

Passion Talks

Winter Conference 2013 - *Preparing for Your Life's Calling*

Saturday - 3:45 – 5:15

3:45 – God's Creation and Stuff You Didn't Know about Video Games

Romans 8 says that creation waits to be liberated from bondage and decay through the children of God. Two questions arise: (1) "What is creation?" and (2) "Who does the liberating?" Assuming that (1) creation includes video game technology and (2) "children of God" includes us, how well are we doing? This talk gives a brief overview of God in the video game industry, how academic and professional Christians are fellowshiping at secular conferences, and gives an instance for the earnest efforts of God's children seeking to liberate God's creation for God's purposes.

4:00 – Free as in Freedom

Computers are changing the way we communicate and collaborate. One recent trend is the practice of open source software development, in which software developers make their work freely available to all. We will look at the impact of open source development on the software industry, and potential take-aways for other disciplines.

4:15 – Talent: Knowledge, Power, and Responsibility

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48

The main talk will be based on the parable of talents told by Jesus and its effect on believers on future career goals. As many of you are in academia or industry, this parable gives tremendous weight for highly educated Christians, as we are among the 1% in the world with the privilege of knowledge, with much talents and gifts given to us.

How and what should we do as privileged people that have received much and how can we use our gifts for His glory? We all know that knowledge equals power, but we have to be also aware that with much power, comes much responsibility.

4:30 - The Brain, the Will & the Spirit: Relationships from a Christian Worldview

We are learning a lot about willpower and self-control through psychology and neuroscience, both about its limitations and its potential. At the same time, other experiments seem to cast doubt on the entire concept of freewill.

How do these data interact with the Christian worldview? Can neuroscience challenge core Christian concepts of spirit, choice and virtue? In a flyby survey, we will discuss the major challenges to the Christian worldview and how these data might be synthesized.

4:45 – Positive Destiny

Change negative patterns to positive patterns, quickly and easily.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to. Why do business professionals, game changers, and others set goals? Discover why vision is so important for us in pursuing and achieving the dreams and desires within our hearts.

5:00 – What do you want to do with your life?

When you are at the end of your PhD, you get asked this question a lot. This talk is about the experience of planning your post-academic future when faith, and not your own understanding, is the driving factor. This talk does not claim to have the answers, but asks the question of what it is that we actually want, highlighting the uncertainty, fear, and loneliness in the process. Not only drawing from examples in the Bible, particularly, the story of Joseph, but also movie references from: Kickass, Evan Almighty, Lion King, and Finding Nemo.

Speaker Bios:

David Carreon

David is a medical student at Stanford. He has a background in International Development, earning a degree in Civil Engineering from UCLA and spending a year in Kenya working for Nuru International. He has recently developed an interest in Psychiatry and neuroscience, with a focus on using non-invasive brain stimulation (TMS) to probe circuits.

Elliott Slaughter

Elliott Slaughter is a Ph.D. student in Computer Science at Stanford University. His research interests are in programming languages, compilers, runtime systems, and parallel programming models. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi and the Association for Computing Machinery.

Marcos Hung

Originally from Taiwan and raised in Argentina, Marcos speaks fluent Spanish, English, and Mandarin. He received his Bachelor's and Master's in Biomedical Engineering from Rice University. He worked as a research scientist at Stanford focusing on drug design and nanotechnology. He is interested in the design and development of consumer products that will profoundly impact society. While at school, he worked for several web startups, including starting his own (dedicated.com). He is also an intensive blogger and enjoys writing about technology, design, and startups (trendguardian.com).

Peter Trudelle

Peter works in business development for Sequoia Services in San Jose. He is also the dream coach at TLC Bay Area Church. He is fascinated among the truths found in the Bible, Lord of the Rings, and the business world in the area of goals, dreams, vision, and destiny.

Sherol Chen

Sherol is a PhD candidate in Computer Science and University of California, Santa Cruz. Her thesis is in the area of Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Storytelling with direct application to video games. Additionally, she's an independent game developer, a blogger, bandleader for the Terminal Degree Jazz Band (terminaldegree.org), and founder of Reclaim International (reclaim.org).