

ViewPoint

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LIVING THEIR FAITH: HANDS-ON EVANGELISM CLASS TAKES STUDENTS TO THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

By Laura Gang

Three theology students from Pacific Union College participated in an evangelism class last fall that allowed them to share their faith and the truth of the gospel with three church congregations and the surrounding community in San Francisco.

The hands-on class ultimately resulted in nine baptisms among the three churches.

“The theology program at PUC is especially formulated to help students navigate our rapidly changing West Coast culture in biblically guided ways,” said Chair of the Theology Department Jim Wibberding.

Wibberding contacted Pastor Dan Serns, president of Central California Conference, hoping to collaborate with him on an evangelism class to take students “from theory to practice.”

Serns had an even bigger vision for the class.

Along with area pastors and staff from CCC, Serns “pulled the plans together” and gave the students a truly “dynamic experience,” Wibberding said.

For 12 hours a day on eight consecutive Sabbaths in October and November, PUC students and participating church members led out in Sabbath School and worship services at three San Francisco Seventh-day Adventist churches—Philadelphia, Central, and Tabernacle.

After lunch, each Sabbath, students and local members engaged in community outreach—from literature evangelism to Bible studies.

Theology student Luiggi Loconi Cruz said his goal going into the class was to focus on youth ministry.

“But when I noticed there weren’t any youth in those churches, it really shocked me,” he said. “However, God helped me explore other skills that he has for me and challenged me to bring youth into His churches.”

For student Alexander Maceda getting a “raw taste of ministry” was incredibly moving.

“I was able to practice the skills and talents that God has given me in the work that He wants me to do for Him.”

Ultimately, it was the personal connections that moved people.

In a Nov. 20 Facebook post, Serns recounted how PUC student Thào Kristine Trán knocked on the door of a woman named Melinda. They quickly connected

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and became friends. They had Bible studies together, and Trán introduced her to the Philadelphian SDA Church just a few blocks away.

Two weeks later, Melinda joined Trán, going door-to-door to spread the gospel news.

After evangelism students returned to the church to share their experiences from the day, there was a teaching session by either a pastor or an experienced church leader.

On the last Sabbath, nine people were baptized among the three churches. Trán, along with the Philadelphian church pastors, baptized Melinda.

Trán posted photos of that commemorative event on Facebook and said it was “one of the joys of life... to allow God to lead another soul to the kingdom of God.” 🙏

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC: DAVID BELL ON OVER THREE DECADES WITH THE HERITAGE SINGERS

By Laura Gang

David Bell has been a bass member of the Heritage Singers for over three decades. He’s performed countless times with the gospel group. But there’s one most memorable trip.

A few years ago, Bell and the Heritage Singers toured Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, including Prague.

Bell said local residents recounted stories about living under Communism when religious music was illegal. They played Heritage Singers’ songs in their basements.

Now, Bell said, “You can tell they really treasure the freedom they have.”

For Bell, chair of Pacific Union College’s business department, that trip showed the power of music as a ministry.

Bell grew up in Washington in a musical family. He played piano, cello, and percussion. His senior year in academy, he sang tenor with a touring male quartet for Walla Walla College called The Messengers.

During his sophomore year at Walla Walla College, Bell received an invitation from Heritage Singers founder Max Mace asking him to join the group. He answered the call and left the college. That year, Bell recalls touring South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and the Holy Land.



The Heritage Singers (Pictured top left -David Bell)

“I got to the end of that year,” he said, “and I just couldn’t bear to leave the group at that point. I stayed on another year and then came back to finish college at WWC.”

Bell graduated in 1987 with his degree in electrical engineering and took a teaching job at PUC, while continuing to perform with the Heritage Singers.

During rehearsals before a three-month U.S. tour, Bell met his future wife, Susan, in Sacramento.

After a brief stint away from the college, he returned to PUC, this time in the Business Department. He’s expanded the types of business classes he’s taught, and there’s no other place he’d rather be.

“What is most important to me are the students,” Bell said. “I love interfacing with the students here, and it’s kept me feeling young. I don’t feel much older than when I started.”

Bell continues to perform with the Heritage Singers. He’s been with the group now for a combined 36 years.

In 2022, they released *A Heritage Singers Tribute to Max Mace* in honor of the late founder. The album features some of their beloved songs with more modern harmonies, including what Bell said is their most requested, *The King Is Coming*.

The *Heritage Singers* had 8.7 million song streams on Spotify last year alone, with 385,000 unique listeners in 180 countries, Bell said.

To this day, one of Bell’s favorites is *Total Praise*, based on Psalm 121.

It’s a song they sang to a packed auditorium in Prague twelve years ago. 🙏

See concert dates & keep up with the Heritage Singers:

heritatesingers.com

facebook.com/HeritageSingersOfficial

Q&A

ALUMNI PROFILE: ALEX CHANG

By Ally Romanes

PUC alum Alex Chang (B.S. in Chemistry with a Biochemistry Emphasis '19) published a book titled, *Your Corner*, about his experience with missions—including his time as a PUC student missionary.

Tell us about your book.

This book has stories from the mission field, thoughts on optimizing missions experience, and inspiration to follow God's calling and purpose for our lives. This book can be a devotional to prepare student missionaries for their service and to help guide local and global missionaries. I wanted to create a book to help them prepare for their ministry, are involved with it, and finished their ministry or time abroad.

Who encouraged you to be a student missionary?

My great-great-grandfather on my mom's side and my great-grandfather on my dad's side were missionaries. My grandfather on my dad's side was a missionary for decades in Southeast Asia, and my father was a mission trip leader for our church. Missions have always been ingrained into our family identity and culture. This—in combination with church, presentations, and eight short-term mission trips my family took me on—grew my passion for missions.



What are your best memories of being a PUC missionary?

Meaningful memories are laughing with my students, playing ocean tag on an island with my senior class, being a human jungle gym at recess for the elementary students, singing songs with the high school for chapel, and hanging out with the 16 or so student missionaries.

How did PUC impact your spiritual life?

PUC had a massive impact on my spiritual life. One of PUC's greatest strengths was its support of its students in ministry. PUC made it very easy to get involved with worship, spiritual leadership, or even start new programs or churches. Faculty played a big role in my spiritual development: Jim Roy, Pastor Jonathan Henderson, Pastor Kent Rufo, Pastor Mark Witas, Pastor David Carreon, and Fabio Maia. I had incredible support and mentorship in my spiritual life and academics, and how that affected my decision to be an SM. My time at PUC was filled with an amazing culture of passionately pursuing God as a school. Vespers, church, dorm worship, and the faculty were all very influential for me. 🙏

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Alumni, parents, and friends each play an instrumental role in the success of Pacific Union College. Annual support of PUC is a powerful vote of confidence in the value of the Christ-centered education we offer. When you give, you support our students and campus through the funding of essential scholarships, academic

and student life resources, and our dedicated faculty. And the power of your individual gift is multiplied when combined with the generous gifts from hundreds of other donors who make the same choice to pledge their annual support. Make your gift today, and ensure tomorrow for PUC.



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ViewPoint

CONNECT

ViewPoint Connect is a newsletter designed to help alumni stay connected to activities and news from Pacific Union College. It is published twice a year between issues of ViewPoint magazine.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING APRIL 21-22, 2023

We are thrilled to announce that PUC's Homecoming is April 21-22! We have planned an exciting event filled with meaningful programs, class reunion gatherings, and opportunities to engage with old friends, professors, and your PUC family. puc.edu/homecoming

WE HOPE YOU HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HERE ARE SOME PICTURES OF CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL!

