

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

April 2010

A Tale of Two Cities

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

This is the well-known quote that begins Charles Dickens' famous novel depicting events in London and Paris amid the backdrop of the French Revolution.

My story is about two less famous cities that I recently visited. Actually, my story is about two guys who live in those cities.

Last month, I drove to Sacramento and on my way, I stopped in Fresno to meet with Chris, who was one of our former students at UC Davis.

While meeting with Chris and his family, I was reminded of the story of his spiritual journey. Several years ago, Chris was a brand new Christian preparing to move to Davis to start his college career.

A friend of his knew a guy who was involved with Campus Crusade at UC Davis and just happened to be home in Fresno before returning to school. Chris drove to the west side of town to meet Tommy who was one of our leaders at the time.

Tommy shared the vision of Campus Crusade with Chris, prayed for him and encouraged him to get involved when he arrived on campus.

Following Tommy's advice, when Chris arrived at UC Davis, he got involved in a small group led by Roy, one of our student leaders.

Chris began to grow in his faith and was encouraged by Roy to consider going on a summer missions project. Chris spent the summer in Santa Monica growing deeper in his faith and learning to share his faith with others.

Chris came home to Fresno and

began sharing with his mother, who though reluctant at first, eventually came to Christ.

Chris' mom then began sharing with her husband, Chris' step-dad. Eventually he too became a Christian.

As I listened to Chris, his mom and his step-dad share their story, I couldn't help but get a little choked up as I thought about how the gospel had spread to this family and the transformation they were experiencing. It was such a privilege to pray with them and ask the Lord to touch the hearts of Chris' siblings who do not yet know the Lord.

Later that week in Sacramento, I met up



Chris Brez



Roy Shin, with his wife Sarah

with Roy, the student who was Chris' bible study leader his first few years in college.

Roy came to UC Davis already a Christian but because of his rough upbringing, he was ready to give up on God altogether.

He was invited to join a Bible study that was being started by one of

our staff. Roy agreed to host the Bible study in his dorm room, but he often opened his room to the group and then left without attending.

At the beginning of his sophomore year, I was meeting with Jason, Roy's bible study leader and I asked Jason if he thought Roy would be good as the MC of our Fall retreat. Jason was hesitant, informing me that Roy really was not involved much anymore and that he had really drifted away. It was a huge risk, but I thought this might be an opportunity to help draw Roy back in and connect him with others.

Later that week, we met with Roy, who was unsure of why we wanted to meet with him. When I asked him if he would consider being the MC of our retreat, he was very surprised. He wasn't actually planning to attend but he said he'd think about it.

I'm not sure why, but Roy told us later that week that he would do it and it ended up changing the course of his life. Not only did Roy do a fantastic job as our MC, but that weekend helped him experience the Christian community that he'd never experienced before.

Roy instantly became more involved in the group and later that year attended a summer missions project, where he grew deeper in his faith and learned to share his faith.

Roy went on to impact Chris' life as well as several other students and is continuing to have an impact as part of a teaching team of a church plant in the Sacramento area.

We're sometimes asked why we do what we do. It's because of people. Because people matter to God and by His grace, we have the opportunity to affect the lives and eternities of young men and women who in turn are influencing countless others.

Thanks for your participation with us in taking the gospel to lost people!