

CORNELL | *On Campus*

“This Changes Everything”

CORNELL STUDENTS ENJOY ROAD TRIP TO JUBILEE CONFERENCE

By Zachary Lee, Cornell '20

In February, a group of students from Cornell University and Ithaca College boarded a bus and embarked on a six-hour drive to Pittsburgh for the forty-first Jubilee Conference.

Hosted by the Coalition for Christian Outreach, this year’s theme was “This Changes Everything.” In typical Jubilee tradition, the conference was explored through the four-part narrative of “Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.” Jubilee’s talented and vast consortium of speakers spoke about each facet during the plenary sessions.

Kicking off the first night of Creation, Andy Crouch spoke on the “abundance and order” of God. Charting *abundance* on the x-axis of a graph and *order* on the y-axis, the author and Cornell alumnus ('89) explored the connections and stated, “If we have order but no abundance, then we just have a machine; no order and no abundance is nothing; and abundance but no order is chaos. But if there is order and abundance...we have cosmos.” This served as a perfect segue to rapper and author Trip Lee, who boldly stated that “our creativity thrives best in the shadow of God’s creation...the moment we try to step out of it is when our work loses the ability to point back to the ultimate hope.”

The Fall is usually the heaviest and most intense time of the four main sessions. Jackie Hill-Perry spoke about human suffering, but also about hope. Hill-Perry gave a powerful analysis of Genesis 3.

“At the core of sin is disbelief,” she said. “Once we begin to doubt God’s Word, we then have grounds to begin doubting His personhood.” Hill-Perry talked about how Adam and Eve tried to use physical objects, such as



Trip Lee, a pastor and hip-hop artist, was one of the speakers at the Jubilee Conference.

the tree and leaves, to shield their shame, yet “God has sent the ultimate mediator, Jesus Christ; we no longer have to hide our shame.”

When speaking on Redemption, Saleem Ghubril, executive director of The Pittsburgh Promise, said we need to be “compelled by love.”

“Do we realize just how much God is crazy for us and yet we stiff arm Him?” asked Ghubril. He described how if we, as God’s children, do not love or care for His creation, how can we expect to bring about change or transformation in our community?

Finally, on Restoration, Michael Shen, director of cross-cultural ministry for the Coalition of Christian Outreach, talked about how, in ancient times, the church was culture-defying and a “place where the sociologically impossible happened.” While full restoration will not come till the day of judgement, there are things Christians can do in the here and now to give a glimpse of what this restoration can look like to non-believers—things such as welcoming strangers and caring about social justice.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the seminars and workshops gave students practical and vocational advice. Scott St. Peter, a Cornell senior studying computer science, was blessed by a workshop exploring gender roles in the church.

“I had the opportunity to attend an excellent workshop that taught men how to love their sisters in Christ better. Having approached these issues from the Christian perspective gives me much more clarity and hope as I navigate loving my sisters in Christ in a God-honoring and Gospel-informed way on campus,” he said.

Adrienne Hein, a sophomore studying hotel administration, learned valuable insights at a leadership workshop she attended. “In leadership, we are often told to take one of two postures when we see the gravity of sin and brokenness: cynicism or naive

optimism. These two postures limit us from seeing the goodness in God's creation and character. Rather, we are called into the proximate, where we seek to enter and understand present brokenness here on earth, while maintaining hope for the fulfillment of the promises spoken by the king that knows no lie. By His grace, we are hopeful realists!"

Karl Johnson, founding director of Chesterton House at Cornell, said Jubilee continues to minister to at-



tendees in a powerful way.

"At my age (I was Cornell Class of '89), I don't exactly need to road trip 12 hours round trip to attend yet another student conference," he said.

"And yet, I continue to be so impressed with CCO's Jubilee conference—the great keynote speakers and variety of breakout sessions, the outrageous book table (really a moveable store), and the overarching Creation-to-New-Creation narrative."

For all who attended, this sentiment rang true, as students were remind-

ed that an encounter with Jesus does not just change one facet of your life—it changes everything. | **CU**