



(artwork by Paul Chung)

The 2015 Central Pennsylvania Summer Bible Conference was held August 6-9 on the campus of Slippery Rock University in Butler, Pennsylvania. This conference place had deep significance. It is named after a physical rock found in the river that is slippery and dangerous. But Jesus is our spiritual rock who is not slippery, and those who stand on him will never stumble or fall. The dates of the conference also had deep meaning. It was the 70th anniversary of the bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Humanly speaking, our conference program was boring and we struggled to stay awake. But from God's point of view, the messages were as powerful as atomic bombs, sending shock-wave blasts and radioactive fallout into the spiritual realm to destroy every stronghold of Satan.

The opening address was delivered by M. Delicious Lee, who served us a tasty message based on Psalm 1:1-6. We learned that there are two kinds of people: the blessed ones and the chaff. Blessed ones study the Bible day and night. As they meditate on God's word 24/7, God blesses them abundantly. The chaff do not study the Bible, but spend their time on worldly pursuits including jobs and family. In the day of God's judgment, they will be blown away. Humanly speaking it is impossible to meditate on God's word 24/7 because we must occasionally eat and sleep and visit the bathroom. But through this message, everyone repented our poor attitude and made new decisions to overcome all flesh desires and human limitations to meditate on God's word 24/7 so that we can be the blessed ones.

After the opening message, we heard the heart-moving life testimony of S. Joy Rider. She was a typical white American girl. Because of her sinful desire, she dressed inappropriately and occasionally spoke to boys. At the Bible house, her shepherd prepared a special chair for her in the closet so she could attend worship service without ruining the spiritual environment. After she met Jesus, God brought her out of her closet of sin into the light of God's holiness. Now she no longer dresses like a foxy woman but bears the image of a mother of prayer and fills the center with the sweet aroma of good influence.

At this conference, we cancelled the morning devotions so that everyone could ~~sleep~~ spend more time writing Daily Bread.

After breakfast, we had Group Bible Study on the conference theme passage, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16. Newcomers asked so many questions and the discussion sometimes veered off topic, and senior missionaries talked too much. But the GBS leaders did an excellent job of getting the discussions back on track by judicious use of the word “anyway.” By their leadership, we successfully completed our goal of carefully answering each part of every question on the question sheet.

After GBS, we listened to the main message on 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 delivered by S. Justin Coherent, titled “We Resolve to Know Nothing Except Christ Jesus.” The Apostle Paul was educated in theology, science, Greek philosophy and law. His advisor was the world famous rabbi Gamaliel. But after Paul met the risen Jesus, he put aside all human knowledge and complicated ideas and resolved to know nothing except Christ crucified. When Paul preached the gospel, he didn’t rely on worldly wisdom but on God’s power. He humbled himself to speak like a fourth grader, reducing each sermon to primitive arguments and immature examples so that his audience would learn childlike faith. Proud people thought Paul was foolish, but the Holy Spirit made his ministry fruitful. Sometimes we think that, in order to raise disciples on college campuses, we need to understand what students are saying. We are also tempted to read books. But the wisest man in history, King Solomon, said, “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.” We do not need to understand the thinking of this wicked generation. All we have to do is to stand up by faith and simply proclaim the gospel of Jesus with full of spirit and then we will bear much fruit. After S. Justin’s message, we knelt down two-by-two, repenting all our complicated ideas and praying for God to use us to raise 1,000 Ph.D. professor shepherds.

At the Evening Revival, we heard the life testimony of Brother Marshall Law. He was a typical African American male who ate soul-food and stole candy from the convenience store. Statistically speaking, he was destined for prison. But he met Jesus through one-to-one Bible study. Now he wants to eat spiritual soul-food by writing testimonies each week. He also prays to become a great African American Ph.D. pastor like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King ~~because some missionary told him to say that.~~

We also heard a mission report from S. Anne Droid, who completed her postdoc in quantum mechanics at the University of Copenhagen. She explained the history and culture of Denmark. The nation is best known as the birthplace of Legos, and people are wandering in the darkness of secular humanism. We prayed for the people of Denmark to put down their Legos and start building a Biblical world-view through one-to-one Bible study.

We also heard a report on the book *The Future of College Ministry* by Pastor Stephen Lust. He emphasized that we must make disciples on college campuses, because college students are the future leaders of society. Through Pastor Lust, we learned that the correct way to carry out campus ministry is fishing and one-to-one Bible study, exactly as we have been doing. And we must watch students closely to prevent dating, otherwise the Christian fellowship is merely a social club.

~~After the Evening Revival, while we ate snacks and enjoyed human fellowship, the senior missionaries held a secret meeting. They unanimously agreed that there are still no natives who are mature enough to lead the ministry, so they must continue to oversee each chapter for the next ten years.~~

The closing message on Ephesians 6:10-20, "Be Strong in the Lord," was delivered by M. National Park. To be strong in the Lord, we must put on the full armor of God, not missing even a single article of clothing, so that we can protect ourselves against Satan's attack. The armor of God is our defense. The passage also mentions one offensive weapon, the sword of God's word. If we only play defense and never play offense, we cannot win the spiritual battle. Therefore we must be offensive Christians, preaching the gospel and doing evangelism offensively until Jesus comes again.

Praise God for the Central Pennsylvania Summer Bible Conference!!! May God make America a kingdom of priests and a holy nation!!!!!! Amen!!!!!!

One Word: Resolve to know nothing