

the SIMONETTI FAMILY

VOLUME: 10 – ISSUE: 3

MARCH 2024

REACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Sometimes it can feel hopeless...but God is at work

We face continual and ongoing challenges engaging college students. Honestly, sometimes it can feel hopeless. Students are noncommittal, quick to shift plans and not come to something if a more attractive option arises, even if that option is sleeping or gaming. Even our most involved students struggle to meet regularly with us. It can be immensely discouraging.

Beyond that, the spiritual climate on campus continues to grow even more resistant to Christianity and apathetic to the gospel. Doing evangelism on campus ushers a whole myriad of responses, from outright rejection, indifference, or apathy. For example, recently when asking a few students *“what happens after death?”* they responded with *“Ehh, I’ll figure it out when I get there...”* or *“I don’t care”*. There is a pervasive posture that life is their own. They determine truth, purpose, love, and life; and that death holds no power or relevancy.

On the outside it could seem as though there is no hope to reach this generation with the hope of Jesus. We must admit there are times the hardness of the soil and the impossible task of reaching a huge population with the gospel hope of Jesus is both daunting and disheartening.

Yet, God is at work. He always is and always will be. We’re reminded often of **1 Peter 5:10** – *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.”* He is simultaneously strengthening us for the work before us and exercising his power and dominion over all things.

We see him actively at work in our friend Yi’s life. Jane introduced us to Yi, she comes from an atheist background and has absolutely no context for Jesus. Yi has been faithfully coming to all our events, attending Tobin’s weekly bible study, and meeting up one-on-one with Cassandra to hear the Gospel. Although she has not yet accepted

Jesus, it is amazing to witness the Holy Spirit’s work to draw her to himself. She’s unexplainably curious, drawn to community, intrigued by the person and life of Jesus, and longing for the hope that Jesus alone offers. Yi graduates in just a few weeks, would you pray that God draws her heart to him in salvation!



tobin.simonetti@bridgesinternational.com | 717-250-8304
cassandra.simonetti@bridgesinternational.com | 412-608-2459



prayer requests

Global Connections

Our friend and new believer **Kodi** will soon be returning to Japan after his exchange year concludes. Praise God that through a network of connections, God has allowed us to find a church nearby his university and a reliable missionary serving on his campus back home to connect him with for ongoing growth. This is AMAZING!

Jane's conflicting priorities

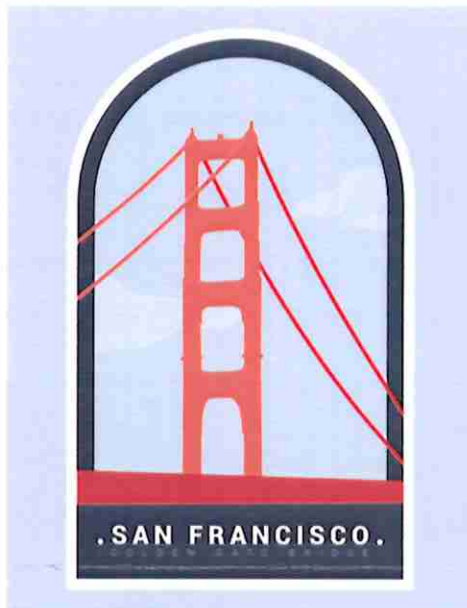
Please pray for our international student friend **Jane**. She's facing the mounting pressures of academics, research, clinical experience, and the MCAT this summer. She's struggling to prioritize Jesus and not be swept away by the unrelenting demands of her field.

Mobile Mapping

In the coming weeks, we will be engaging students on campus doing an outreach called **Mobile Mapping**. It's a fun way to connect with new students by asking "Where are you from?". Would you pray for fruitful connections and to meet new students we can pursue.

School District Support Group

Cassandra has been given the opportunity to help spearhead a support group for other families of special needs students within our local school district. This opportunity affords the opportunity to impact the whole district with greater trauma sensitive and disability awareness plus immense care opportunities to love and serve marginalized students and their families.



San Francisco

Our family will be spending this summer in San Francisco with a team of staff and students from around the world, on mission together. We will work to equip international and American students to reach other students from around the world on various college campuses in the Bay Area, like UC Berkley and Stanford. Together, we will study the bible and learn how to experience the gospel in our own lives. It will be a summer of ushering students to delight in Jesus and making Jesus known, which will in turn equip them to reach students on their own campuses and love Jesus for a lifetime.

In order to, lead this team of staff and students on this mission, we need to raise financial support to cover the travel, housing and ministry costs of our Summer Mission to San Francisco. We invite you to prayerfully consider giving a special gift to enable our family to go on mission this summer.

Thank you for your partnership and faithfully journeying with us!



THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!