

## courage for a passionate pursuit

*"You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift your voice up with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!'"*  
- Isaiah 40:9

### **whole hearted.**

Recently, God has been humbling me with the realization that I have been worshipping with half a heart, afraid and complacent. I've realized that if I really believe what I believe, then my entire life should be in constant, desperate pursuit of Him - even if sometimes that pursuit is full of doubts and questions.

### **you only need courage when the going gets tough.**

But that's easier said than done. Sometimes choosing Jesus over everything is scary, painful, or downright uncomfortable. Sometimes I'm tempted to turn back to complacency. But in the end I am aware of my sin, the sacrifice He gave, and the love that I have experienced personally. In the end I know that the God I profess to worship is very much real and very much alive. That knowing Him and serving Him is worth every uncomfortable moment. So I go on my knees again and ask Him for a little bit more courage.

### **take heart.**

*"Do not be anxious in anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

- Philippians 4:6-7

Thankfully, we're not left to our own devices. God is strong where we are weak, gives us boldness where we are afraid, and peace where we are anxious. He's also placed people in our lives to journey alongside with, in community.

Therefore, the vision placed on my heart: that together, we would **courageously pursue God with a sense of desperate passion and live out our faith loudly**. Let's lift our voices up with a shout, for we will not be afraid!

### **so, how?**

I think the big thing is to be curious. It takes courage to be curious and ask questions that you might not find answers for, or even worse, might not like the answers to. I hope that as a community, we will **cultivate a culture of openness and genuine curiosity** where we are **empowered to seek and know God** intimately. We are allowed to be flawed and broken as we are, ask dumb questions, and look critically at what we believe. We are allowed to be unsure. God is bigger and more mysterious than we will ever be able to comprehend, and if we knew everything, we wouldn't need Him.

Charmain Wong  
Devotional Leader

**practical, for y'all practical people**

Spaces within the fellowship (formal programs, informal gatherings, and personal relationships) are all important platforms that come together to build this culture.

1. Facilitate a formal space in the fellowship (women's ministry) where the women of CCF
  - a. can be open and vulnerable with one another
  - b. can be curious, ask questions, and learn more
  - c. are challenged to live out our faith loudly
2. Encourage intentional gatherings (women's discipleship groups) and spontaneous gatherings (wanna bake brownies with me).
3. Consider a mentorship program.
4. Personally love, walk with, and challenge women in the fellowship so that they would in turn love, walk with, and challenge the women around them.

## Personal Evaluation

**What are one or two strengths (skills/qualities) you possess, and how have you demonstrated these in the past?**

One of my strengths lies in listening - that is, caring, listening, and remembering. I think that I've demonstrated this strength both in my personal friendships and as a leader, whether it be with first grade sunday schoolers or high school youth or my worship min friends.

Another strength I possess is creativity! One of my greatest joys is thinking up ideas to solve problems, such as how to arrange my bedroom space for maximum efficiency or activities for a themed worship ministry night. I love to look for and try out new ways of doing things, sometimes even (especially) when they are probably bad ideas!

**What weakness do you possess that may hinder you in your chosen role, and how will you commit to improving this area while you are serving on committee?**

One thing I see in myself is that in my introvertedness, building relationships is not something that comes either naturally or easily. I have to put intentional effort and practice into this, and more than that, it is not something I can strong arm through on my own strength. I will commit to reliance on God as my provider of strength, guidance, and love in hopes that I can pour out without being drained.

**What can you personally offer to help other members of committee in their difficulties next year? What is your personal commitment to ensure that committee works well together as a team?**

I think that the best things that I can realistically offer are faithful prayer and an understanding, listening ear. What else can we do but to pray - for each other, over circumstance, for the fellowship. I hope that in every difficulty I would be pointing my fellow members back to the God who sustains us, as I'd want others to do for me. I think as well, specifically, I can personally commit to building deeper relationships with other members of committee as friends. How can we support each other in difficulties if we aren't aware of what's happening in each others' lives and faiths? It seems important to remember that we are first and foremost brothers and sisters in Christ, and secondly members of a committee trying to get things done.

**If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?**

I honestly believe that I can still serve, care for, disciple, and empower the women of the fellowship without a stated position. In line with the vision and heart God has given me, I will commit significant time and energy into investing in women around me by building genuine and consistent friendships, by initiating informal spaces for the women of CCF to gather and encourage one another, and by supporting leaders through prayer and a listening ear, to name a few opportunities.