



SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Photo: Jennifer Kwan

Infusion participant, Melissa Tang

Identities Infused with Christ

infusion [ɪn'fju:ʒən] **an abstract obtained by soaking**

For the first time this summer, YWAM LA ran the two week Infusion program that was started at YWAM Kona. Infusion invites teens and young adults to come and be immersed in Biblical teaching, worship, personal reflection and loving service. In entering an environment of deep love for God and one another, students were inherently changed. As issues surfaced, each of the 30 students saw God revealing more of Christ in each other and in their own identity.

16 year old, Melissa Tang, opened up about her transformation during this time:

"Before Infusion, I was in a really dark place. I would spend hours just crying in my room because I hated myself so much. I thought I was ugly, fat, unloved, unwanted, and worst - worthless and alone. I didn't even want to go to Infusion. But I am so, so glad I did."

"He gave me His beautiful gift of pure joy. I can't stop smiling!"

"God did something amazing in me on this trip. It started with little things; people coming up to me randomly and just telling me I'm beautiful. But it grew, to the point where I literally would look

in the mirror and physically see myself differently than I used to. I was able to hear God tell me that I am loved and wanted and beautiful, because I am His creation. That I shouldn't care what the world thinks of me, because His opinion is the only one that matters. And His opinion of me is that I am so full of worth, and that I never have to change myself for Him; He loves me just as I am! God told me all these things and He gave me His beautiful gift of pure joy. I can't stop smiling! I'm just so filled up with his love and happiness!

"I no longer have to be depressed or weighed down with the opinions of this world. The God of the entire universe loves me! What more could I possibly want? He is so good!"



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Youth With A Mission Los Angeles is part of Youth With A Mission International – a non-profit Christian missions organization with over 1000 operating locations in over 180 countries. We are international and interdenominational and work to know God and make Him known. YWAM LA is one of the first operating locations and we seek to impact the world for Christ through partnering with effective ministries in Los Angeles and running training schools and programs throughout the year, discipling young people and sending them into cross-cultural missions.

Through the City, to the Nations.

Programs:

This is a snapshot of our upcoming schools and programs. Please call us at: 818 896 2755 or visit our website (www.ywamla.org) for more information or to apply.

TDTS

Transformation Discipleship
Training School
Sept. 25, 2011 - March 17, 2012
and
January 8, 2012 - June 30, 2012
Life-changing course to impact the world as God leads. Includes three months of teaching in LA and three month international outreach.
www.transformationdts.org

CBCC

Chronological Biblical Core Course
January 2012 – April 2012
A three month intensive look at the story of God's love for His people in chronological order. Students study the Bible to learn how to teach and transform nations.
www.csbsla.org

Encounter4Teams

While youth group teams have been doing summer outreaches through YWAM LA for over 20 years, this summer marked something new. Instead of training in the YWAM LA community, each team was housed in the city where they had teachings and daily outreaches. Learning to navigate LA's public transportation system added new depth to the outreach experience. Time spent on the metro led to some of the most fruitful conversations for some teams.

From sleeping in Watts to serving meals on Skid Row to practicing "Treasure Hunt Evangelism" in Santa Monica, each team experienced the diverse needs of the city.

"Treasure Hunt Evangelism" is a way to incorporate the teachings about hearing God's voice as each student and leader waits on God to reveal something specific for them to look for. As the team comes together they have a more complete picture and even the most random themes led the team to conversations with people like: purple hat, sequins, sitting down (palm reader) or v-neck, hat, purple t-shirt (guy on Venice Beach).

The teams said that the kids were "stretched" and that they would "take this energy with them." Encounter4Teams is the spark of something that can be done anywhere.

The Journey of Clean Water

According to UN Water, one child dies every 20 seconds due to poor sanitation. Stats like this hit YWAM LA Communications Team

Leader Nic Koeck very hard when he walked through an "Experiencing Injustice" event in the YWAM LA community last Fall. From the moment he learned about the need, he knew he had to do something.

The first step was to get educated and run the "dirty water" section of the next "Experiencing Injustice" event. He wanted others to be impacted as he was. When Nic's birthday came around in March, he ran a campaign through Charity Water to raise funds to build a water project for people who don't have clean water. When he heard that YWAM LA was going to run a Water For Life seminar in June, he knew he had to be part of it.

"Providing clean water is more complicated than just having money and resources to 'solve' the problem."

"It was an amazing two weeks in which we built a 10,000 liter water tank here on our campus in LA as a model for future tanks to be built in other nations," Nic said.

The seminar taught basic sanitation principles and simple water technologies that can save lives and, according to Nic, "pretty much anyone can do."

After completing the workshop in LA, Nic headed out with a team of five others to build the first rain catchment tank in a small village in Haiti. The village of Bologne is right next to a river and is easily flooded. The water people drink is so dirty that in the cholera outbreak last year, many people in the village died.

In spite of oppressive heat and challenging working conditions the team finished the tank on time. The reactions of the villagers were mixed and Nic was reminded about a principle from the Water For Life Seminar, "ownership is huge." Seeing that not all of the villagers realized the need for clean water showed Nic that education is essential.

"Providing clean water is more complicated than just having money and resources to 'solve' the problem," Nic reflected. Yet, knowing this tank will provide free, clean water for years to come made Nic grateful. He hopes that the things his team learned will be applied to future teams sent out. Through this whole journey, one thing has become clear, going to Haiti was a beginning rather than an end.



Nic with the completed tank in Bologne



CSBS Team Teaching in Zambia

Bringing the Tools to Transform Zambia

In 1996, Zambia passed a constitutional amendment declaring itself a Christian nation. According to the US Department of State, more than 80% of Zambians are professed Christians and this number is growing. However, even with Christian leaders, political corruption continues. Even with common goals, there is deep disunity between the churches. Zambia shows a trend that goes on all over the world, conversions alone do not change societies.

The need for Biblical teaching is what drew our Chronological School of Biblical Studies (CSBS) to send a team to Zambia. Their focus was on giving Christians the tools to read and understand the Bible as it was intended for its original readers. Learning to do this allows the reader to find the timeless truths that should guide our life decisions.

Jaimie Park, a CSBS student, said, "I wanted to prove to myself that studying the Bible for nine months was more

powerful than I could've imagined – and that really is what happened."

"I strongly believe that Zambia will be a nation that will send out missionaries to proclaim the Gospel with truth and boldness."

Understanding that God's word is not something to be taken lightly, she learned great vulnerability and humility in order to teach. They held seminars for four weeks for the congregation, pastors, elders, deacons, leaders and others in the community. As the seminar went on, the group attending kept expanding. People were responding to the work God was doing and it was bringing unity as teaching the inductive method encouraged and disciplined people. At the

end of the four weeks, they held a celebration and the fruit of truth was evident: transformation, joy and hope.

Jaimie said that as the team taught about relationship over religion, freedom vs. legalism and God's unconditional love, the deep power of these ideas to transform Zambia was becoming more and more clear to her.

"I strongly believe that Zambia will be a nation that will send out missionaries to proclaim the Gospel with truth and boldness."

She feels blessed to be part of what God wanted to do in Zambia. "It's so humbling to see that God does everything. It's His party – we're just invited to it."

The CSBS is not just about learning as much about the Bible as you can. It is using this knowledge to teach others the tools to take Biblical truths and learn how to apply them to their life.

FOUR AND A HALF STARS!



YWAM LA has just completed our first accreditation process through the Global Accreditation Association (www.globalaccreditation.com) and the results are outstanding: 4 1/2 stars out of five! This is the highest recognition given to any YWAM campus to date. While our courses have always been eligible for credit through the University of the Nations, the accreditation will lead more universities to accept transfer credits. We are honored by this recognition of the academic integrity of courses offered through YWAM LA.

Thank you for your support.

Our staff and students are supported by God's provision through friends and family. If you would like to give to the work of YWAM LA, please send a check to:

YWAM LA
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To designate money for a specific person, please include a separate note with their name on it.

Summer International Outreach Teams



South East Asia

We sent two teams this summer. One worked with a skate ministry and the CSBS team taught God's Word.



Zambia

In July, a team of five from the CSBS led seminars on Inductive Bible Study for local Christians.



Haiti

In July, a team of six built the first rain catchment tank in one village and helped run VBS in another village.

Middle East

In August, a team of six from the CSBS traveled to work with local believers, teach the Bible, encourage fellow workers and share God's love. They will be working their until the beginning of September.

For security reasons, we can't post their photo.

ywam la

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