

## REACHING COLLEGE STUDENTS

### XSI Breakout Session with Joshua Benadum

#### Useful Resources

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/528-six-reasons-young-christians-leave-church#.U6SINpRdXQQ>

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/534-five-myths-about-young-adult-church-dropouts#.U6SJNZRdXQQ>

<http://www.xenos.org/classes/leadership/evgcon.html>

*Questioning Evangelism* by Randy Newman

*Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg

#### The Decision Continuum (from our Leadership Training Class)

<b>Decision Continuum</b>			
<i>STAGE</i>	<i>Symptom</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Action</i>
<b>Hostility</b>	Verbal or non-verbal dislike.  Open persecution or attacks on Christianity or Christians.	Disarm and win trust.	PRAY: Pray that they would be disarmed.  DISCOVER DEEP ISSUES: Discover why hostile & respond.  LIFESTYLE: Your lifestyle can have an impact here.  QUESTIONS: Ask them, "Why are you so angry?"  POS. EXPERIENCE: Remember that they have probably had a negative experience with Christians. They need a positive experience with a Christian. That could be you. You're an ambassador, whether you like it or not.  COMPLIMENT THE NON-XIAN: There

			<p>has to be something you can compliment them on. Paul Little gives the example of a drunk getting on a bus, sitting next to him. The guy swore at everyone on the bus, and he sat down in a drunken stupor. He handed his flask to Little. Little said, "No thanks, but I can see you're a very generous man." The man later came to Christ. See Paul's example in Acts 17:22.</p> <p>BREAK STEREOTYPES: Good evangelists know how to break "Christian" stereotypes. Not in an <i>immoral way</i>, but in a <i>cultural way</i>. Break from Christian culture whenever possible.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: "I'm really impressed with you, man. I can tell that you've really thought through these things. I really admire that about you."</p> <p>Or, "I've enjoyed hearing your perspective on these issues."</p>
<p><b>Disinterest</b></p> <p><i>Arguably harder to reach than Hostile people!</i></p>	<p>Doesn't ask questions.</p> <p>Doesn't initiate or join in discussions.</p> <p>Changes the subject.</p> <p>Ignores invitations.</p>	<p>Arouse curiosity and stimulate interest.</p> <p>Find out if they know about the Gospel.</p>	<p>PRAY: Pray for them to see their need.</p> <p>WORLDVIEW: Ask about <i>their</i> world-view.</p> <p>XIAN COMMUNITY: Expose to Christian community.</p> <p>MISCONCEPTIONS: Identify &amp; correct misconceptions. Usually about grace.</p> <p>TESTIMONY: Be ready with your testimony.</p> <p>SERVICE: Acts of service can get people interested pretty quickly in what you're all about.</p> <p>QUESTIONS: Ask a lot of questions to draw them out. Some people need to know that they can trust you before talking about something as private as</p>

			their spiritual beliefs.
<b>Curiosity</b>	<p>Asks serious questions &amp; is satisfied by good answers.</p> <p>Willing to talk more about Christianity.</p>	Increase understanding of the gospel & Christian world-view.	<p>PRAY: Pray for conviction.</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY: Invite to Bible study or personal Bible Study.</p> <p>GOSPEL: Repeat gospel often. Relate your discussions to the gospel.</p> <p>CHALLENGE INVESTATION: Challenge them to investigate further.</p> <p>APOLOGETICS: Answer questions and misconceptions.</p> <p>RELATIONAL TIME: Time to get them around the body of believers as much as possible. Get them to come and hang out with you at the bar or go on a short road trip. Get some face time –they will be convicted by the way people relate with each other inside and outside of a meeting.</p>
<b>Active Interest</b>	<p>Freely discusses Christianity.</p> <p>More personal questions about Christianity.</p> <p>Speaks of Christians &amp; Christianity favorably.</p>	Persuade of necessity of decision.	<p>PRAY FOR PROTECTION: Fervent prayer for protection from distraction &amp; conviction.</p> <p>BODY-LIFE: Urge regular involvement in Bible study meeting.</p> <p>EMPHASIZE RECEIVING: Most people at this stage don't realize that we need to actually receive Christ.</p>
<b>Excitement</b>	<p>Admits Christianity is true.</p> <p>Identifies self with Christian community.</p> <p>Tells others they need Christ.</p> <p>Admits something holds him back.</p>	Persuade of necessity of decision.	<p>PRAY FOR CONVICTION: Pray for conviction to make a decision. Repeat the necessity of receiving Christ. Correct misconceptions of conversion.</p> <p>QUESTIONS: Ask "What is preventing you from making this decision?"</p> <p>PRAY WITH THEM: Consider offering to pray with them to receive Christ.</p> <p>(QUALIFICATION: people who have moved very quickly to this point</p>

			usually should not be pressed, but given time to process what they have discovered so far)
<b>Decision</b>	<p>Articulates the decision he made.</p> <p>Questions about how to live as a Christian.</p>	Provide assurance & instruction about spiritual growth.	<p>PROTECTION: Pray for protection &amp; growth. Point out scriptures for objective assurance.</p> <p>ETERNAL SECURITY: Point out changes for subjective assurance.</p> <p>MOG: Explain Means of Growth.</p> <p>DISSONANCE: Warn of dissonance.</p> <p>EVANGELISM: Encourage to share faith (including baptism).</p> <p>APOLOGETICS: Strengthen through apologetics all of these steps are best if in the context of a friendship – if not already there, building a friendship with this person is key.</p>
<b>Dissonance</b>	<p>Regresses somewhat.</p> <p>Seems less interested.</p> <p>Agitated or Preoccupied.</p> <p>Starts missing meetings</p>	Regain commitment.	<p>PRAY: Pray, pray, pray.</p> <p>SPIRITUAL ATTACK: Forewarn and instruct about spiritual warfare.</p> <p>APOLOGETICS: Go through apologetics.</p> <p>ETERNAL SECURITY: Reassure.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE: The quicker someone makes a decision for Christ the more dissonance they will probably have.</p>

### November Salvation Emails 2013

Dan Marchese Nov. 3

This awesome chinese guy, Dill, came from China and stayed at my parents house a couple days. I met him and spent the day with him

helping him get his stuff situated for going to OSU. Then he started coming around to Canada Homechurch! He was interested, he had never heard anything about christianity before, so he continued to come out and we all continued to befriend him.

A month ago we had a good conversation after homechurch where we raised the stakes, Dill agreed that if there is a possibility of a personal God its a very important thing to investigate. He asked me for a bible, Damian got him a super nice chinese english bible (cause Damian's got the hookups).

He started coming to CT and reading Discovering God.

This weekend he came with us on our retreat!

He heard a sweet teaching on Grace and Jessica and Chris helped explain grace to him after the teaching. Much later that night Matty D and i spoke with him and he told us about his previous conversation, he seemed to really understand that grace is a free gift and that there is really no reason to stop someone from accepting it. We went inside, made the gospel super clear, and then prayed with him where he asked God for forgiveness! Then he told us some sweet ways his life has changed since coming to Canada!

Again it's sweet to see God give this guy who knew nothing of religion and isn't the best at english a clear understanding of things!

Christian Ariel Nov. 3

2 Salvations!

Some of the girls in mistral work at mongolian bbq with E----. One of the girls invited him to play soccer with us and he has been hanging out with us since then. He grew up Catholic and the very first time God opened a spiritual conversation he said that he believed in God but didn't know about Christ. He invited T-----to play soccer one night and after soccer our group usually hangs out every Tuesday over at a friend's house, that night both of them came over T---- was amazed by how the body of

Christ relates to one another, he perceived that there was something different in that group of people and He himself said.... this is so cool I'll come back to hangout with you guys!! T---- was an atheist, very smart with an open mind and with a lot of questions to find out if Christianity was true, he was at the point where he knew that his world view didn't match with the way he was living his life and said that the more you know about this the more everything make sense!

At this point we've been hanging out with them all the time they both love to play disc golf so we stop playing soccer and started playing disc golf with them. After hanging out and talking to these guys the spirit was moving in their hearts! E--- was able to understand why Christ died on the cross but he had some doubts still and T---- on a Sunday morning about a month and a half ago sent a text to my buddy Kelson and I saying that he has made that decision of letting God into his heart and that He wanted to have a relationship with him. We celebrated that night and he has been coming to home church and sometimes to CT since. It's been a month since E--- has been coming constantly to home church, three weeks ago after home church he sent me a text asking me about the teaching because he was talking to his mom about it! He asked her if he has ever received Christ and she said yes but that was long time ago when you were a kid! Then he asked her if she was okay with him becoming a Christian and she said yes! as long as you follow God I'm okay:) The very next day after hanging out at my friend's house on his way home he crashed his car on the highway, the car was a little damage but he was totally fine. Two weeks ago after home church I was talking to him about the crash and I mentioned that we were both living in this crazy world where any of us could die in any moment any time but that the only difference was what the bible says when you receive the Holy Spirit after you die you go to be with God and knowing that he was thinking about it I encouraged him to take that step of faith and he said I wanna do it!! We both prayed that God will give him the spirit and he prayed for forgiveness and he said that it was an amazing feeling.

Praise the Lord for this guys and please pray for their protection and that they both will became faithful workers for Christ!  
they also brought another friends with them who are close to receive Christ.. pray for them as well!

Hanna Kramer Nov. 4

CK has been coming out to Trump off and on with her boyfriend since the end of the summer. Her initial conversations showed that she believed in a god, but it was not clear if she believed that Jesus died for her. As she has continued to come to home church we have seen her open up more and become more comfortable. She came out last night for the first time in a few weeks for our parent night. Immediately after Gable was done with his teaching, CK turned to one of the girl leaders and said, "I want to commit my life to Christ." After asking her what that meant she said that she has done bad things and she knows that God is willing to look past them. She said she wanted to become a child of God and to accept Christ. She prayed a very simple, but genuine prayer. After praying and talking about being part of a new spiritual family she said, "I already feel like trump is my second family." Praise God for our new sister in Christ!! I am struck at how broken people find acceptance in God's family and feel lucky to be a part of it. Later that night she texted saying, "Thanks so much for tonight! I'm so happy! Now I get to be with my second family forever and ever!!" Pray for her protection and that she continues to be excited about becoming a child of God!

Vlad Yuryvov Nov 4

One of my roommates invited a girl he met at C-State to hang out after homechurch and she loved chilling with us. Next time she came to hang out, she brought her younger brother R\_\_\_\_ with her. R\_\_\_\_ was amazed that people actually wanted to talk to him and get to know him because he didn't really have that many friends and he would hang-out with his sisters' friends who didn't do that. They both started to come to CT regularly.

Me and R\_\_\_\_ got to hang out and get food and he was telling me how had a really messed up childhood, because his parents got divorced

when he was 2 and his dad was extremely abusive both physical and verbally. All his life he was suppressing a lot of anger and bitterness. He thanked me for listening and said that it felt good to talk about it. This past Thursday after CT he mentioned that the teaching was deep, so me and him went out-side to smoke and i asked him about it. He said that he liked the point that suffering, in grand scheme of things, is only for a short time. So then I asked him more about his experiences with his dad and he just vented out for like 40 minutes. After, I asked If he believed in God, and he basically said that he cannot believe in a good, and loving God at the same time as going through what he experienced with his dad, and said he is open to the idea of God, but that he will not seek him out but will wait until he will experience him. This is where I got to lay out the gospel and explain why there is suffering in the world and that God wants us to be reconciled to him so we don't have to live in a fallen world and suffer. I went on and shared my testimony and my struggles and ways that I have experienced that God was seeking me out. He related a lot to my testimony and was talking through his experiences and became more and more convinced that he has been experiencing God initiating and revealing himself to him, and then he said that he feels like God has opened his eyes to understand him more. After he was done I showed him John 1:12 and said that God is doing all those things because he wants to start a relationship with you. He thought about it for about 15 seconds and then said that he wanted to accept Christ. SO we prayed together and he was really excited afterwards to be with heaven with everyone. Praise the Lord!!!  
Please pray for his protection, and that God would be healing him from all that he suffered with his Dad.

Micah Weils Nov 4

Ok. So here's the facts. We were sorta talking about stuff all over the place then we talked about Xenos and stuff for a long time. Then somewhere in the conversation he was like "I believe in God but sometimes I have trouble understanding why I believe in him and why I trust him" So I laid out a bunch of logical arguments as well as evidence towards why the Bible was trustworthy and I felt like he was super

receptive and understanding towards what was going on so I kept on giving him more then he talked about how the Bible was super confusing and how there's stuff that just doesn't make sense and I was like "Dood I totally understand but it's important not to get caught up in all the sub plots and side notes of the Bible. The main point is Jesus Christ and what his death means for us" So I laid out the gospel and really in depth explained exactly what it meant when Jesus died for us and he was really understanding and open about it so I asked him if he wanted to make that decision for himself to come into a personal relationship with God and he said "yah but I don't know what to do" So I explained it to him using verses like Rom 10:9&10 and a few others dunno which ones though then I gave him an example prayer and he prayed a sweet prayer and it was good!

Shayne Kulmer Nov 4

I finished a midterm early at Columbus State so I decide to chill out in a hallway and smoke my e-cig. G\_\_\_\_\_ comes down some stairs and sees me blowing smoke rings in the hall and thought it was cool. After that i got his number and told him that we were gonna have a Halloween party that would be more cool.

So G\_\_\_\_\_ comes to this party and hangs out. A few of the people in my group had given him the gospel, and told him we also meet here for bible studies on Wednesday. We party with this guy from like 9-3:30 in the morning and he has a good time.

3 days later we ask him to come to guys night. He had a good time and we were able to peel off to smoke and talk about spiritual things. G\_\_\_\_\_ said that he thought it was cool that we were having a bible study in our house and how surprised he was that we aren't super lame. G\_\_\_\_\_ expressed that he also was pursuing god too. I asked him questions about what he believed and why. I ask him if he had ever asked for what Christ did on the cross to apply to him. He said he did but

he couldn't point to a time that he made that decision or prayed anything like that. He also could not articulate the gospel so i had a lot of doubts.

2 days later he comes to home church and loves it. 3 different people give him the gospel again and ask if he has ever prayed to receive Christ and his answer still is very unspecific and sketchy. After getting the gospel again he takes me outside for a smoke and asks " why does everybody want me to make this decision so much?" I explained to him how important it was to actually be forgiven once and for all by God and the difference between being a good person and being a christian.

The next day we have cell group and G\_\_\_\_\_ had asked if he could hang out with us. We told him to come over after. So after cell we hang out and party a bit and as the night winds down G\_\_\_\_\_ smokes with me and Coleman. Unprovoked G\_\_\_\_\_ asks Coleman what his testimony is and when Coleman made a decision to receive Christ. After talking about it Coleman and I proceed to beat a dead horse and give G\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel for like an hour and a half. G\_\_\_\_\_ seems like he doesn't want to hear it and seems very disengaged. As the conversation seems to end Coleman head to bed cause it like 3:30. G\_\_\_\_\_ waits till Coleman leaves and asks me again "dude i don't understand why everyone want me to know if i have made this decision." I explain to him the difference of just believing in god vs. receiving Christ. I do this over and over till like 4:30 in the morning and at the end of all that he said "ok lets pray that right now"

He prayed to receive Christ and still hangs out with us. Pray for his protection and Growth. PTL.

Judy Jackson Nov. 4

My friend Hannah who I've known since middle school started coming around to Kraken HC a little over a month ago. She used to go to North

Broadway Methodist, and was looking for another church so I invited her to Kraken.

As she started coming more consistently, I've seen her open up in ways I hadn't seen before, and we've been close friends since our junior year in high school. After clearly hearing the gospel she knew she had a decision to make with her relationship with God. She spoke with Amy D a couple times and was open about how she never made a decision and how she needed to think things over. In her time coming out to Kraken, she has noticed that something was causing her to be more open about things in her life, and how our relationship has gotten stronger.

This past Friday we went on a retreat and she came along with us. We had all been praying that she would accept Christ on the retreat. After lunch on Saturday we sat on the swings out by the cabin and she said she had thought about making a decision and said she was ready. We prayed together and she made the decision to accept Christ! This is an amazing answered prayer, and it's so awesome to see God's work so clearly!

Sophia Yanke Nov 8

Tonight one of our high school seniors, Cheyenne Carpenter, brought her friend H\_ to cell group. H\_ went to high school CT once before about a year ago, but we hadn't seen her out at all after that. After the teaching, H\_ and I talked briefly about her church history and her personal beliefs. She said she really liked the style of teaching we had here & that the discussion really impacted her. Since the last thing we discussed in the teaching was how the good news came to us, I asked her if she had ever made a choice to receive the good news. She said she hadn't but she wanted to. So we went on the porch, discussed the sweet gift that Christ offers us, and prayed! It was crazy- 100% Holy Spirit! Praise God for convicting this girl & preparing her heart.

Pray that God would continue to show her the awesome love he has for her & that nothing would hold her back from experiencing this love in Patagonia. Also pray against Satan's attack on H\_. She has a lot of

friends who are bitter against our church that could possibly speak lies to her.

Dominic Bailey Nov. 9

Dessie and Nick got to have an awesome conversation by the fire tonight, which she told me answered many of her questions, cleared up a lot of fuzzy areas, and made the gospel even more clear. Nick was trying to see what was holding her back from making the decision to expect Christ, and her response was that she wants to know more.

Nick then proceeded to find out what she meant, either meaning that she didnt fully understand the gospel, and wants to learn more about what that truely means, or that she just wants to know more in general about the bible, and all the countless questions that come along with understanding everything. Nick tried to make it clear that we cant be 100% clear about everything, at some point we have to take what we do know and act on that, because if we waited to be 100% on everything we would never end up doing anything.

On the drive home I got to continue to ask some more questions about what she meant by knowing more, and by the end of the convo she decided that she doesnt need to read the entire bible and understand everything, and then she said, "I kinda just wanna ask right now." So me and Dessie prayed together, asked God into her life, and we all just received a new sister in Christ!!!!

Guys I want to thank everyone so much for the love that you showed her from day one, she has pointed out to me so many times that she feels so welcomed and cared about by the people in this group. Thank you to the people who took the time to ask spiritual questions, and really listened to her, because she says she felt loved by that as well!

Aliza Brooks Nov. 10

Zach has been coming to Mosh for 5 months. He was confirmed in the Catholic Church and was pretty bitter about it. He's super smart and part

of his problem with the Catholic Church is that when he was in confirmation classes they couldn't answer his questions. He was invited to Mosh by Emily Baker and was immediately really drawn in. He talked about how awesome the community was (our kids have been really awesome in building in with him; they even went to a catholic mass with him to better understand where he came from). After nearly every teaching he would talk about how cool and different it was to hear the bible taught in context in ways that make sense with God's character.

Nearly every member in Mosh has gotten into spiritual conversations with Zach, there have been quite a few where he has talked about his need for grace, but every time it resulted in him saying that he needed to think about it more before actually praying.

Last night during the big meeting Zach and I sat next to each other, I got the feeling that I needed to talk to him. Afterwards when we were hanging out one of the seniors was talking about how he made a stand for God against his dad and how hard that was. Zach chimed in about how he had to stand up to his parents to even come out to college connection. I asked him to explain it more and together with Aaron Aebie and Jason Bray we talked.

Zach was saying that yesterday was the first time he told his parents that he was coming out to Mosh. He said that his mom and grandpa got really mad and his grandpa slapped him across the face and called Zach an atheist. Zach kept saying that he wasn't an atheist anymore, I asked him what he meant by that. He explained that since coming out to Mosh he realized that God did exist and that he was different than the Catholic god. Zach talked about how Catholic's follow a lot of traditions and rules and how that doesn't fit with the bible. I talked about how my parent's had me baptized as a baby, and how that was a tradition that didn't make sense because you have to ask God for forgiveness and how that can't happen when you're a baby. Then I explained when I accepted Christ and how for a time before I did it I was skeptical of how easy it was. Jason agreed and told a story about a friend who though that too, but then realized it couldn't be any other way because of how much humans suck.

I asked Aebie to tell me about when he accepted Christ because I forgot, so he did. Then I asked Zach if he had a specific moment when he had asked for forgiveness. He said that he hadn't because there something that he needed to do first. Zach explained that a person who was a huge

spiritual impact in his life had died a few years ago, and he felt like he couldn't come into a relationship with God until he saw that person again. He said that he wasn't sure what that meant exactly but though it could be him going to South Carolina to the gravestone. I talked about how that was risky because as soon as we die we know where we end up and at that time it's too late to make the choice. I said that it sounded like the person that died would be in heaven and how awesome that would be.

I told Zack about my senior year in high school, when I was at the point of walking away from God because my nephew had died. I talked about how pissed off I was at God and how much I didn't want him, and how that was the time I started checking out the college group. I talked to him about how the college group showed me what it was like to have joy following God and about how while in the college group I've learned a lot about heaven. I talked about how I know that I'll get to heaven and get to see my nephew and I'll get to talk to him and have fun with him and see who he was meant to be, and how excited I am for that. I mentioned again that he could have that with his person who died, and cautioned him not to wait too long to pray because he could miss his chance.

There was a pause, and then Zach said "well, let's do it right now". And so we prayed. Jason prayed thanking God for a way out of our sin, and Aebie laid out how to accept Christ, then Zach prayed and thanked God for giving us the option of having our sin forgiven through Jesus, and then asked to have his sin forgiven and to start a relationship with Christ! I closed out with thanking God for heaven and it was over!

Then I hugged him, and then he called Emily Baker over us and he told her what happened and she hugged him and cried and it was great! The Holy Spirit was working and the conversation was so smooth and natural, and totally unexpected! It was awesome!

Brianna Chastain Nov. 10

Rahele invited her friend, De'sha to cell group on friday night. After the meeting I started talking to her about her church background. She had been recently going to a baptist church with her grandmother but never had any spiritual influence. She definitely believed in God but it was

clear she didn't really understand him. I finally asked her if she had ever heard the gospel before and she said no. So I walked her through some verses in Romans, then explained to her what happens when we receive salvation and took her through some verses in Ephesians. She said she believed what the Bible says but wasn't ready to proclaim it. I encouraged her to call out to God and think about the decision that was in front of her. She ended up staying with us all day yesterday for activities and the big meeting. After the meeting last night I asked her if she had been thinking about what we talked about the night before. She said that she understands the decision fully but was still afraid to put her trust in it. We sat down and continued to talk, this time with Rahele, Kimmi, one of our high school girls Alex and I. Kimmi finally asked her if she felt like she had to clean herself up before going to God and she started crying. She said she knows what it is that was holding her back and after talking about it with us, she was ready to accept Christ! We all prayed together and she told God she believed Jesus Christ is God and asked him to come into her heart and accept his free gift. After we prayed she said she felt so light and free, we told her it was the Holy Spirit. Thank God for the Body of Christ, our new sister and for college connection!!!

Keith Moore Nov. 10

Personally, I think I really discovered the weight of what Jesus described as the 2nd greatest commandment in Matthew 22:39. Two guys from Renegade came to my group for College Connection and we had a blast. This story is in reference to Raquan, a junior that I met a couple weeks ago. I've never met someone with more of a troubling past than him. Raquan has been in and out of foster care his whole life, his mother and father were addicted to crack, he's from one of the worst neighborhoods in Columbus and was recently expelled from South High School, and was kicked out of his Dad's and now lives with his Grandma in a retirement home. It was amazing to witness someone in so much pain express such vulnerability. He prayed during our prayer meeting with our cell group for him to forgive his father. I don't think I've ever encountered a time where my heart ached for someone like this.

Raquan was a handful over the weekend, but it was expected. I think he experienced a complete culture shock, but once again that was expected. Me and another guy in my group talked to him Saturday night for a long time about what it means to be saved. I'm thankful that Kyle initiated the conversation because Raquan told me he got saved when he was 12, and baptized a couple weeks later. As I began to ask him questions, I found out that he never personally chose to ask for Jesus' death to apply to his sins and make his relationship with God personally. In the black community it's common for churches to do altar calls where the pastor brings people up on stage and prays for them. It was something very similar to that. After finding that out I gently told him that he should make his relationship with Jesus personal and invite him into his life. Later on, after seeing him get very irritated at a game our group was playing I pulled him aside to talk to him in my room. After expressing how pissed off he was, I asked him about what he thought about what we were talking about earlier. He told me he was ready to accept Christ. I began to pray and Raquan received Christ! He told me that he didn't feel irritated anymore and ran back to play Murder in the Dark hahah. What was so encouraging and a testament of the Spirit working in him was he told numerous people that he received Christ after that. Today in Renegade, he told people that he received Christ and was telling people that he wants to stop smoking weed because he's saved now! So to make a long story short, God really challenged me this weekend to love his people. When you see people with dark backgrounds call out to God it puts everything into perspective and reminds you why we are here, to be a light to the world (Matt. 5:16). Pray for South Linden. Pray for the hood. Pray for Renegade and that we can see this area get incorporated into the College Group and sell out for the Lord. These are areas that are untouched that God loves immensely.

Chris Unser Nov 11

I had gone to school with a friend, Noah since elementary school, but never really knew him. Towards the end of last school year, we started to talk a little. He became none responsive and couldn't get a hold of

him. We were having a party the night of OSU freshman move in day. He was invited out to the party and showed a lot of interest. Noah explained that his summer was dull and lonely. All he was doing was working, and waiting at his house for college to start. We told him what our house was like and that we held meetings on Mondays and Thursdays. Before saying anything else, he told us he would make sure he could come down to at least one of them. In the same night, we were able to give him the gospel, but it didn't sink in because of the atmosphere. He did note that there was something different. He came to CT that Monday and thought it was very exciting to be at. He told us that he had grown up around a Catholic family. His parents never forced him to go to church, but his grandparents did. They scared him by saying even if he didn't pay attention, that if he didn't go, God would hate him. He grew up thinking that you had to forgive your self of what you have done and then god will forgive you. Devin had explained that that was wrong and god is the one to forgive you for all you have done through his sons death on the cross. He then had to leave due to his parents needing him home, but had committed to coming back the following week.

The next week after the teaching, we were able to talk to him more. Noah said that he had liked the teaching a lot, especially the verse John 13:34, "a new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Devin and I asked him questions like what does that mean? How does god love us? What has god done for us? Noah didn't have many answers except for Christ dying on the cross, but didn't fully understand what that meant. We gave him the gospel and went over the Romans road (Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:9-10).

We asked him what having a relationship with god meant, looked like, and how to start one. He told us that it was scary to know that Jesus was crucified in a vicious way and that humans had no reason to kill him. He then noticed that without a relationship with god, he wouldn't be with god and thought that was scary. Even though it was a big decision and he knew it was one, he was eager to pray after we had asked him to. He told us that he believed in god and that he raised Jesus from the dead. So we went downstairs and we prayed. He wanted to ask god for a relationship and for his sins to be forgiven through his sons death on the cross.

After, he felt different and like a weight was lifted off his shoulders. He told us that he knew god wanted him to be here, and thanked him that he did. Praise god for putting such an eagerness on his heart to want to keep learning and have more knowledge about god!

Pray that Noah will be able to keep coming out and that he will be incorporated in the body, and finding identity truths god wants to show him!

Brandon Rapp Nov 13

I have a theatre class with a girl named Kassi. Earlier this semester we found out we're also in the same chem lecture. We had to go to a play for our theatre class one night and I got to tell her about our Bible study.

Two weeks later she texted me and asked to come out the following Thursday. She came and had a great time. She had been in a church when she was young but had never really heard the message of a relationship with God through Christ. She came out consistently for the next few weeks and was super open with me and our group about her thoughts about God and her fears in starting a relationship with Him.

Last night she texted me and asked to hangout and talk about the Bible.

I went over to her house and walked her through (briefly) how the creation, and the covenant with Abraham, and the law and Israel all point to Christ. Got to give her the gospel a ton and she thought that everything was awesome. She believed that Jesus was God's son and that He died so that she could have a relationship with God but she was still not sure she wanted to make the decision. We talked about how that relationship is based on faith and required a step of faith to act on.

Told her that she if she wanted to be able to experience the gospel personally she had to make the choice to apply it to herself personally.

After giving her the gospel a bunch more she said she wanted to pray right then. We prayed together and then I read Ephesians 1:1-14 with her. It was totally sweet... praise God

Pray that she would be confident in her new identity- she said she was most worried about the idea of change so pray that she would be

comforted knowing that God's love applies to her regardless of how much (or little) she decides she's willing to be changed. Pray more than that that she would want to be changed into a girl who wants to give her whole life to God.

Corey Nov 13

So driving home I knew I was gonna ask him about his conversation with you.

To loosen things up me and him attempted to spit bars. Then I asked him about his talk with you. He said you and him talked about accepting christ and pretty much told me what it meant and how to do it. So after he told me about the talk, I filled him in about how sweet it would be to be in heaven one day fo sure! Turned onto my street and I asked him if he wanted to pray with me and he said sure...I pray about the night at Ace and the teaching, then he starts praying and asks God if he could have a relationship with him so he could have a secure spot in heaven! Then he got outta the car and I was hella happy! Thanks for talking to him dawg! I got to talk with Chris after the teaching and he was primed and ready and understood Christ's death. He's completely loving Ace, definitely real sweet! Loves the friendships and absolutely loves coming on Sundays! He's also been really nervous if he was considered a member, and Corey's mom says all Chris talks about is how he's excited to be a member of Ace.

Allison Buffer Nov. 13

After a year of praying for my friend Jess, she finally accepted Christ tonight!

I met Jess in a class at OSU Fall 2012. Not being one to really talk to anyone in class, this was pretty surprising. She began talking to me

everyday, we ended up in the same lab group and we kept running into each other on campus, so it became clear to me that we were supposed to be friends. Naturally we got along pretty well and became friends quickly.

In January, Jess went through a pretty terrible experience which she shared with me. I was given many opportunities to talk to her about God and his comfort, but she wasn't very receptive. We lost touch for a while. I would invite her to meetings but things usually "came up". Even though she stayed in Columbus for the Summer, our schedules always seemed to be too busy to find time to hang out. By mid-Summer I was close to giving up on her. She didn't seem interested in God or our friendship. She was going to Holy Name and was very involved in her sorority. However, right before school started, we reconnected. She came to an outreach night at our house. She didn't stay very long, but something must have happened that night because all of the sudden she wanted to hang out more.

She opened up to me about how unhappy she was with her life and how mass wasn't helping her feel any better, but she didn't seem to understand the gospel. What really got to her was the community we have in the body of Christ. She began to spend a lot of time with me and my roommates and could tell there was a difference between how we related to her and to each other versus her other friends and sorority sisters.

I ended up inviting her to our retreat a few weeks ago, and despite a lot of road blocks she made it out! That weekend was a huge turning point! We did a series on Grace, Peace and Joy. Jess only heard the Grace and Peace teachings, but from them she really began to understand the gospel and that she was separated from God. She openly talked about her lack of a relationship with Christ, but said she didn't know if she wanted it because she didn't believe God was good or trustworthy. Through a lot of prayer and many conversations with multiple people,

she began to see God's goodness and understand that He wanted to heal her.

Tonight at homechurch, after a teaching on the conversion of Paul, Jess finally understood the depth of her sin and that without a relationship with Christ she wouldn't be going to Heaven. She sat down with my roommate and I and asked some clarifying questions about the forgiveness of sins. She said she didn't think she could ask for God's forgiveness because she was too messed up and she was going to continue to mess up. When we explained to her the depth of God's love for her, that He already knew all of her sin but died for her anyway, and that all of her sins would be forgiven once she accepted Christ, she said, "I want that."

So the three of us prayed together. She thanked God for bringing her to a place full of people that seemed to care so much about her and asked for Jesus' death on the cross to count for her sins "past, present, and future".

It was really amazing to see the body of Christ working together to win this girl. She could sense our love for another and wanted to be a part of that. How amazing is God for giving us such a sweet family? This was an amazing answered prayer! Please pray for her protection from Satan and that she would continue to come to meetings and have a desire to really walk with the Lord!

Nathan Persons Nov. 13

Bon (Ball, บอล) came to the United States from Northeast Thailand (Nakorn Panom) in the year 2009 and lived with his uncle in Georgia for 1 year and got laid off from his work. He had to move to New York for a new job. After around 8 months, the business closed down which left Bon and 3 other friends to look for another job. All of his friends moved to different states while he decided to look for a job elsewhere. The only

job that was available for him was Nida's Thai on High restaurant in Columbus OH, the restaurant that I work. We started to hangout almost everyday from the first day he arrived until now. After a couple months of hanging out and him getting more and more interested in the gospel, he had the opportunity to come to CT on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013. The teaching ended and we went outside to talk. He expressed that he wants to receive what me and all my friends have been telling him, the free gift of salvation. He has never prayed before in his life so it took some time to explain to him how God is actually personally listening to him and that praying is just him talking to God. After praying 3 times telling God that he will obey Him, I explained his separation from God that is caused by his sin and imperfection. He then prayed to God, admitting openly that he is a sinner and he needs Christ's death for himself and walks to start a personal relationship with God. Two weeks later, he called Monday and Thursday off. We started studying discovering God which gets him excited every time we read together. And this week, he has been reading the bible on his own, struggling not only on trying to understand all the English words but also the concepts that Jesus teaches in John. God is truly able to speak into people's lives, even to a person who has never heard of Him and has more than just a language barrier blocking him from understanding grace. His love for us has been shown through us to so many nations, even Thailand which is literally right across the globe.

Ashley Hand Nov. 13

We invited Chey (pronounced shy) down to college connection just to see if she would want to come and she said yes. When Josh and I went to pick her up we did a little digging and found out that she had had little church experience but she did have a negative experience with someone from church trying to shove their religion down her throat and she believed that all paths were equally valid to get to God. We brought up the idea that this weekend shouldn't be "is Christianity more likely than the others or is it better" but rather, is this valid? Could this be true? And we explained the Gospel very clearly.

She came to cell group on Friday, hung out Saturday and when asked, she said she wanted to stay for Sunday high school group where Abi taught on Isaiah 6 which was about God asking us who shall I send, it was about what we were gonna do with our lives. I talked with her after the meeting and asked her if she remembered our conversation on the way down about whether or not this could be true. She said she wanted it. I asked what she wanted and she said she wanted a relationship with God. When I asked her if there was anything holding her back she said she just needed some time alone and she wanted to prep what she was gonna say.

At this point I told her about the prodigal son and how the father was so excited to see the son that he didn't even wait for him to get his sentence out. And I said that is how excited God is for us, He's just waiting for us to come to him. We talked for a while longer and Josh drove her home. This is where things get crazy.

Yesterday I see a facebook status that said something to the effect of "Since I've accepted Christ into my life everything is so much better". I called her up and asked what that status meant and she told me that she woke up and felt different, not as angry as she normally is. She went to school and the rest of her day and just wasn't as angry. Then after school she got into a situation where a guy was asking to sleep with her and she told him that as corny as it sounded ever since she went to her bible weekend she didn't want to anymore, she wanted love and a real relationship. She went home and read some of discovering God and decided that that is what she wanted to do with her life!

She is trying to come to C-State for college and she wants to come back too!

Please pray for the rest of her senior year, she gets bullied in highschool and she lives 2 hours away. Pray that she gets in to cstate and stays strong until she can get rooted in the body of Christ!

Brian Adams Nov 13

2 Salvations!

Back in our retreat in September, Derek Antunes brought his brother Jacob who lives in Cleveland to our retreat. Derek had been studying the Bible with him during the summer while they were both home in Cincinnati. After a teaching from Tim Tobin on God's character, Jacob came to realize that he wasn't a believer but wanted Christ in his life. He received Christ right there and is **super** excited about it. He comes back to Columbus regularly for cell group (he goes to Case Western in Cleveland right now). He's an awesome dude to be around and has changed a lot. God is really good. Please pray this dude gets involved in a good church up there and that he eventually moves to Columbus to get involved here. He loves our church.

At college connection, a non-believing dude named Anthony came around. He's been going to Sentinel HS HC; him and his friend Lawrence (already a believer) came out with Aaron & Joel McPeak. Anthony thought he was a believer, but came to realize while hearing the word taught that he never had received Christ. After coming to college group and staying at the house all week, and hearing an awesome teaching from Tim on Matthew 5, Anthony decided that he wanted to receive Christ! He talked with Tim & Aaron and prayed there after cell group. Praise God! He apparently was talking yesterday about wanting to be discipled. Him and his friend Lawrence are really excited.

Praise God for working big things! Please pray that these guys stick it out and all eventually end up in ministry houses.

Pete Mossman Nov. 13

My roommate Riebs invited out an old friend from high school who, the first night he came out, brought his friend from work Clay. Clay had just started going to church for the first time about 6 months ago with his mom but was excited to learn more about the life that God offers. Clay had a really rough childhood and saw his mom change once she accepted Christ and thought it would be good for him to experience as well.

He has been coming out to homechurch now for 3 weeks and last week Riebs got to talk to him about things that held him back from accepting Christ. Clay said he really wanted to accept this forgiveness but he didn't feel like he could because of doubts he had. He also felt he wasn't living a "christian life" and that he needed to change that before he made that decision.

Then tonight he showed up to homechurch by himself without his friend who invited him out (Dylan). After the teaching he mentioned he lost a lot of family members when he was younger. Losing my dad around the same age that he did i felt i could relate to him on that, and share with him the help my family and i got from the Christian community we had around us. This led to a realization that most of his friends were just there to use him, he said felt he never had a true friend in his life. Even though he had only been around us the past 3 homechurches he understood the close friendships were real and meaningful and he wanted that.

He started to say he felt opposition on this investigation he had with Christianity. This led Riebs and I to strongly urge him to make this decision now, knowing that satan was out there trying to pull him away

from what God had put out in front of him. After getting back to this urgency a few times he paused and said "I want to do it".

So Riebs and I started off the prayer and when it got to clay he wasn't sure what to say. After we told him to be honest with God and express his desire for the relationship he tried again but couldn't get words out. We sat in silence for a while until he finally started to talk to God and tell him he needs him and he wants his forgiveness to count for him. He then asked that God would show him meaning in his life and give him that path. We said amen and then hugged it out.

Thank God that Satan did not scare this guy away from a relationship with Him, despite all the hard things he has been through. Please pray that Clay will be able to keep coming to meetings and understanding his identity in his relationship with God!

Kate Gordon Nov. 13

This non-believer Dale who has been checking out our group brought his friend Kayla with him the last two weeks of home church. Kayla and Dale showed up last night and got to listen to Ari Shonebarger's badass teaching on heaven in 2 Cor. 5. After the teaching, Gwen Herrick and I started talking to Kayla and asked her about her spiritual background and the teaching. She went to a youth group a little when she was younger, but never put her faith in Jesus Christ.

She admitted that when Dale invited her she was really skeptical and didn't think she would be into it, but she was really surprised because last week (Abbey Bott's teaching on breaking) made her interested in Christianity. She ended up saying that she had been thinking about starting a relationship with God ever since last week, but wasn't quite sure still. We got her number and made plans to meet up and read through the Bible/answer some questions later this week because it didn't seem like she was ready to make this decision, so we backed off.

We ended up just talking about random stuff again, but the topic of Thanksgiving came up and she mentioned spending it last year with her dad's side for the first time. We asked her about that and she opened up about her dad being in-and-out of prison and her not having any model of love and healthy relating. We asked about her dating life and if these issues caused fear about that and she opened up about her fears of being the same way as her mom in dating and never having a healthy relationship. This gave us the opportunity to share how the gospel has transformed both of our lives and given us a hope and a foundation for change in this area. We shared John 1:12 and talked about how not only does God forgive our sins, but he goes a step further and adopts us into his family. You could tell that throughout the whole conversation she got more and more excited about this – that she could be a daughter of God. She asked how to even start this relationship and we had her read Romans 10:9.

Eventually we asked if she wanted to make this decision and she wanted to! We went upstairs and had her read Colossians 2:13,14, Romans 8:15,16, and Ephesians 2:8-10. Gwen and I both prayed and she followed with a super heart felt, genuine prayer, thanking God for having new sisters, telling Him that she wanted to be in heaven, and thanking Him for Jesus' death on the cross counting for her. Afterwards, we were all super giddy and she kept saying that she had butterflies in her stomach of excitement.

After we dropped her off, Gwen and I both got a text, unprompted, like an hour later saying, "Hey, I know it's late but I just wanted to thank you for everything, and I'm really looking forward to this new life and journey, and sharing it with you." Something that struck us about this whole situation is just how obvious it was that this was all the Spirit's work. Our group has been transformed into a prayerful group who prays that God will send us those who are receptive to the gospel and want to be disciples of Christ. It's been amazing to see God start dumping those people in our group in the last few months.

We are still planning on hanging out with Kayla later this week to read through the Bible. Pray that she gets to experience God and understand the Word with the Holy Spirit. Pray that she becomes a true disciple of Christ, not just a conversion, and can be firmly established in our church! **RANDOM THOUGHT:** I have found that the holidays are a really cool way to start spiritual conversation. Asking people what they're doing for

the holidays/who they are spending it with usually exposes some relational issues that you can ask about and try to figure out what the real need and pain is in their life. It helps you to figure out what aspect of the gospel is something they could really desire and gives you a chance to show them the hope that Christ provides.

Joshua Wagner Nov. 13

When I first came down to Columbus, I was going to OSU. While I was in the grad school program, I met a young man who had seen a lot to turn him away from Christ. His first real experience of Christianity that stuck out in his mind were the Chick Tracts (Cartoon gospel tracts that are unnecessarily offensive and often turn people away more-so than draw them to Christ) and brother Jeb on campus (one of the people that screams at others that they are going to hell). Since then, his reading up on the subject of Christianity comprised mostly of "rational" wiki (A website devoted to trying to show that belief in anything is utterly irrational, hence the quotations).

He was completely convinced that he was unable to accept Christ, stating he had "seen/read too much" and that it was too irrational. Despite this, he wasn't openly hostile. In fact he wanted to be friends quite a bit. He was very passionate about some very niche interests and it was clear that he was lonely and alienated as a result

So over the next 4 years, I gave whatever time I could to him. Just trying to listen to his interests and be his friend. Often when I brought up God or Christ, he would listen, make a counterpoint, and then just change the subject. When I did want to talk about spiritual things, it was like pulling teeth sometimes. I held off inviting him out to homechurch for a while, just because I thought he didn't really seem interested. But about a year or so ago I felt he indeed the testimony of the body of Christ more than anything (should've invited him a lot sooner)!

He was happy to come and meet people. He really enjoyed the relationships and as time went on we continued to challenge him about what was holding him back. After about a year and a half of coming out, last Thursday he said he made the spiritual decision to accept Christ as his personal savior! After so much debate and apologetics, it was the promise of personal growth and lasting character change that prompted him to accept Christ.

It goes to show that apologetics are useful, but what people really want is real change and relationships that only our Lord can make happen. That's what won him to Christ; the body of Christ. We've been reaching out to him for 4-5 years now and with so much opposition built up against God in his mind, this is a great victory for God! We're very excited to see what God has in store for him and we ask that you pray that God will affirm the decision that he has made in his heart, so that he will be bold in stating his new faith and relationship with God!

Julia Zimmerman Nov. 13

Baiden grew up in a Muslim family but was never that invested in any religion. Her dad practices Islam but her mom does not. I met Baiden sophomore year of high school, and she was never very interested in talking about spiritual things. She did come out to my high school home church one time, but felt uncomfortable and never came back. Baiden has been very flaky in the past and would go months at a time without talking to me. She went to Boston for college, but transferred to OSU after one semester because she was so lonely and homesick. We ended up having a class together at OSU and reconnecting our friendship. She came to my home church at the time, Mercury, a few times, but then lost touch again for a while.

This summer Baiden started hanging around my new group, HC Republic, and I could tell that things were different and she was more open to the idea of God. The first time she came to home church this fall she asked if we could read Discovering God together! (we had previously read one chapter of it) She expressed fear of dying and not knowing what would happen. Pretty regularly we read Discovering God and she was willing to think about what she actually believed, not just what her dad believed. I gave her the gospel after home church and encouraged her to think about it. The next week she told me she always thought starting a relationship with God was something she wanted, but that it took hours of prayer and seemed like too much work. I explained how simple it actually was and used the analogy of opening a gift and challenged her to think about it more.

On Tuesday, we read Chapter 5 of Discovering God, on Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant. Not only did she understand the chapter, but she was asking a lot of questions. We read about Jesus' crucifixion in Luke and I presented her with the gospel again, for about the fourth or fifth time. I showed her Revelations 3:20 and Romans 10:9 and asked if there was anything holding her back from making that decision. She said no and then we prayed together right then and she received Christ!

The next day she told me she woke up and felt as though 20 lbs had been lifted off her chest! I read the logic of salvation with her last night and she is eager to learn more and thanked me for explaining everything to her!

This is an amazing answer to prayer and it has been so awesome to see God at work in Baiden's life! It has been so cool to see her heart change from being so far from even considering who God is to beginning a relationship with Him! Pray for protection from Satan as Baiden continues to learn more about God and grow in her relationship with Him! Also pray that she would see the importance of fellowship and want

to come out to meetings more regularly! Praise God for His faithfulness in her life!!

Kristen Cleary Nov. 13

Micaela accepted Christ on Monday night by herself after me and Kristen Carpenter talked with her and challenged her to do so after cell group on Sunday!

Micaela was brought out by her boyfriend (now ex-boyfriend) a couple months ago. She is not a big talker, she gives very vague answers and after many conversations with many different people in Zeppelin it has been very unclear whether or not she has accepted Christ.

God totally answered our prayer for clarity on that...on Sunday after cell (which was on Daniel 9), we talked through the prophecy in more detail and what the implications are of fulfilled prophecy. Kristen Carp and I basically spent the rest of the time talking about the gospel and bringing up different verses and illustrations and hitting the point that going to church and doing things for God doesn't mean you have a personal relationship with God. We talked about heaven and hell and the decision that lays before her and asked her if she had ever made that decision. She thought about it and then was like 'nope I have never made that decision' and said she would want to do that on her own.

Tonight she confirmed that she prayed last night by herself to accept Christ. She thanked God for Jesus' death on the cross for our sins and asked that that be applied to her life! She also prayed for more understanding of his truths. She said that she feels happier and excited about the decision she made!

Isaak Kim Nov 13

Steve has been hanging out with pretty regularly while attending CT. He was always open to talk about God, so a few people got to dive in and talk to him a bit. but nothing substantial. He came out to HC for the first time last week and made really awesome points in response to discussion questions. After the teaching, I told him that his comment was really good and asked him if he could unpack it a little more. He pretty much said that he believes in heaven, and after a few more questions I got to give him the gospel. He first said the gospel was difficult for him to take seriously because growing up as a Catholic, people in his life told him that message but at the same time, they were also saying and doing things that contradicted the message. Immediately, Steve separated us from the Catholics by saying something like, "oh but you guys are different. You guys actually teach the stuff from the Bible and the gospel makes a lot more sense." He also said stuff like, "I can't think of any other reasons as to why Jesus was willing to be crucified unless it was to die for us." But then he was like, "I still got some doubts though." So I told him about Matt.17:20, and that his faith in the works of Christ seemed a little bigger than the size of a mustard seed. I shared with him that the questions he may have now might be answered once having the HS. He agreed with me, and when I asked him what was holding him back, he said he didn't know. He accepted Christ that night.

Nate Hummel Nov 14

R\_ has only been back in Columbus for about a month now. In this time he had stumbled upon one of our girls who invited him out. This guy ended up going with us on our retreat last weekend, and really opened up about his chaotic and sad life. He was raised an orphan and had been tossed around multiple times between various families (his own rejecting him harshly), unloved, lost, had been in and out of Ohio multiple times, and had tried to kill himself with drugs and alcohol multiple times. This guy was in deep internal pain - has no foundation or identity at all !

We talked all night, I shared my testimony. R\_ was very set on leaving Columbus yet again. I told him that if he stayed and removed everything off his plate and put God at the center, he would not be disappointed again. He then explained...

"so, this accepting Christ thing...I feel like I've done it a couple times but nothing has changed." (he had prayed with a couple of our girls a week or so before this, but was a deeper conviction this time)

"Oh? well...what do you think it means to accept Christ?"

"Well...committing my life to follow God."

"R\_, that's awesome, but there isn't anything there about RECEIVING Christ!"

I took my time and went through John 1:12, Rev 3:20, and the Romans' Road.

THREE big things that struck him HARD when I explained the gospel and how to receive this indescribable gift. God's love (as a perfect father example he had been missing), that we are messed up sinners who need Christ' help, and also seeing that it was a real living relationship with God that would grow and grow as you invested time into Him (like any relationship).

He was kneeling in front of the fire, and he prayed- "God, I accept you into my life."

Since then, there is a skip in his step unlike anything some of us have seen.

He wants to move into the house as soon as possible and is eager to begin studying with one of our guys - PRAISE GOD !!

John Henry Van I Nov 14

This dude from my work Jordan received Christ last week before the teaching at home church!

Jordan had been coming around to play basketball with us on Tuesday nights after high school CT's. He had also come over a few Saturday nights at my house when we had people over for the OSU football games. After he had spent a lot of time hanging out with our group I invited him to CT and he came and heard an awesome teaching on the Crucifixion. I engaged him on it immediately afterwards and he seemed to think he was a believer because he was anointed and recited a prayer while taking communion. After many weeks of talking with Jordan it still didn't seem to click with him that he wasn't a Christian. He had a church background and even said he prayed every day. After another awesome teaching at home church on Romans 3 I engaged with him on the need to have our sins forgiven. I asked Jordan what he thought it meant to go to heaven and he referenced anointment and communion again. I told him that wasn't what the Bible actually says about how you go to heaven. I showed him Romans 3:23 and Romans 10:9-10 and told him that God cares about our heart decision to ask for Christ' forgiveness. I explained to him that praying and asking God for that relationship is a one time thing that gets us into heaven for sure. He seemed to really understand and said that he would go home and pray that night.

I didn't talk to him until next week and I asked him on the way to home church if he prayed that prayer and he said no but that he wanted to do it after the teaching. I told him that we shouldn't waste any time and pray right now. He seemed really excited and completely understood the decision he was making. And he prayed to receive Christ