

# Seed

Vol 4, No.1  
April 2008



Letter from Seed 2

3 Looking for  
Christ-like Christians

Who the Hell  
Goes to Hell? 4

4 Sin Gets a Facelift  
(Seven Deadly Sins)

Living the  
Complaint-Free Life 5

6 King Quest

Expressions 8

10 Dear Seed

Veritas Forum '08 11

12 Is God Green?

Experiencing the  
Power of Prayer 13

14 What Inspires You?

Tommy & Johnny 15



# from seed...

Everyone wants to be a leader, not a follower. But how do you become a leader without knowing what kind of leader people want to follow? How do you become a leader when the only voice you're listening to is your own? How do you become a leader when you have no clear goal of where you want to be? And how do you become a leader, more specifically a leader of the Lord without being equipped with His words?



These very questions challenged each of us at the retreat as we reflected on our calling as Christians. Did God call us to be mere citizens or extraordinary members of society who mirror the power of God? Assessing our “now” state with brutal honesty guides us to create a vivid picture of where we ultimately want to be. Where are you “now”? Are you manifesting God’s glory with the time and talents He has given you, or are you merely getting by the daily grind? May your honesty and the Spirit guide you to be the leader you were meant to be- with or without recognition.



SEED intends to plant the gospel of Jesus Christ through a semesterly publication. The purpose of SEED at NYU is to provide answers, spark new questions and address issues relevant to students; to offer an alternative view of life on a local and global scale; and to reach as many students as possible. The tone of this publication will range from thought provoking, controversial and informative to frivolous, humorous and light-hearted.

If you would like a question answered or if you are interested in current Christian topics, SEED wants to hear from you. E-mail your ideas, an article, a poem, a photo or a piece of art to [nyuseed@gmail.com](mailto:nyuseed@gmail.com). Check out our website at [www.nyuseed.com](http://www.nyuseed.com).



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# Searching for Christ-like Christians

by James Pyun

*"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians.  
Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."  
--Mahatma Gandhi*

Jesus made it clear; the greatest commandments are to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." And yet there are countless examples of Christians who dehumanize homosexuals, slander their fellow brothers and sisters, and ignore the poor -- all in the name of Jesus. God is the God of justice, but he is also the God of love.

No clearer is this point made than in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Imagine someone horribly beaten in a dangerous neighborhood in the heart of the night, literally left for dead. It was not the proverbial pastor, nor the pious Christian who offered his help; they ignored the situation altogether as they passed by. It was a social outcast, the type no one expects to associate with Christians no less, who not only tended to the victim's wounds, but made sure everything was taken care of, right down to the outstanding hospital and medical costs.

Do we see this today, this kind of Christ-like love being expressed by Christians? Are we expressing our love for Christ to others to the fullest?

Why is it that Christians do not act like Christians? I believe the answer can be found in Matthew 25:31-46, when Jesus separates the saved from the damned by how they treat, "the least of these broth-

ers of mine," people that society today demonize, marginalize and reject. If you think you are saved, think again. Likewise, if you think you are hell bound, you most likely are not.

It goes deeper than that, though. *Why are you a good person?* Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the greatest opponents of Christianity, yet one of the most insightful

minds humanity has ever seen, called out the most moral people as having the most immoral, most evil basis for being the way they are, doing good things for selfish, unedifying reasons. But in Matthew 25:37, the righteous are almost clueless, lacking a record as to when they did such edifying things, while in Matthew 25:44, the wicked have kept a record of their good works, as if they deserve

to be rewarded.

Imagine then, a whole conglomeration of people who claim to believe in Jesus, but show behaviorisms exhibited by the wicked in verse 44. It is not difficult to see what kind of disaster can result when people constantly vie for approval, deep down, harboring hateful thoughts of each other. And when the inevitable occurs, when people's feelings are put out in the open, Christianity is exposed as a pitiful fraud that people today continue to criticize and look down upon.

Jesus Christ did not stand for any of this. To all believers reading this, whether you realize you are one or not, remember, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor,



**Identity crisis: why don't  
Christians act like Christ?**

cont. on page 15

# 4 Who the Hell Goes to Hell?

by John Park

“If I’m not Christian, am I going to Hell?”

How do I answer that question? If there were only 100 people in the world, only 30 people would be going to a place called heaven. Therefore, among the 6 billion people in the world, only 1.8 billion will go to a “better place” while the remaining 5.2 billion people will suffer and rot in hell. Not only is it unfair and inhumane that so many people will burn in hell while a few select Christians get to go to a better place, but it borders on cruelty and even evil. I identify myself as a Christian because I believe in Jesus and the Bible and that I should be a good person and all the rest, and I have always learned that God is the God of love. However, if my God is so loving and good, how can He allow so many people to go to Hell? It’s just not fair.

I didn’t know what to say when my friend asked his question. It seemed kind of wrong to say “Yeah, you’re going to hell unless you repent,” but the Bible clearly states that only the righteous and holy can go to heaven and be with God because God is holy and cannot stand to be around sinful men. Therefore the only way to go to heaven is through faith in Jesus Christ who justifies us freely through His death on the cross. In that respect, the correct Biblical answer would be, “Yeah, you’re going to hell.” But it feels so wrong, like I’m condemning him to eternal damnation. Jesus never condemned anyone. How can I?

God bestowed upon man an inherent right-free will. He could have made men to be like machines, perfect and holy like His angels, but instead, He gave us the freedom to choose for ourselves. Love

is the highest element in the universe. It changes men, gives them hope, and enables them to endure in an unfair and cruel world. God wants us to love Him out of our free will; He wants us to choose for ourselves to love and obey Him. He wants us to choose for ourselves whether we want to be with Him or not. When God decided to create men with free will, He had to create a hell out of His ultimate respect for men’s free will. Hell is not a place of fire and brimstone. When Jesus spoke about hell, He was using allegorical and metaphorical language. Hell is a place where the very presence of God is absolutely absent. People are sent to hell because throughout their lives, they have decided out of their own free will, to live without God. God accepts and respects their decision, and ultimately lets them go to the place where they decide and want to go. Jesus does not condemn anyone. Neither does God. He lets us choose for ourselves.

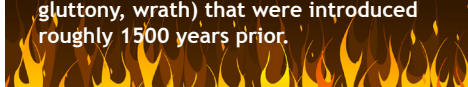
Thus, I think back to my friend. He asks, “Am I going to hell or not?” The answer is simple: “That’s completely up to you.”

## Sin Gets a Facelift

In response to rampant globalization and a “decreasing sense of sin,” Vatican recently announced the new seven deadly sins:

- (1) genetic modification
- (2) human experimentations
- (3) polluting the environment
- (4) social injustice
- (5) causing poverty
- (6) financial gluttony
- (7) taking drugs

These serve as an addendum, not a replacement, to the original seven deadly sins (pride, lust, greed, sloth, envy, gluttony, wrath) that were introduced roughly 1500 years prior.



# LIVING THE COMPLAINT-FREE LIFE

By Elaine Tsui

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Last year, after reading an article in People magazine about how a pastor was encouraging his congregation to spend 3 weeks without complaining, I became mildly intrigued. But soon after his story and mission quickly became broadcasted on such shows as the Today show, Oprah, and published in Newsweek, I was really interested. This anti-complaining thing seemed to be catching on with Americans. His website was selling out millions of the purple anti-complaining plastic bracelets. I figured if so many Americans were interested in this life-changing process, then I too wanted to give it a try. And just to make the whole thing more fun, I also encouraged several SEED members to do it along with me.

It would be interesting to think about what the world would be like if everyone stopped complaining, at least out loud, if this ever became possible. A crazy thought is how New Yorkers might be different, for instance (insert slight shudder here).

To try out the anti-complaining campaign sounded like a pretty hokey plan in actuality, especially in a place like NYU, where we are generally encouraged to be liberal, free-thinking, outspoken activists, ready to change the world, and not eager to be hushed up by some theory that we'd be better off if we didn't complain out loud.

However, after reading the associated book by Will Bowen (yes, he even wrote a book!) which came out earlier this year, I realized that not complaining isn't just about not complaining. It spans more than just trying to say the right things and exude positive, happy, energy all the time. Bowen, though being the pastor of Christ Church Unity in Kansas City, MO, deliberately presents the book and the problem in a non-religious, anyone-can-understand

format. Without preaching to his audience, he discusses how 'words are powerful', and "when we change what we say, we begin to change our lives". I learned that it's not just a matter of sitting back and shutting up when we see something we have a problem with, but instead a matter of sitting back, rethinking the problem, and focusing our attention on fixing a solution. It's a positive thinking, solution-finding strategy for living our lives.

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When I first got the purple, rubber bracelet, I thought, "How pretty!"

But less than twenty-four hours later, the pretty purple bracelet finally came off (ok, I ripped it off). I found it nearly IMPOSSIBLE and even rude NOT to complain when having normal conversation. It was truly eye-opening to see how deep my unthankful attitude runs.

–YS, volunteer writer & chronic complainer

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So, getting back to the experiment, how did I do? I don't know, because several months later, I'm still trying to complete the three-week course of no-complaining. I think I've lost the purple bracelet that I'm supposed to be wearing more times than I can count. However, I am strangely sensing some small changes in myself as I struggle with this challenge. Not that it's turned me into this super positive, upbeat, happy person all the time; but that I've instead become a more focused, driven, and goal-oriented person who views setbacks as new opportunities. Scary. Who knew not complaining could do so much?

More Quotes on page 15

# King Quest



*A story by YenYen Lintang*

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Strange creaking sounds and animalistic cries resounded through the gloomy forest. Ruwin couldn't see exactly what was happening out there because a thick mist obscured all, even the path ahead of him. With a shiver, he tugged at his damp leather jerkin and shrugged the sword higher on his shoulder. He cursed himself again for ever setting out on this quest, for not being satisfied with his hometown, for wanting more and for seeking out this King who supposedly knew each person's past and each person's future.

Something ahead caught his attention. As he neared, Ruwin made out the form of a small girl with wild hair, in a tattered white dress. She was sitting in the dirt, and couldn't be more than seven years old.

"Hello," she surprised him by speaking first.

"Hello," he responded quizzically. "Are you lost?"

"I'm not lost," the girl assured him in a confident voice. "Are you lost?"

Ruwin was taken aback a moment by her precociousness. Recovering, he laughed embarrassedly and said, "I think I am a little. I can sort of figure out where the path is, but the mist is so thick that I can't really tell where I'm going, or which direction to take when there's a fork. Are you familiar with this place?"

"I know everything about this place."

"Do you know if there's a King who lives nearby?"

"He lives just up ahead."

Ruwin looked in the direction that the girl was pointing.

"I can't see anything," he said. "Will I be able to reach the Castle if I stick to the path?"

"Oh, no. You can only reach the Castle by going through the forest."

The blood-curdling cry of some dying creature emanated through the dark woods just as she said this.

"Surely I'll be able to get there eventually on the path?" Ruwin asked, suppressing a shudder and adjusting the sword on his shoulder. The path may have been shrouded in mist, but it was certainly better than the forest.

"No," the girl said. "If you really want to reach the Castle, you have to go through the forest."

Ruwin frowned. He fingered his sword, looked from the path to the forest to the girl. The girl looked back solemnly.

It was absurd. He had been traveling through the forest for a long time now, and nothing very bad had happened to him as long as he stayed on the path. What reason did he really have to believe the words of this odd little girl, dressed in rags and sitting in the dirt?

"Alright," he said, inexplicably taking a leap of faith.

The little girl smiled, stood up and held out her hand. Ruwin took it automatically, having already submitted himself to her guidance.

As soon as they stepped off the path, the mist thinned just enough so that Ruwin thought he could see a series of lights up ahead.

"Is that where the King lives?" he asked.

"It is," the girl said. "Step where I step, stay focused on the lights, and don't get distracted by the forest."

Ruwin nodded, following exactly behind the girl as they began a dizzying, twisting journey through the forest, crawling over fallen trees and jutting roots, skirting around creepers and pools of pitch. The girl was amazingly fleet-footed and at ease in the environment, skipping, humming and singing blithely.

When they came to a steaming, sulfurous swamp, with only a rotting fallen tree as a bridge, Ruwin let go of the girl's hand so that he could better balance himself. He gave all his attention to figuring out where to put

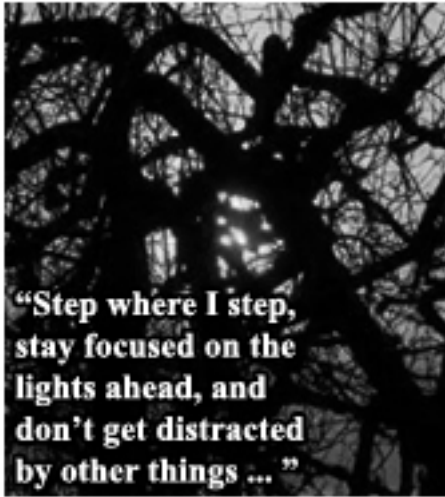
his feet, but it seemed that concentrating so much on a limited area was affecting him in an adverse way. He fought to keep his balance, failed, and found himself falling headlong into the murky waters. Just as his head was disappearing under the surface, he cried out for help.

The next instant, he felt something clutch his hand. Then he was on land again, coughing up black liquid and gasping for air.

“I told you,” the girl scolded him. “Step where I step, stay focused on the lights ahead, and don’t get distracted by other things!”

They continued when Ruwin had rested and regained enough strength.

As night fell, the forest took on a different, more sinister air. Small glowing creatures began to appear in the surrounding undergrowth, and Ruwin thought he heard sounds from very close behind them. He gripped the hilt of his sword just for comfort, and that was when he realized that many of the small glowing creatures were actually eyes staring at them from the darkness.



Fight instinct taking over him, Ruwin drew his sword. The glint of his weapon against the moonlight attracted the creatures. Something large darted out at them and attacked. Ruwin gave a cry and fended it off, but not without receiving a few injuries of his own. When he was sure that the beast was dead, he ran forward, grabbed the bemused-looking girl and ran quickly through the forest. The girl was trying to say something to him, but Ruwin shushed her as he sensed more forest creatures creeping up on them. He pushed the girl next to a rock for protection, then got ready for the onslaught.

An army of rather small, but sharply clawed, critters launched themselves at him. Ruwin fought with all his might. He had al-

ways been able to hold his own in a fight, but now he could feel claws and teeth sinking into him, knocking the sword out of his hands.

As he was being dragged into the shadows, he made a grab for his sword.

Suddenly, the girl appeared in front of him and thrust out her hand.

Ruwin looked, bewildered, from her outstretched hand to his weapon.

Surely she did not expect him to make such a decision? His sword had served him well over the years. It failed him just a moment ago, but if he could only grab hold of it again and reorient himself, he was sure he would be able to fend off the creatures...

“Trust in me!” she entreated, eyes wide and voice shrill, as if begging.

It was ridiculous. But he found himself making the leap. Giving up on himself, on his sword and what he could do with it, he reached out his hand and entrusted himself to the little girl.

Instantly, he felt the claws release him.

Battered, bruised, and bloody, he was able to scramble to his

feet with the help of the girl. Feeling weak and more than little ashamed, Ruwin hoped that they would reach the castle soon.

Just as he thought this, he looked up and found himself standing before the shining gates. He went forward, but a pair of guards barred the way.

Helpless, Ruwin turned back to look at the girl.

She smiled at him and held out her hand. He took it automatically.

The guards let them through. “Do you know the King?” Ruwin asked her as she led him into the hall.

“Yes,” the girl answered. “He’s my Father.”

# Seed

## Caught in the act

What I told him with my eyes  
I told him I was scared  
That I was guilty  
Yes.. caught in the act  
I didn't care  
Not anymore  
This was who I was  
This sparsely clothes  
Half a person before him  
I'd heard of him before  
His name whispered in awe  
And sometimes in disdain  
I heard he cured illnesses  
Gave the blind sight  
But as I stared at him  
I saw a normal person  
Yet I couldn't feel fear  
His demeanor His manner  
His eyes  
NO indignance  
No righteous anger in them  
NO hate  
And I felt shame

It was a strange emotion  
That I hadn't felt in a while.  
Masked by the scent of sin and  
sweat  
That I bathed in each day  
Oh yes  
They told him about the law  
The Law  
Of course I knew about the law  
And Yes  
I deserved to be stoned  
It was a bittersweet moment for me  
If I died.. my sorrow would have  
ended  
And my pain would leave  
If I lived .. what would happen to  
me  
What would happen to this man  
No ... I couldn't live.

What sayest thou?  
They said  
Yes I thought...  
Tell me my destiny.  
If I should live or die.

# Expressions

If I should cry or sigh  
What sayest thou?  
The man before me stooped down  
and wrote on the ground  
I was startled  
What is he doing?  
Has he gone mad?  
We are talking about my life HERE

As he wrote it got quiet  
Real quiet

He said something  
I wasn't particularly paying  
attention  
Too busy shifting nervously

He went back to writing  
They left  
It was him and I.  
I waited.  
I still wanted to know the verdict.  
What sayest thou?

Then I knew who he was.  
He was the Lord.  
He was my politically incorrect  
salvation.  
MY lord.

And he said unto me  
GO and sin no more.  
-Sarah J. Francois

“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his  
hands”

-Psalm 19:1

# Dear Seed

You have questions, we have answers. With some help from the Good Book and a good portion of divine inspiration, Seed addresses your inquiries, issues and concerns.



*Q. Religion, society, and even legislation look down on the union between same sex couples. But why? Love and attraction is such a powerful thing. Would not God prefer that we loved one another in whatever positive way?*

**A.** God is certainly interested in "love" (John's letter even tells us that God IS love!). But, part of the problem, in the English-speaking world, anyway, is that we use this one word ("love") to cover quite a wide variety of feelings and behaviors.

The other part of the problem (which I can more readily address) is that God's way of thinking about things is quite different from a human way (Isaiah 55:8). For those seeking to know God, and follow the ways of God, through a relationship with a Risen Christ, decisions based on "love" and "attraction" with anyone or anything other than God cannot lead to what God's best plan is for them (Commandment #1). This means that "same sex," "opposite sex," "free sex," even "no sex" (narcissistic) unions that draw us out of our love for God would not ever be God's preference. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and mind and soul and strength." (Matthew 22:37) It was not a commandment only for the educated, or only for his disciples, or even only for the Jews. It was the "greatest commandment," the key to having all of the great life God has planned for each human being. It means that every person on earth has the ability to know God and to serve a higher purpose than simply following their chemistry or their affinities.

Perhaps there is a heart "for God in Christ" for those who wish to be lovers. Then, it is a matter of each believer choosing what his/her authority will be. In my own Christian and evangelical tradition, Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, is the only non-(humanly) subjective source of authority. In this source, the "union" which we call in English "marriage" is between one man and one woman, and the commitment between the two is for their whole earthly lives.

Each believer must know God and, according to Christ, submit to God's will (Luke 9:23ff). In "taking up your cross," (i.e. "nothing left to lose"), you surrender your plans, your ambition, your "minimum salary," your libido, and even your desire for "love and affection" outside of God. It is what John 8:36 so victoriously says, "So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Free from conflicting and unclear desires and impulses. Free to love and be loved by God. Free to serve God in ways that are noble, just, and pure.

*Q. I have been dating my boyfriend for several years. At his urging, our relationship became physically intimate. I regret compromising my beliefs, but I love him and don't want to hurt or lose him by rejecting his advances. I know in my heart that he's "the one," so am I really doing anything wrong?*

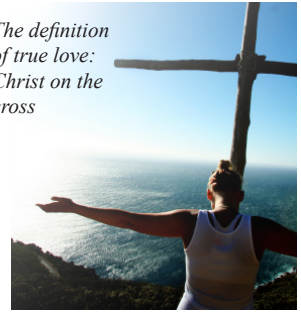
**A.** Begin by reading the answer to question #1.

Reconsider, not your relationship to the person you're dating, but your relationship to God. Clearly, the idea of "hurting or losing" a relationship with your boyfriend is superseded by the idea of losing fellowship with Christ. Granted, someone "with skin on" is often more appealing than a God one has to work to know better. But, that

"skin" will not love you and care for you when all other physical circumstances have worn out.

I think perhaps you have answered your own question. Physical intimacy is designed to be "jumped into" whole-heartedly with lovers who have already made complete commitments. If you were pressured into more intimacy than you felt was godly or noble, then your partner doesn't love you. He loves himself more. Re-think spending your whole life with someone who has little or no respect for your TRUE feelings and/or beliefs. Think more about spending your life for God, who already has made a life commitment to you, through Christ.

*The definition of true love: Christ on the cross*



*Q. I am really confused about who to vote for this November. I want to vote my conscience, but my conscience is split across party lines. Any tips on choosing our new Commander in Chief?*

**A.** Voting, especially for President, is always difficult. The only way to get guidance is by doing your own research. Find issues that you feel represent what the Scripture would speak to. Seek out Scripture to find what God's thrust (overall) is, as you read the way God has worked. Never settle for "proof texting," or random Scripture citing. Almost anyone can prove his or her "claim" with some Scripture from somewhere! With prayer and a desire to hear from God, search out which candidate can come alongside your own belief in what God desires the most (NONE will prove satisfying on every issue!). Choose and support and vote prayerfully. And, pray for anyone who ultimately wins.

# VERITAS '08

## An Overview of this year's Veritas Forum

by Trevor Agatsuma

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**Day One featured Dr. Timothy Keller, author and pastor of Manhattan-based Redeemer Church.**

The Veritas Forum was started at Harvard by a group of students, faculty, and ministers as a response to the emptiness on campus. They believed that universities no longer address the most important questions of life, such as, "What does it mean to be human? Why is there evil and suffering? Is there any meaning in death?" In fact, an ongoing UCLA study shows that over 50% of entering freshmen hope to explore and define their beliefs during college. Yet the classroom rarely allows students to engage questions of meaning, purpose or faith. In ignoring such questions, universities fail to create a coherent worldview for their students, making it difficult for many to integrate their academic knowledge with their lives. Veritas steps into this void, creating a space where people of all religious and cultural backgrounds are welcomed to explore ideas. Veritas encourages students to pursue Truth, connect their academic and vocational life to Christ, and emerge with clarity and hopeful vision for our world." (<http://www.veritas.org/>)



**Sharon Harper, executive director of New York Faith & Justice spoke on Day Two.**

At NYU the spiritual interest is increasing amongst students. Last year, even the New York Times reported on the "increasing religious life" on campuses across the nation. The Veritas Forum is one of the ways in which the Christian community hopes to continually engage with the cam-

pus to respond to this increasing spiritual interest. This year, the theme of Veritas a NYU was an attempt to start conversations which would feed into this year's theme of "A dialogue of Faith & Love in the Public Sphere." In the days and weeks before the Forum we asked students to respond to questions about the brokenness of our systems with such questions as: Where has religion gone wrong? What causes poverty? What can you do to help improve the environment?

The first night featured an interview with Dr. Timothy Keller, pastor of Redeemer, a Manhattan church which has been named as one of the most influential congregations in the nation. He spoke on issues he raised in his new book "The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism," which has broken into the top 50 in Amazon.com's sales rankings. Keller showed us that any belief we hold, whether atheism, agnosticism, or belief in God, is an act of faith. He addressed the many barriers to the belief in the Christian faith and showed how he felt it was the most reasonable.

cont. on page 13

# Is God Green?



by Yvette Shin

"Would you like a bag for that?"

"Sure. Actually, on second thought, no."

"Great! Take this wood chip and drop it into one of the bins."

"Uh, excuse me?"

"Because you decided against using a plastic shopping bag for your purchase, NYU will make a donation to one of four environmental non-profit organizations. Drop the chip in the organization of your choice."

If you've been to the bookstore lately, this conversation should sound very familiar to you. The worldwide push to go "green" has finally reached NYU.

For years, the NYU community has fostered a passion for environmental responsibility. However with the formation of the university's Sustainability Task Force in the fall of 2006, what was once a matter of conscience has now become a full-fledged, financially-supported, campus-wide initiative.

Going green is increasingly becoming a priority to the academic world. However not all factions recognize the urgency for sustainability efforts with such lucidity. The most disconcerting resistance comes from faith-based organizations. In particular, Christian leaders remain apathetic or even hostile toward this growing movement. The cause for this reaction is unclear. Some theorize that Biblical eschatology teaches a renewal of all things, making environmental preservation redundant. Others cite that the church's chief mission is spiritual salvation and not global conservation. Still others claim that the long-standing leftist claim on this issue makes right-wing Evangelicals uneasy.

But not all share this opinion. Reverend Richard Cizik is the Vice President for governmental affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals, and he is, for lack of a better term, the "Environmental Evangelist." Once indifferent to issues such as conservation and global

warming, Reverend Cizik had a conversion experience during a lecture on Climate Change at Oxford University in 2002 that left him ablaze for everything environmental. Since then "Creation Care" has become his newfound passion.

At the heart of his argument is the divine mandate to "fill and take charge" of the world found in the first chapter of the Bible. He also purports that Creation Care is a matter of moral responsibility; humankind's inherent duty is to cultivate, not exploit, the ecosystem for the benefit of all life on earth.

Unlike most Evangelicals of his stature, Cizik is ready to cross political, ideological, and theological lines to fulfill this mission. He exemplifies the view of the "New Evangelicals," a rising group of prominent Christians who have done away with the "us vs. them" mentality. He does so not only to nurture cooperation, but in obedience to his Creator.

"This is everybody's concern," says Jeremy Friedman, Project Administer of NYU's Sustainability Task Force who believes that concern for the planet is a powerful unifying factor, especially for faith-based groups. "Every major religion has a leader or major figure that went into the wilderness to experience God." The Buddha achieved Enlightenment under a Bodhi tree. Moses encountered Yahweh at the summit of Mt. Sinai. Jesus fasted forty days in the Judean desert. Muhammad received his revelation from Allah in a mountain cave.

So, is God green? Does He care about global warming? Is it His will for humankind to lessen the impact of its ecological footprint?

Yes. Of course. Duh.

The real question has to do with priority. Should matters environmental take precedence over those of morality and social justice and personal piety? Is feeding the world or preserving the world more important? There are no easy answers to these questions. But it is clear that the degradation of our planet deserves attention, hopefully before it is too late.

## ***Do you think that issues about the environment should be a part of the Christian agenda?***

- *Sure. Yes. It's mentioned in Genesis, right? It's in the Bible. -cultural Jew, NYU undergrad*
- *Yes, because our environment is dying. God created the earth, and I don't want to be part of a society that destroys God's glory and beauty. Getting involved in politics is good and effective. But prayer is good, too. -Barbs, CAS senior*
- *Not necessarily. I feel it's good to plant awareness, but not make it a staple of the Christian agenda. -Fraser, CAS junior*

# EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF PRAYER

BY WILLIAM SHIN

Therefore I tell you,  
whatever you ask for  
in prayer, believe  
that you have received it,  
and it will be yours.

—Mark 11:24, NIV



Perhaps Jesus' most poignant teaching on prayer, this one little phrase is the believer's maxim for leading an inspired, fulfilled and powerful prayer life.

• **First, Faith.** The key word here is "believe." It all begins with faith. But where does faith come from? "Faith

comes from the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, NIV) When we hear the Word, the voice of God, we can have faith. Intimacy with the Word is imperative. Believers must read the Bible.

• **Second, Prayer.** Hearing the Word is not enough; action must follow. Believing is letting the Word remain in us by hearing it. But praying is letting ourselves remain in Christ by obeying it. Prayer is the counterpart of faith; when both are united, answers to prayer are born.

• **Third, Patience.** The number one reason for unanswered prayers is a lack of patience. Conception begins with the union of faith and prayer. But it must be succeeded with an appropriate gestational period, to ensure God's full manifestation of power in our lives. Many quit prematurely and so never realize the full brunt of God's blessings. Waiting on God with faith, prayer and patience is crucial to experience the power of prayer.

## VERITAS '08 cont. from page 9

The second night featured an interview with Lisa Sharon Harper, who is currently the executive director of a new organization called New York Faith & Justice. Lisa spoke of how the Christian faith in America had split into two different focuses: one which seeks healing only for the brokenness of individuals and one which addresses the brokenness of our systems and society. She discussed how this compartmentalization of Christianity has damaged both the church and the image of Christianity to others. She then shared how these two focuses are again coming together in today's church. She challenged the Christians in the audience to be a part of renewing the world around

them and challenged others to consider the claims of Christ in light of His image being renewed and made whole.

The final night was in the format of a "coffee house," during which students held meaningful discussions about these topics over coffee and donuts. The hope is that students will continue to have these



conversations even after Veritas, to engage the campus and address the most important questions in life.

# What Inspires You?



**Jeff Kim**, president of AACF

Book: Shane Claiborne- theological prankster, speaker and author of the Irresistible Revolution; “his faith is lived out”.

Blogger: Jeremy Del Rio - [jeremydelrio.com](http://jeremydelrio.com) - “he has a great blog with insights on what God is doing in the inner city”

Preacher on my Ipod: Judah Smith - youth pastor of Generation Church in Washington - part of “The City Church”; [generationchurch.org](http://generationchurch.org).

InterVarsity leader **Ashley Jung**  
Devotional: One Year Bible NIV  
(Paperback)  
by Tyndale House Publishers

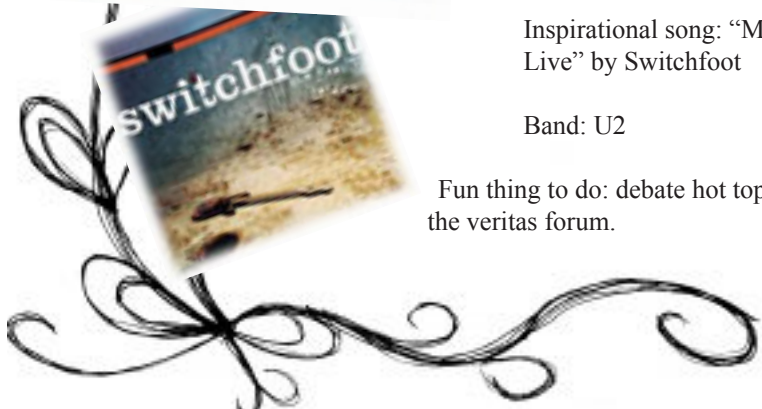
Book: Just walk across the room  
by Bill Hybels

Alum **James Pyun**  
Best website for sermons:  
[redeemer.com/](http://redeemer.com/)

Inspirational song: “Meant to Live” by Switchfoot

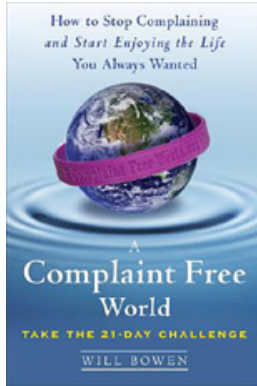
Band: U2

Fun thing to do: debate hot topics at the veritas forum.



## COMPLAINT FREE LIFE BLOG cont. from page 5

I managed to get through three weeks without verbalizing any complaints. This was easy for me because I don't usually share my personal thoughts with people, but I still felt depressed because negative thoughts consumed me. *-ling*



Are you up to the Complaint-Free Challenge?

I realized I complain about situations and people so often. I was busy with shifting the bracelet from left to right and right to left. And then I had to give up wearing it. *-anonymous*

When I received the purple bracelet, I was very excited. I would characterize myself as someone who does not complain. This was going to be very easy. Unfortunately, this experience didn't last long because I started to complain about switching wrists if I happened to complain. *-olga*

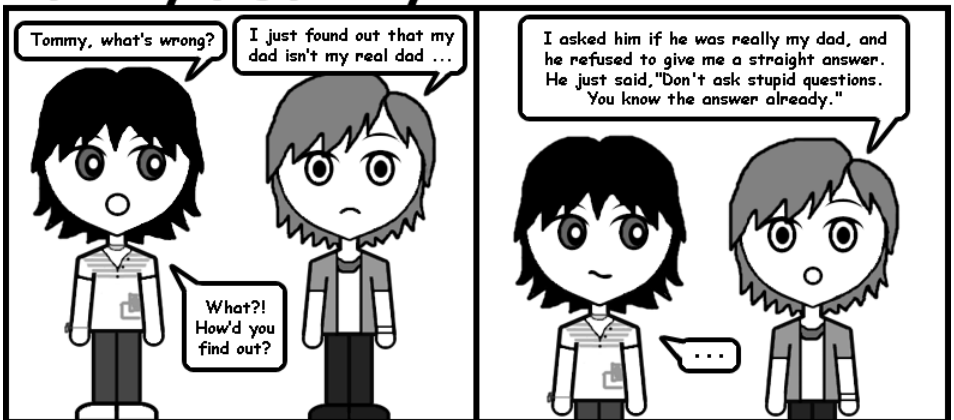
## Christ-like Christian cont. from page 3

but the sick.” At no point was Jesus ever in a “comfort zone” during his three years in a “comfort zone” during his three years of ministry, and certainly not on the Cross, his ultimate act of healing. Being a child of God is a privilege, and yet a burden. To those who think that the life of a Christian is a cakewalk, please consider we too are human and prone to make mistakes, mistakes that are magnified because of our beliefs and the high standard we are held to.

*“With great power, comes great responsibility.” -Ben Parker*

After all, Spiderman wasn't exactly perfect, though he was quite the cool superhero. •

## Tommy & Johnny





[www.nyuseed.com](http://www.nyuseed.com)

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A special thanks to our Dear Seed Mystery Contributor  
and to Jeremy Friedman, Project Administrator of the NYU  
Sustainability Task Force.

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart,  
who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”  
(Luke 8:15)