



THE BRANDT BULLETIN

Chicago Metro Campus Crusade For Christ

“Just a friendly reminder that this section is a no photo zone” was a phrase that we heard from our emcee often during the CM 2007 Conference in Busan, South Korea. Each day he would post a slide with the seating arrangements of the conference center that pointed out the “no photo zone.” This is where staff and students from countries where it is dangerous to profess Christ sat so that people would not take their pictures and post them on the internet or risk their safety in any way. We had heard a lot about persecution of Christians before, but never had it been so real to us until we saw people who really lived it.



As we waited to board our plane leaving Korea we got to visit with Campus Crusade President, Steve Douglass, and co-founder, Vonette Bright, who were also waiting to board for the U.S.

we took 8 students from across the U.S. with us to the conference, all of whom participated in a 2 week Chicago Summer Project (which you’ll hear about in our next newsletter) at the conclusion of CM 2007. Each student came back with a larger vision of what God was doing around the world. The conference was motivating for us as we talked to international staff members who are working so diligently to reach the university students in their countries. We are praying that as our ministry in Chicago grows we will be able to send students from Chicago all over the world to help these staff reach the influencers of their nation.

One of the things we really enjoyed was seeing Christianity lived out in so many different cultures. Korean Christians have a great fervency in prayer—often they are all crying out to God out loud in prayer at the same time! Many times their prayers are for the communist nation of North Korea, where it is illegal to be a Christian. They so desperately want to take the gospel there and see the two countries reunite. They seem to have no idea how it will happen but are trusting God in faith to see it happen. It was a blessing for us to see how diverse and big the body of Christ really is.

We have American friends of ours on staff in East Asia tell us about getting off the plane and having people suspiciously take pictures of them and the national staff who were with them. We heard reports of someone coming to the conference and asking for a list of participants from that same East Asian country (the request was of course denied). Other times students and staff would share stories from the stage but could not be photographed or even sometimes stood behind stage so that they would not be seen for safety reasons. The stories were incredible, like one student who came to know Christ through interaction with staff through a website called www.everyarabstudent.com.

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Fast Facts about CM 2007.

127 Nations were represented among the 17,000 conference attendees.

Students at the conference were continually challenged to be a part of reaching the rest of the worlds unreached college campuses.

The conference sessions were in English or Korean and then translated on stage into the other language. Most other languages had a simultaneous radio translation students could hear with an FM radio. Smaller countries often gathered closely around a translator to hear the conference in their native tongue.