

# SPOTLIGHT

Good News Chapel Monthly Newsletter » Opinion on the Church Move // My Testimonial // YSC: The Truth of the Cross

## Opinion on the Church Move

By Angie Oh

When I first heard about GNC moving off campus, I was shocked, confused, bewildered, flabbergasted...you get the point. What? But we're so comfortable... Why?! Many questions raced through my head: Is it financially plausible? Wouldn't it be inconvenient for the GSC teachers and the GNC moms? Is this absolutely necessary?

After hearing more about the purpose of the move during community group and our Outreach Core meeting, my critical heart softened to the idea. When I found out that 97% of the members supported it (everyone but one person, haha), it seemed more real and I became excited about this change that suddenly seemed so necessary.

But while we have a beautiful vision of how this move can transform our church by providing opportunities for growth, stimulating greater service, and challenging GNC to become a better witness to our community, I know that there is also the possibility that nothing will change. Absolutely nothing. I guess you can call me a pessimist, but I like to consider myself a realist. Without our congregation being intentional in praying, serving and stepping up, this move could potentially be fruitless.

Many of us want this move to be an awesome and God-glorifying chapter of GNC, but how many of us are praying to God for it to be a blessed time? How many of us are thinking about joining the set-up committee and doing backstage/unnoticed services? How many of us are putting in generous amounts of money to make this happen? I don't know about you, but I know I'm not! I not saying that God's

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## My Testimonial

By Daniel Kim

My first GNC service was more than two years ago but my conversion began very recently. For a long time, I attended service only now and then, when I felt I really owed it to God after an especially sinful week or when I really needed his help. For a large part of my life, I had a painful and self-destructive hunger in me that worldly frivolities would only temporarily subside.

In darkness and with an unclear mind, I would cry out to God with the hope that he would take pity and fix me. I always came to God for redemption, but I did not recognize him in joy. My spiritual life was selfish in the reasons I wanted God, this was clear to me my entire Christian life. What I have realized more recently is how selfish I also was in the WAY that I interacted with him. For quite some time, I had the same misgivings about the congregation that many non-believers have, and so I didn't pray with the church. Instead, I withdrew from community and sought God's grace in times of fear, desperation, and deep isolation, alone in my room at night. In my desperate search for that one on one relationship with God, I failed to witness how he was using the people in my life to speak to me.

We all know what wind is, how it works and how it feels. But wind can never be seen by itself; it can only be seen through the dust, the leaves, and the clouds that move at its whim. As I have truly opened my heart to God, I have seen more and more how important it is to know him through his people. And in serving him

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## YSC: The Truth of the Cross

By John Shin

Where have I been?! Yes, it has been a long break since the last book review. Although this monthly section, "Young Scholars Corner," may have not been missed, it is returning with new episodes. The book reviewed here is "The Truth of the Cross" by R.C. Sproul. I am excited to share the golden treasures of this book with you since the cross is one of the most interesting theological topics to me. When you think about the gospel, what sort of words or biblical topics come to mind? Perhaps you would think about our sin and its forgiveness or eternal life and heaven. Maybe some of you would think about us being made righteous because of Christ or our punishment for sins being lifted. When I think about the gospel, I always think about "the cross." There is no greater act in all of history, than Christ on the cross. If there was no cross, there is no gospel. When we study the cross, all that we mentioned above about sin, righteousness, punishment, eternal life and forgiveness is involved. The cross is the center of the gospel.

Many of us may have been going to church all our lives, even gone out on mission trips sharing the gospel, but do we really understand the vast theological truths about how we are saved, why Christ had to die and what was even happening on the cross? When we think about the cross, one of the main theological beliefs that come to mind is atonement. Do you know what atonement means? Do you understand why it is necessary? Can you explain why Christ had to live and die as the Bible explains? These are some of the questions Dr. Sproul answers throughout his book. He takes us through the plan God has for the cross and the explanation of why it was necessary. We discover that the cross is related to God's justice, payment to God, and the wrath of God and learn about the serious crime of sin. When you read

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*cont. of "Opinion on the Church Move" by Angie Oh*  
power is limited, nor am I saying that our actions are able to change God's will. I am merely asking myself and the congregation if we are allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us and use us during this transition, or if we're just sitting around hoping for the best.

Although one to two years may sound like a long time, it'll fly by quickly. I hope and pray that our time away from campus will be a great time of growth, fellowship, outreach, reflection and service. Let us be intentional in how we spend that period of time. Let us challenge each other to pray more, love more, serve more and give more – not because it will bring us more happiness or make us feel better about ourselves, but because God is giving us this great opportunity to grow as a church. Not with our strength, but with His – giving everything to God while clinging onto the cross.†

*cont. of "My Testimonial" by Daniel Kim*

with my Christian brothers and sisters, my eyes have been opened to how his spirit moves the lives of the people around me.

God's love is so great and his blessings are all around us. As I have accepted these truths, God has filled my heart with so much love and joy. Through His love I have been able to recognize everyone around me as my brothers and sisters. And now there is no cultural divide, no social status, language barrier, or income bracket that can keep me separate from His children. Through his people, God has brought me such peace, joy, and courage that I am no longer afraid to speak my mind or show people my heart. The people that I have shared my story with can attest to how much God has changed and truly blessed my life in recent months.

I pray that my friends would be moved by how much God has blessed me and be inspired by the great things he is doing in my life. And it is my sincerest hope that EVERYONE at GNC would commune with one another and recognize how important the people around them are to understand and love our God. And in doing so, also realize what a blessing that they themselves are to the rest of the congregation. We are part of an intricate web, each strand strengthening the other, working together to glorify our Lord, who binds us forever in love and redemption.†

*cont. of "YSC: The Truth of the Cross" by John Shin*

about the cross, you build up a picture of what is behind the purpose of Christ's death and an in depth explanation of our sins against God. This book should bring you to a greater love for Christ, be filled with repentance and deny yourself from the sins of this world. Imagine you were to die for a crime that you indeed are guilty for committing. Then a man steps in to die for you in your place and you not only are freed from your crime and punishment, but you get a million dollars because of that man's death. You and I were suppose to receive the punishment for sin, but Christ is our substitutionary atonement who took our place and we were not only freed from our crime of sin but we received all the benefits along with Christ's death which is righteousness, forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Do you want to know the gospel better? Then study the cross. Do you want to have a greater love and devotion to Christ? Then buy this book and read about the cross. For you critics of Calvinism out there (I pray that the truth will be revealed to you), there is a chapter that explains the debate of limited atonement. The last chapter of this book is also very helpful as Sproul answers some very common questions about the gospel and the cross. The book is 178 pages but it's the size of a small moleskin notepad so don't get scared. It sells for only 2.03 used and 8.66 new on Amazon. I leave you with a quote from the book.†