



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TRACK

Urbana 06, InterVarsity's 21st Student Missions Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri, December 27-31, 2006. Over 22,000 people from 144 countries were called to consider how they will participate in God's global mission on their university campuses and throughout the world.

Within the larger convention, about 1,000 people participated in the International Students Track. Participants shared how God met them through their interaction with each other and by worshipping in different languages. Many were excited to learn how to do inductive manuscript Bible studies each morning. Others really connected with what speakers Lisa Espineli Chinn and Ajith Fernando shared during the two Track General Sessions. An emotional time of forgiveness and reconciliation broke out between the Japanese and Korean groups during an impromptu joint worship and prayer gathering. It seemed everyone left changed.

Here are just a few of the many international student stories from Urbana 06. To find out more, you can visit the official website [www.urbana.org](http://www.urbana.org), view Track media [ifellowship.us/ISTrack](http://ifellowship.us/ISTrack), and order Urbana DVDs online (see back cover). InterVarsity's next Urbana Convention will return to St. Louis Dec. 27-31, 2009.



## A Friend and a Calling

by Tammy Williams, Link Staff

When asked what has been the best part of Urbana 06, James quickly put an arm around his friend and replied, "Meeting my friend from Malaysia again."

James, a Malaysian student now studying in Canada, had not seen his friend since high school. She had since moved to the United States as an international student. A lot had changed for her during her time in the States. She met God and recently became a Christian.

"I had no idea that she had become a Christian," James explained. "Then I heard her testimony in

the international student session." James is praising God for the opportunity to reconnect with his friend and, now, sister in Christ! But, the story doesn't end there.

"She has challenged me," James stated. "I now recognize the importance of international student ministry. I feel like God is calling me to return to my campus and devote myself to reaching international students like my friend."

James is following through on his commitment. He returned to campus on fire for the gospel. Because he saw the transformation in his high school friend's life, he is now actively involved in international student ministry on his campus.

## Ministering Globally from Campus

by Mark Harrington, Urbana 06 Volunteer

Teh Sheng came from a family where his father was non-religious and his mother was Catholic. Thanks to his mother he knew the material of the Bible, but he did not have a relationship with Christ. When he arrived at the University of Texas for a neuroscience PhD, he was not eager to hear Christian witness. However, a pastor who had been called to international student ministry at a previous Urbana convention kept pursuing him. When Teh Sheng hit a low point in his grad student life, he was more receptive to the pastor's ministry. A key point came when Teh Sheng attended a prayer retreat in the Fall of 2003, a retreat that changed his whole concept of prayer and brought him to Christ.

The retreat was followed by Urbana 2003, a time which greatly encouraged, strengthened, and emboldened Teh Sheng and gave him a vision for ministry. He developed through the International Student Connection ministry at the University of Texas and is now a student partner in the leadership of the ministry. He has a hand in the organization of the Bible studies and English assistance classes. Teh Sheng is also an active evangelist. He rejoices in seeing an ever-increasing boldness in his witness. "I feel I can speak to international students, American students, locals and anybody!" In addition to working locally, Teh Sheng maintains a weekly Bible study by e-mail with his friends in Taiwan. He rejoices that they have begun responding to the Word of God like he has, and the study has sprouted many other student Bible studies in Taiwan!

If there is one thing that Teh Sheng would want others to take from his story it is that anyone can be a minister where they are. He often heard people exhort Americans to befriend lonely international students, but he would exhort internationals to do some of the befriending themselves. Everyone can contribute to the ministry and he is thrilled with the part he has had in it.



# Urbana 06 International Students Track

## Wei's Testimony

Hi, my name is Wei. I was born in China, but I grew up in different countries. I didn't know much about religion. Somewhere inside my heart I seemed to long for a belief because I felt so broken inside.

I came to California last year. At the beginning it was a very hard time for me because there were problems with communication, and I didn't have any friends. I felt lonely and didn't know who could help me and who I could talk to. Then, I saw a brochure from the international fellowship on campus. I met a lot of nice people there and had much fun together with dinner, singing, Bible study and discussions. I was there almost every Friday night. I went to a conference with some other


students and saw a friend from China become a Christian there and how this made him change. But I still didn't feel that I was ready to become a Christian.

An international student from Australia invited me to have a Bible study with her. The story which impressed me the most was about the son who had to make his own mistakes before he came back to his father and felt his great love. The father loved and forgave him no matter what he had done before. It was a story for me about coming home and I was really touched. I also had the feeling that I wanted to come home.

In December, we went to Urbana 06 in St. Louis. So many people all sharing the same belief and praying together impressed me. Probably that was the time I began to change. At Urbana I had begun to pray because I noticed I couldn't manage my life on my own. I wanted to ask God for help. Our group of international students from California had some discussion about what we were learning at Urbana. I shared my impression that I need Jesus to be in my life, and that it's a good feeling to belong to one big family. The group asked if I wanted to follow Jesus and let Him come into my life. I said, "Yes." It was a very happy moment, and I cried. I asked God to forgive me for the bad and wrong things I did in my life. From that moment I asked Jesus to guide my life and to help me not to repeat my mistakes. It was as if I left my past behind me. I could start new from that point and have a completely new life. I was really thankful that there were so many people who helped me and were staying with me at that time. I felt so safe and wasn't worried or anxious. This all happened December 31st at 2:15am.

Now I try to pray as often as I can. I'm still learning because it's quite new to me, and I think it takes time to change my old habits. Sometimes I think I still want to live my life on my own instead of letting Jesus show me the right way. But I know that's not right and I want to keep myself close to Jesus.

Today I am being baptized because this is the place I got to know God and made new friends. I am going back to Germany tomorrow. I think my life will be much different than before I came to America. Please pray for me that I may find a community of people who love Jesus and with whom I can share. Pray also that God will help me to overcome the difficulty of letting my family and friends understand my new life in Jesus. ✦





# EQUIP

international student conference

International students for God's Kingdom

INK-EQUIP 2007 is designed by Christian internationals for their fellow internationals to equip them to fulfill God's calling. The conference can also serve as a next step for those who attended Urbana 06. If you are currently an international student (or have been one recently) and want to use your gifts and abilities to glorify God, then INK-Equip 2007 is for you!



December 28, 2007-January 1, 2008  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
[www.inkequip2007.com](http://www.inkequip2007.com)

Sponsored, in part, by InterVarsity. Registration is now open on the website. Limited scholarships are available, so register early.