. Both of us have committed to the health and growth of FCBC LA.

Kylie has been serving in the special needs Sunday school: serving youth and adults with special needs. I am

still discerning the opportunities and needs in the church. Both of us have been attending a young adult small group. Kylie wrote about her experience in small group:

*Finding community was on my to-do list as I moved to LA, after leaving a solid and supportive bible study in San Diego. I knew from that experience that I wanted to be in a family-feeling group where I could stay for hours after, share in food and fellowship, and leave having laughed and loved. God, quite literally, made that happen for me (and Jon) in LA. We, along with my sister and my cousin and her husband, are studying the book of Daniel, learning to be bold and bonding with other brothers and sisters. There's a freedom to ask questions and to be ourselves; there's a commitment to be vulnerable and affirming. Though it's hard to be present after a long work week, I am confident this small group is God's provision and answer to prayers.*

We have been blessed by our time in LA – our new jobs, our new (but old) church, and our new relational status. Please pray for us as we continue to transition. Pray that we will be life giving members of our church community.



### Alumni Corner, Jed Chun

Jed Chun, class of 2014 AACF @ UCI, "How has AACF impacted your life?"

Looking back, it's hard not to marvel in the amazing ways that God has worked through AACF to get me to where I am today. If I hadn't met the brothers and sisters of AACF in college I think it would be easy to imagine a life apart from God right now. The loving community that I found a part in really helped me to reconnect with God at a time of my life when I really wanted nothing to do with Him. Thankfully, God had other plans. Through the community at AACF, He helped me to grow and experience grace, mercy, and accountability more deeply than I had ever experienced before. I really learned what it meant to live in community with other believers and to walk with them every single day. I particularly remember the experiences that I had at LTC, although I don't quite remember all of the content of the plenary sessions, the experience in it of itself was amazing simply because it allowed me to meet some of the most dedicated Christians from campuses all over the west coast. Thanks to LTC (Leadership Training Conference), I've come to know many different believers from many different places who all share a profound love for Christ, which is a reminder of how God's love can overcome geographical and social boundaries. Through the opportunities that I was given to serve at AACF I also got to hone one my spiritual gifts, hospitality, and saw it tested and expanded far beyond anything I would have ever imagined doing. However, the most important thing that I learned in college at AACF was how to live beyond myself and really put God at the top of my priority list. There are times that I honestly wish I were still in college so that I could continue being built up and challenged by brothers and sisters every single day, but there is a season for everything and, although that season has passed for me, I still cherish and am extremely grateful for all the opportunities that I had to grow and share life with the other believers that I found at AACF.