

Thanks so much for praying for/supporting
the sweet things Jesus is doing at WVC!

JESSICA MAYO...YOUR CAMPUS MISSIONARY TO WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

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In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus tells his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything they've been commanded by him. I think sometimes we get that a little bit backwards—we expect people to know how to be obedient before they're disciples, before they've actually given Jesus their initial 'yes', or we turn baptism into this complex thing where we require that people fully grasp every single thing there is to know about the commands of Jesus. I'm not by any means saying that baptism isn't serious, I'm just saying I don't think it's as complicated as we sometimes make it out to be.

This past weekend, we ended our 2nd annual Spring Retreat by celebrating new commitments to Jesus through the act of baptism. There were five (!) students who publicly declared that they were ready to take the next step in their faith. One of them has been a part of Chi Alpha at WVC for as long as I have, and I've watched her really wrestle with what it means to take Jesus seriously and to let him be fully in charge of her life. Minutes before we were heading out to the lake for baptisms, she came up to me with a panicked look and told me she wasn't sure she was ready but that she'd "definitely be ready by next year." I've learned in these moments of fear that the best response I can give to students is to just look at them and wait for them to finish their thoughts, while praying that Jesus gives them clarity. Sure enough, almost immediately she reminded herself

of the verses in Matthew and declared herself not necessarily ready but SURE that this was a commitment she needed to make in front of Jesus and the community that has loved her so well. It was such a joy to get to stand next to her as she said yes to yet another step the Lord was asking her to take.

All four of the other students who were baptized are brand new to our community this quarter and one of them is brand new to following Jesus as of this weekend! We spent so much time at Spring Retreat reminiscing on the goodness and the faithfulness of God, both in our own lives and in our community as a whole, and I'm so proud of the ways these students have learned to trust Him this year. They've taught me so much about what it means to lean in and believe that God will do what He promised.

As I think I've mentioned before, we do something called a Community Share at our Thursday service a couple of times every quarter. We really believe that God speaks to each of us and, as such, we all have things to bring when we gather as a community. Because we spent four weeks talking about the book of Psalms, we wanted our guiding question to be something that caused our students to really reflect on what it means to live an abiding life. One of the questions we came up with was, "**How has your newfound knowledge of what it means to abide in Christ changed the way you live now?**" Our students' answers were very thoughtful, so I'll just let you hear what they learned straight from them.



Some more pictures from Spring Retreat!

Top left: the whole crew (L to R: James, Tim, Jonathan, Siri, Elizabeth, Brett, Mitchell, Aurora, Richard, me, Pam, Jaemen, David)

Top right: worship on our last morning

Bottom left: free time in the pool

Bottom right: when you're too tired to make a campfire outside, you improvise!



This year was the 4th year of my 5-year commitment at Wenatchee Valley College and, because of how hard this year has been, I was actually given the option to opt out early and finish my commitment at a different campus. But every year that I've been here, it's felt like the Lord has given me a word for the community here—you may recall that last year, that word was 'home.' This year, that word has been STAY. I've had to ask both myself and the Lord over and over what that particular word means. Does it mean to stay committed to campus ministry in general? Does it mean to stay committed to my students here? Does it mean to stay rooted in the only One who is immovable and unshakeable? For now, the answer has been a yes to all three. I tell you this to give you context for the stories that I'll keep telling you this summer, both through these newsletters and hopefully in person. I can't even wait to share more about how that decision has unfolded and I can finally say that I feel at peace about staying.

If you're wanting to join my support team or give a one-time gift, checks can be made out to Chi Alpha--107 and mailed to:
Chi Alpha--107
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