

Andrew Keung – Social Coordinator

Help to Build, Build to Help

‘Jesus didn't come to make us Christian. Jesus came to make us fully human.’

When I was visioning for the first time in second year for art's ministry, I came across that saying above by Hans Rookmaaker. It's beautiful. Jesus came to bring us to realize who we are and why we exist: because of the love of God and to BE with God. I took the idea of becoming fully human to heart and I have been slowly working at myself to understand what that meant within myself and what it meant for the fellowship.

We are who we are. We are loved for who we are. We should love who we are, because we are loved so much by God that he sacrificed his own son for us (John 3:16). This is where it all begins. So many times I have looked down on myself, hated myself and just wished that I was not who I was. I wanted to become something that I wasn't. But in this disdain for myself and my abilities I was wasn't able to do anything that I loved, or really be happy with anything that I did. I reserved all my talents, my emotions and my joy because I either felt they were not sufficient or I felt like they didn't matter. That's no good, no good at all.

Over the past three years in CCF, every week brothers and sisters have built me up through encouragement, rebuking, love and appreciation for who I was. That's over 80 weeks of 'construction'. CCF has given me opportunities to lead small groups, lead ministries, lead worship and be in a real community. This community has also fostered my love and ability for art and design and gave me a reason to love my gift again. The people I have met, the friends I have made and the leaders I have followed have done so much to build me up and reaffirm my identity and worth in Christ.

I love myself now. I am able to love myself now because I was loved first. It used to be a non-possibility and now it is fact. It's great, but it doesn't stop there. This recognition of my worth has enabled me to love others stronger, lead in more confidence, and most importantly to be able to use my gifts to glorify God and expand His kingdom.

“And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning,”

- Exodus 36: 2-3

When they were building the temple not only were the craftsman building the house of the lord but all the people of Israel brought their freewill offerings every morning. Everyone, every single person has something to offer to the kingdom of God and everyone can help to build. We as community should understand that what we have to offer is beautiful and to love what we can offer. What we have to offer will be building a community that helps other

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people personally, emotionally and spiritually. When we build each other up and reinforce the idea that there is worth in every single one of us and what we do. The community that is built becomes a place that glows with serving hearts. Everyone shares a place and the purpose to serve God and serve people with all they have.

Creating this place where we can all share a purpose and serve God and others is something that can come to fruition through the planning of social events for the fellowship and community. As the body of Christ we are to do what we can in any way to fulfil the will of God. Be that inward growth or outreach.

The major events and occasions of CCF like the retreats or outreach nights are where I really see the body of the fellowship come together towards the common purpose of fulfilling God's will. I believe that through the unity of the fellowship through Christ is experienced most fully at these times and this is why it is so crucial for our community. I vision that CCF will be a community where we can build each other up through our common purpose and love for Christ and others. These values also extend also to the weekly large group where hospitality and inviting hearts are at the core of the community.

Let CCF be a place where we help to build, and build to help.