

Strategy & Innovation

Planting, Evangelism, Discipleship & Growth, Multiethnic Initiatives, Global Engagement & Justice, and the Creative Labs



Longing for revival, again

A couple of Wednesdays ago, I was in San Diego with InterVarsity's national Gen Z council, where Alan Sun (a millennial, and the leader), a diverse group of four, second-year Gen Z campus staff from all around the country, and I (an older, almost elder, Xer) gathered to learn more about how to ministry alongside this rising generation. And since I was in San Diego, InterVarsity UCSD invited me to speak at large group on revival, and of course, I called on my brother-from-another-mother Ryan Pfeiffer to join me.

We met 21 years ago, when we both served on campus at InterVarsity UCSD, and we saw God move in powerful ways. From the hundreds of students who came to faith, to God coming in power in prayer (even healing a student of uterine cancer at large group), to His Spirit sending us out to seek justice and reconciliation near the border and out in the world — it was a frothy, beautiful time of spiritual breakthrough.

So when we spoke a couple of weeks ago, I started off with a story of how my daughter Jamie loves to play this game called "Beat That." It's a silly game where you have to do a set of physical challenges, and the one who completes the most, wins. And often, she asks, "Can we do it again, appa (daddy, in Korean)?"

Since we saw God move here mightily 20 years ago, I said that our prayer that night is, "Can we do it again, Appa?" And we started telling stories of how we saw and experienced revival at UCSD and on the campuses in greater San Diego. And this talk comes at a time when we're hearing about God's stirrings on campuses throughout the country: Asbury. Jackson State. Emory. Cal State Long Beach. Millikin. Students are meeting Jesus, studying the Scriptures, and praying fervently into the night.

At UCSD, the students were already hungry. They already have daily prayer meetings. They seek the Lord on campus, and share their faith with their friends. But that night, the worship felt, in Ryan's words, kinetic. We hadn't seen students worship with this kind of freedom at a large group in a long time, and it made us wonder, if Appa would be willing to do it again?

Would you pray that Appa would do it again in students and faculty throughout the country?

Sabbatical & prayer requests

From May 18 - August 25, I'll be on sabbatical. It's been pushed back twice already, so I'm grateful that it's happening!

The theme for this sabbatical is care and calling. When it comes to serving Gen Z, I often teach that we need to address these two things in them. For this sabbatical, I'll turn that around on me: to let God care for me, spending extended time in prayer, study and reflection. And I've been in this VP role for over six years — longer than any other role I've had in InterVarsity during my 28 years on staff — and so, am seeking more direction in my calling. As I head into my 50's during sabbatical, I'm asking, "Lord, what do you want to do in and through me next?"

Included are two trips: the first, a family trip to Japan and Korea (the kids have never been!); the second, a solo trip to Indonesia to attend the IFES World Assembly — a gathering of our global family of student movements that happens once every four years. But mostly, I'm looking forward to the extended time to pray, study and reflect, and to return to the ministry of InterVarsity refreshed in body and spirit.

Thanks again for your partnership in the Gospel, I covet your prayers over this special time in our ministry!

Many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jan' or similar, written in a cursive style.