

2010 DuPage, NIU, Triton UBF Easter Bible Conference Report by Pastor Kevin Jesmer

## Made Alive In Christ

1 Corinthians 15:22b,

*“...in Christ all will be made alive.”*

On April 2-4, 2010 three UBF ministries, DuPage, Triton and NIU, gathered together to hold an Easter Bible Conference. The title of the conference was “Made Alive In Christ” based on 1 Corinthians 15. This passage has been utilized a lot in the past, but God blessed us with a new and fresh spirit with all the messages.

The conference site was at the beautiful Hamburger University, which is the International Headquarters for the McDonald’s corporation. It is situated on 88 acres in the heart of Oakbrook Illinois. It looks the like the Garden of Eden hidden in a concrete jungle. We had a great experience there at our last summer conference (2009). There were tulips and lilies coming up everywhere as well as many quiet walking trails. We thank God for Julie Jesmer. God has definitely given her a gift of administration. She used her skills as a meeting planner to negotiate an amicable contract with the Hyatt Hotel. She also made sure that everything ran smoothly with arranging rooms and meals. It wasn’t easy keeping the details for serving 96 people straight in her head, but God gave her strength. Julie prays for God to raise up co-workers whom she can train as onsite conference coordinators to work side by side with herself at future conferences.

A lot of the fruit of the conference was born though our pre conference co-working. DuPage and NIU UBF met frequently in the 90 days prior to the conference. We alternated Friday meetings. The messengers shared their testimonies and two drafts of their messages. They humbly received direction for rewriting. We even had a joint Sunday Service at DuPage UBF. This co-working brought NIU and DuPage closer together. It created synergy between us. We learned that 1+1+1 does not equal 3 it equals 4 or more. We began to pray for a closer co-working relationship between our chapters in the future in order to pioneer the western suburbs of Chicago.

What are come of the stats? Day one saw 45 attendants. Day two saw 56 attendants. Day three saw 86 attendants. In total, 98 people attended...15 through NIU UBF, 48 through Triton UBF, 27 from DuPage UBF, 3 from New York UBF, 1 from Chicago UBF and 4 from Mongolia. We were blessed to have Msn Matthew and Maria Lim’s family, Yvette Shin and her two kids, and Msn Monica Barry as special guests at the conference. Especially we thank God who blessed us to celebrate Msn Monica Barry’ Birthday at the conference.

Msn Matthew and Maria Lim and their two children are UBF missionaries in Mongolia. Msn Matthew shared his life testimony and a mission report on Mongolian mission with accompanying power point. His report was based on Psalm 23:1-3. He shared how God changed a college student, plagued with a deep sense of meaninglessness, into a missionary to Mongolia. God has established him as a key leader in the Korean community in Mongolia. He has mastered the Mongolian language until he could be an interpreter in government and business. He supports

himself by living as a lawyer in the mission field. God helped him to realize that we are called to not just teach the Bible but to live a fruitful life in our mission field, a life that embodies the mind, body and soul of the people and the larger needs of the community. God has born abundant fruit among our Mongolian co-workers. They contributed the translation of the Old Testament into Mongolian. There are so many Bible students that people wait in line for Bible study. He reports that Mongolian shepherds are clear about God's calling and many are willing to teach the Bible after 1 to 3 years of discipleship. But he confesses a lack of leaders to train these new Bible students. His wife, Maria, shared her life testimony. She shared how God called her to the mission field while living as a nurse/shepherdess. She married Msn Matthew and moved to Mongolia. She prays for her two children (Joy and Daniel) to grow as co-workers. She also confessed that the power source of her mission life was deep, early morning prayer. Her one word was, "The Lord restores my soul." We were greatly encouraged by their lives of faith and the fruit that God is bearing in the Mongolian mission field.

Six messengers were raised up, Andrew Norte (NIU) delivered a message from Psalm 16, "My Heart Is Glad." Tim Sagel (NIU UBF) delivered, "The Gospel of the Resurrection" based on 1 Cor 15:1-11. Jennifer Jesmer (Gr 10, NIU) delivered a morning devotion, "Jesus, the Resurrection And The Life." based on John 11:1-42. Jeremy Hajek (DuPage UBF) delivered, "The Power of The Resurrection That Makes Us Alive In Christ" based on 1 Cor 15:12-34. Julie Jesmer (NIU UBF) delivered a testimonial message, "I Have Seen The Lord" based on John 20. Sarah Bahn (Gr 11, DuPage) delivered "Great Expectations" based on 1 Thess 4:13-5:11. Kevin Jesmer (NIU UBF) delivered, "The Glory of the Resurrection" based on 1 Cor 15:35-51. John Mike Pitts (Triton UBF) delivered a closing message "Our Vision for the World Mission" based on Acts 1:8. Esther Kim (DuPage UBF) shared a Resurrection Testimony based in John 20. God blessed all of the messages abundantly. They were fresh and new.

Through Andrew's message we learned that hearts can be glad and our tongues rejoice when we take refuge in Jesus with resurrection faith in our hearts. Andrew's whole family came to the conference to support him. Tim encouraged all people to take hold of the gospel and stand firm upon it for in the gospel is our salvation. Tim humbly accepted correction throughout his message preparation. Esther Kim confessed that God used her message preparation to prepare her heart for the funeral of one of her school friends. Through this event she could experience the power of the resurrection. Jennifer Jesmer discovered that resurrection faith was not just for some time decades from now, but with faith in Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we can live a resurrection life right now! Jeremy revealed that Jesus' resurrection changes people. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we, who believe, inherit his nature and that makes us alive! We have power and true joy in Jesus. Julie Jesmer shared her life testimony on how she met Jesus in LA after living in sorrow and trying to alleviate her sorrows by living a sinful life. She met Jesus through the mother of an ex boyfriend. God led her to Downy UBF and then to Triton UBF where she established a pioneering house church with Kevin. Currently she and Kevin, along with her five kids, are laying the foundations of a ministry at NIU. We could see how it was her resurrection faith in Jesus that strengthened and sustained over the last two decades. Sarah Bahn revealed how Jesus' Second coming will be magnificent. While waiting for Jesus. We must be faithful and heed God's word. With faith in Jesus' Second Coming, Sarah could overcome her fears of failure and find a new identity and a soldier of Jesus Christ. Through Shp Kevin's Sunday message we learned that we must seek after the glory of the resurrection, not only in the

future, but even now, by allowing our seeds, (our bodies), to fall to the ground. Then the glory of the resurrection will be manifest in us. Shp John Mike Pitts told us that through living obedient lives to the gospel and by the help of the Holy Spirit God can work through us to influence the lives of teenagers and college students everywhere. We can conquer the whole world with the gospel.

On Saturday night, along with Julie's message, we had a monodrama by NIU UBF based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Then there was a drama, written and directed by Kevin Jesmer entitled, "The Time Is Right" where three contestants had to choose to give up their past lives of sin and accept what God has in store for them. To top the evening off, we watched the movie "Blind Side" and later discussed how being a good shepherd means that we must lay down our lives and have resurrection faith for others to be changed by the power of God.

People gave their hearts to the word of God. I was amazed that all the people sat and wrote a testimony. In my group I was surrounded by 15 people, concentrating on the passage and writing testimony intensely. God blessed their spiritual focus as evidenced by the six "chosen" testimony speakers. Janice Thiele (NIU), David Huesel (Gr 9 Triton), Michael Ulrich (DuPage), Hope Jesmer (Gr 5, NIU), Tim Lopez (Triton), Hector Guerra (DuPage) and Susana Hajek (DuPage). They gave their hearts to writing testimonies based on 1 Cor 15: 13-34. We could see how each other their lives have been touched by the power of the Resurrection. I thank God for these young people giving their hearts to Jesus.

Everyone offered what they could to the conference and God accepted their offerings and multiplied them. Sarah and Jennifer Jesmer led a very effective icebreaker so that all attendants could get to know each other. The music helped to prepare a beautiful environment for the word of God to be accepted. Kevin, Augustine and Mark Jesmer sang a spiritual called "Hush". Andrew Norte sang, "There Is A Redeemer" by Keith Green. Charisma Magno (Triton) sang a solo. Gideon Bahn sang, "O To Be Like Thee". Hope and Mark Jesmer sang a spiritual "Down To The River To Pray". Yvette Shin and her son Joseph on guitar sang, "Here I am O Lord". NIU and DuPage ministries formed a joint praise band. The Triton Praise Band served the music on Sunday. They were very powerful. God raised up six group Bible study leaders, Shp Teddy Hembekedis, Kevin Jesmer, Monica Barry, Gideon Bahn, Timothy Lopez, Phil Chang, and Nathan Lafromboise. Msn David Kim oversaw all of the programs. He helped train the presiders and helped to prepare the worship environment. He facilitated communication between all the leaders. Shp Teddy gave pta's, encouraging all attendants, to engage in the spiritual battle by holding onto the power of the resurrection. Under his leadership Triton UBF was such a blessing to all of us at the conference.

We offered our Easter offering to the people of Haiti. Our attendants gave generously, \$3,245. When offered through World Vision, this offering triples to \$9,735 due to a US government program to encourage people to offer to Haiti. We are thankful for our co-workers generosity. May this money be used to ease some of the peoples' suffering and help build a bright new future for that country! We thank God for the opportunity for all three of our chapters to co-work together. We share a common prayer topic for all of the students to accept the Gospel of Jesus across the western suburbs of Chicago. May God work through us to make this prayer a reality!