

The Lowedown

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

January 2005

Experience Jesus Conference

Jennifer and I just returned from our annual Christmas Conference, which is now being called the “**Experience Jesus Conference**”.

It was an exciting time for the 60+ students from UC Davis who attended. Students were encouraged to not just talk about Jesus, but to **experience** Him.

During the conference main meetings, our students were exposed to some of the history of our region within Campus Crusade for Christ. Our region consists of campuses in California, Arizona and Hawaii.

As you may know, Campus Crusade started in 1951 at UCLA, so you can say that Campus Crusade actually started in our region.

A gal named Dottie, who was one of the first 10 staff members with Campus Crusade and who worked directly with Bill Bright shared some stories about the beginnings of Campus Crusade and how small it was. It is amazing to think how God has multiplied this ministry to a world-wide missions organization. I began to think to myself, “Why can’t God do bigger things here at UC Davis and in the surrounding areas?” After all, we serve the same God, right? There is no reason why we cannot and should not expect God to do big things in and through us.

At another meeting, some staff members who were students at Berkeley in the 1960’s shared with us about a famous outreach known as “the Berkeley Blitz”.

It was the middle of the turbulent 60’s and the staff and students of Campus Crusade had a vision to share Christ with every student on campus within the span of one week.

Imagine what an undertaking that would be to see all of the 25,000 students and faculty shared with in one week.

I don’t know if every student did

get shared with but it was an amazing week. One of the film clips showed a youthful Billy Graham preaching on the famous Sproul Plaza. Thousands of students surrounded him as he talked about the college “experience”. He said that lots of people try to experience drugs or sex, or a lot of other things. He asked people, “why not experience Jesus.” He continued by telling students that Jesus is not just a religion but an experience. It was a very fitting film clip for our conference.

At the last night of the conference, students from our campus got together and we had a sharing time. One student shared about the impact that one of the speakers had on him.

The speaker was talking about how we as Christians are often in a “holy huddle”. He challenged us to imagine a football team that gets in a huddle to call a play. When they break from the huddle they go to the sidelines and wait instead of going to the line of scrimmage and running the play. After a few moments at the sidelines, the team comes back on the field and gets in the huddle again, only to again go to the sidelines.

The speaker used this as an illustration to explain how many of us in the Christian community act. We go to church, or a conference and we huddle up. We make plans and we get excited to execute them. But when we break from the huddle, we don’t do anything. Instead, we go to the sidelines and act like spectators until the next huddle.

Dave, the student who was impacted by this analogy, shared how he is tired of acting like a spectator in his own Christian life.

I was excited for Dave and his desire to be in the game instead of on the sidelines. Of course, in my own life, I often feel the tendency to be a spectator and not get in the game.

Our prayer for you is that you would experience Jesus. That he would be real in your life and that he would not just be an idea or a concept. We also pray that by experiencing Jesus, you would be moved in your heart to make a difference for him in the lives of others. We pray that you would make an impact for Him as you are “in the game” serving Him.

We would very much appreciate those same prayers for us. Thanks so much for your partnership with us and your commitment to us. We love you and appreciate you more than words can convey.

Praises

- For the many students who participated in the “Experience Jesus” Conference and the few who went to our Bridges Conference and our Impact Conference.

Prayer Requests

- In February, we’re hosting a series of lectures over 2 days from Hugh Ross and his “Reasons To Believe” team. Pray that many would come and that many skeptics would be encouraged by the evidence presented.
- Pray for students to apply and attend summer projects. We are praying for 30+ students from Davis and hoping that 10+ will go overseas.
- Pray for us as we are directing the Newport Beach Summer project this summer. It’s a huge challenge and it adds another responsibility but we are excited for the opportunity.