

Science Time with Uncle Stanley

Interviewed by
Christopher Cheung

Christopher: What is your profession?

Stanley: I am a researcher in particle and nuclear physics.

C: When did you start doing JCKidz?

S: About 15 years ago.

C: What is a normal Sunday like at JCKidz?

S: Initial order turning into utter chaos as more and more kids pile into the room!

C: Do you have a favourite demonstration? Or do you remember a demonstration (s) the kids really loved?

S: The kids love to do things that make noise, fly around, or especially, activities that involve playing with fire. However, as of 2 years ago, I'm not allowed to do fire any more.

C: A lot of people think that God and science can't exist at the same time. What is your view on the role science plays in Christianity?

S: Monotheism, i.e. the Judeo-Christian belief in a single God, is actually the philosophical basis of modern science. Scientists like Kepler, Newton and Faraday believed that there should be rational and logical explanations for the natural world because this world was created by a rational and logical Creator. God is the author of both the book of the Bible (special revelation) and the book of nature (general revelation), and when these are properly understood, there will be no conflict between them. All truth is God's truth. The intellectual challenge for believers is that no one has a perfect understanding of either of these books, and so apparent contradictions can arise.

C: How do you think your role as a Christian scientist is different from an atheist scientist?

S: Atheist scientists don't believe that there is anything apart from the physical universe that we can observe and measure, and these measurements are the only source of dependable knowledge. These atheists view all else (e.g. morals and values) as being mere matters of opinion, not absolute truth. Atheistic scientists have no explanation for science itself, i.e. why there should be beauty and logic in the laws of physics and chemistry, or why there should be a universe to observe at all. Scientists who are Christians believe that there is a Lawgiver behind these laws of science, and the beauty and logical arises from the mind of the Creator. Moreover, this same Creator of the physical universe is also the foundation of our moral values. In our day-to-day work, both atheist and Christian scientists will use the same apparatus and methodology to make the same discoveries, but the



Young Wisdom

by
Christopher
Cheung
& Wes Liu

Question: What do you think God looks like?

Peter Lu: Somebody!

Joanna Lee: He looks like a man!

Bismarck Lee: He looks like Peeta.

Chris: Who's Peeta?

Bismarck Lee: No one.

Michelle: A man.

Chris: An old man or a young man?

Michelle: A medium man.

Lindsay: A person that lives in heaven.

Trinity: Big.

Chris: Big?

Trinity: He looks like what he looks like!

Emma: The sun

Question: what do you think your parents did for fun before they had kids?

Simon T (age 6?)

Go Check their Gmail

Simon C: fly on a plane to any place they like

Aidan: Bungee jumping

Logan: Bungee jumping

Question: what's your favourite part about JCKids

Bismarck: Reading Sonic books

Beverley: Crafts, making a guitar

Question: how old do you think Melody is?

Peter: Ummm I think she's 26

Simon: She's 100

Simon T: 16

Question: what are you most afraid of?

Beverley: Shadows

Peter: The dark

Question: What makes you feel better when you're afraid?

Peter: God? God is bigger than the boogie man

Question: How many pushups can your dad do?

Aidan: ten

How many can your mom do?

Aidan: one

philosophical context in which they place their discoveries are very different. I believe that the Christian scientist has a richer, more comprehensive, worldview which integrates the physical, moral and spiritual realities that every human being feels as essential parts of their existence. The atheist has a disconnect between the physical and the moral/spiritual realms.

C: With even more developments in science today, how do you think religion/science will clash?

S: If and when the day comes that we have thinking computers that behave exactly like human beings, or when astronomers discover that some of the 700 exoplanets around other stars are teeming with alien life that can think rationally, that will severely test our understanding of Man as the bearer of God's image.

C: Do you think science will ever be able to explain God fully?

S: No, I don't believe that science can explain God at all, because science deals only with things that we can measure and quantify and control. God is above and beyond the physical universe. At best, science offers glimpses into how the physical universe that God created works, but science can never say anything about why or for what purpose. For that, we need God's revelation.

Prison Ministry

by Brian Lew

Brian is part of a team of guys (Lewis Chan & Thomas Chan) who are involved in prison ministry. They visit once a month. Brian has been involved in prison ministry for a few months. Lewis about a year. Thomas has been involved for 24 years since 1988.



Why prison ministry? Was it burning bushes, prophetic dreams, or perhaps deep personal convictions? Truth be told, I was asked and couldn't come up with a good excuse. Now that I think about it, a similar pattern holds for all church activities in which I've ever been implicated, like writing this article for instance. Talk to Thomas or Lewis for something more inspirational.

After ambiguously agreeing to "try out" prison ministry, I eventually filled out volunteer applications for both low and medium security prisons in Mission. It was actually quite irritating since the application would ask deep questions such as "why do you want to volunteer in the penitentiary system?" I ended up taking some creative liberties since it seemed inappropriate to state my motivations as previously articulated. After submission, there was a half year delay and countless unanswered emails before finally receiving clearance at the medium security prison. Ironically, I'm still not cleared for the low security one. I've never lost heart in the face of all these obstacles, although this is likely due to initially low levels of heart to begin with, rather than virtue.

Is prison ministry scary? We meet with the bad guys face to face in the chapel; no holds barred, no bars to hold, and just spaces between us. Consider that I'm not a physically intimidating presence unless I don't shave for a week. My main worry, though, is encountering the higher proportion of psychopaths than you or I would normally encounter (unless you've been involved with JC Kidz). We were informed during orientation that psychopathic tendencies could manifest in the manipulation of volunteers. Coincidentally, I'm rather easily manipulated (as proven by the existence of this article).

In retrospect, though, I think prison ministry is actually a good fit for me, and that God is ultimately the one pulling the strings. There are several reasons for this. First, I'm extremely talented at being quiet and passive. Prisoners ask questions, often those difficult ones that cannot be answered. Contrary to school, though, formulating the correct answer is not as important as listening to the question. Hearing their struggles and problems is probably more affirming than the assertion of my own agenda, i.e. aggressively evangelizing them. Some would argue that being quiet and passive are actually my weaknesses, in which case, it follows the pattern of God taking weakness and utilizing it for His purpose.

Secondly, the cancellation of the annual prison tennis tournament due to construction was further confirmation, because it was replaced with TABLE TENNIS!! Win!

Lastly, I share more commonalities with the prisoners than I'd like to believe. We're all sinners and real people. I've always known that I'm a sinner, but it's more readily forgotten when not associated with physical incarceration. Likewise, I've always known that I'm a real person, but it's easy to forget about others that I don't readily encounter. Prisoners are real people that need affirmation because they often aren't treated like real people. They feel forgotten but God hasn't forgotten them; instead God reveals Himself in unique and powerful ways. If you're interested in joining us six months down the road, sign up now! Otherwise, please remember this ministry in your prayers.



Perspectives Away from Home Charlotte Leung

Interviewed by
Christopher Cheung

partying and other wild activities. What is it like living as a Christian among that?

Charlotte: That's a hard question...I think it's just knowing right from wrong – little things like saying no to drugs when people offer them to you. Although I did party, I took care of my friends a lot of the time, and sometimes just giving up my night to help others; little things show that I do try to live a Christian life even when I do have fun.

Christopher: Good answer to a tough question! So I understand you attended fellowship, Sunday school, helped out with kids etc. throughout high school here at VCBC. How do you think growing up at a church helped you prepare for your future?

Charlotte: Growing up at a church definitely helps you prepare for the future. Through the stress, peer pressure, and hard times I always know to rely on God for everything and just pray about it. And when I needed advice, I always knew I could ask my Christian friends and that they would be there for me.

Christopher: You mentioned that you were studying economics. How has God played a role in preparing your future? Do you ever pray about your career path?

Charlotte: Right now I'm studying economics because it's my highest mark and it was the deadline to pick a major, but I don't really know what I want to do yet. I've prayed about it and hopefully by taking a variety of new courses next year and prayer, I'll be able to find the right career path.

Christopher: Any advice for high schoolers moving away from home and confused about their future? Also, how can we pray for you and other people who move away?

Charlotte: My advice to high schoolers moving away would be to find a church sooner rather than later. Even though I read my devotions and prayed during those few months I didn't go to church, I really missed it. It's not the same and being around other Christians really helps.

As for prayer requests, pray for me that I would be able to find a career path I enjoy, and for others that they would enjoy their time at university but always keep God as their number 1 priority throughout this new adventure they embark on.

Christopher: Where do you go to school and what do you study there?

Charlotte: I go to Queens over in Kingston, Ontario and I am studying economics.

Christopher: What was it like to move away from home?

Charlotte: It was definitely a bit weird a first, getting used to living alone and having to do my own laundry but living in [the dorms] was great, felt like I just got 500 siblings all at once!

Christopher: How did your parents react to your moving away?

Charlotte: I think it was a little bit hard for them since I'm an only child, but once I left, I think they were pretty happy not having to take cook and clean after me. They miss me sometimes I think.

Christopher: I heard rumours that your parents visited you to perform some cooking and cleaning. Is there any truth in these rumours?

Charlotte: Yes, my mom came to visit early in the year! She did my laundry, cleaned my room, brought me a rice cooker, and pre-cooked homemade food in packages!

Christopher: How long did these delicious packages last?

Charlotte: A couple months, but then I realized it didn't taste so good anymore. They probably went bad, but I finished it anyway!

Christopher: Did you manage to meet up with any Christians over there at Queens?

Charlotte: There was 1 who lived on my floor in [my dorm], so I met some of her friends and went with them to church a couple times.

Christopher: What was it like fitting into a new Christian community?

Charlotte: I didn't really have one cause I was trying out new churches to find the right one, then school got busy, or it got too cold to walk to church but when I started to go again by myself, it was near the end of the year. I'm excited to hopefully be a part of one next year and settle at the church I found.

Christopher: Of course, university life is also notorious for lots of



To the only God our Savior be glory! (Jude 1:25) ...

An Interview with Pearl Chiu

Interviewed by Kathy Jung on May 24, 2012

Pearl: God has blessed us and prepared the way ...

Eddie and Pearl have 3 wonderful adult children, and believe it or not, they also have a granddaughter. In 2010, Pearl was beginning to think about retirement. Learning from daughter Odelia that a first grandchild was on the way made her decision all the easier. Eddie and Pearl live their lives fully, so they traveled before the duties of grandparenthood took over.

In August 2011, a possible job opportunity brought their son, Nathan, home from Taiwan. He never did get that job. He readily turned down another job near Christmas when Eddie's diagnosis became clear. Nathan has recently been helping out with the family business for his dad, and according to Eddie, he's been doing a good job.

In January 2012, Charissa was considering quitting her nursing studies in Ottawa to come home to nurse for real. With her parents' encouragement, she finished her degree and is now home to help as only a healthcare insider can.

Pearl: We prayed and hoped ... we saw ill friends get better ... When would it be our turn? ... God loves us. We are not exempt from the pains of this world ... God is sovereign.

Sometimes I feel hesitant about asking how things are, but Pearl puts all that uncertainty to rest. Eddie received 4 chemotherapy treatments for cancer in his lungs. But because the cancer in his lungs is only a secondary site, and the primary site is unknown, the treatment was not helping. He currently receives maintenance therapy. His days include getting up in the mid-afternoon, eating (though he doesn't feel like it), taking his hydromorphone, and going for monthly tests and assessments. Praise God his lungs are now clear of fluid. Last week's intravenous hydration has improved his mobility and appetite. He's lost 40 pounds and he's had 2 falls.

What Strength Looks Like

Pearl: We totally surrender and rely on Him ... We trust He will not give us more than what we can bear ... We ask God for our daily strength ... We stay connected ...

Pearl has recently finished her 7th year in BSF. She had thought about quitting, but the disciplined study of God's word and hearing about others' circumstances has kept her from self-pity and a narrow perspective. She's started pole-walking with a friend. She is creative in helping while preserving Eddie's dignity. Every two weeks, their cell group meets in their home, just as it has for the past 12 years. Whenever he is able to, Eddie goes to church because it's like coming home to be with family. He goes out for lunch with friends on Fridays and seems to eat just a bit more. Pearl says Eddie has never complained about his circumstances, and his faith is strong.

Pearl: We didn't know we had so many friends!

Pearl and Eddie want to express their thanks for the many cards, hugs and prayers. They encourage the calls and letters to keep coming. A message to let them know they are remembered in prayer left on voicemail, but not expected to be returned, is health to their spirits.

Please pray that Eddie and Pearl will receive the daily comfort and strengthening of God and His church. Pray that their children, Eddie's mother, and their extended families will have hearts prepared to receive God's perfect will without bitterness. And above all else, pray along with Eddie and Pearl that in their lives, God would be glorified.

Pearl has learned to receive the generosity poured out to her and Eddie and to turn it back into an opportunity to pray for others. And so, as I leave, I receive from Pearl a warm hug and her prayers for me.

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever. " —Psalm 30:11-12