What on Earth Am I Going to Do During Break?
Mixed Nuts,

To help MAX OUT your break, here are some daily things you can do in order to be faithful with your time.

Follow up is important, so be sure to bring the book back after break.
December

20

- Make a List of 5 Things you Want to Accomplish During Break
- Read Zosette’s Reflection
- Sing Any Christmas Carol Out Loud to Get Ready for the Holidays

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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Hum... This semester has definitely been a learning experience. Being away from home has been a scary and exciting thing all at once. Now, I realize that this college thing is real and soon I'll have to join the 'real world.' This part-time job we feel blessed ever grateful at the same time. I'm not really sure where or what I'm supposed to do yet. I'm really glad I have small group helps me cope with this feeling of uncertainty. We're all going through the same thing and there's no one thing that we can do with our faith in Christ. Knowing someone’s praying for me and even praying for someone else is incredibly comforting and empowering. Because of that, I'm really learning what it means to have the mindset of Christ and to be selfless—two characteristics which I definitely need to work on.

Next semester, I want to continue to grow and thrive in my faith and also learn to be more open to the peer in small group. Academically, I would like to be more deliberate, to really learn the value of time. Spiritually, I want to learn how to depend on God and not always try to rely on myself. I want to learn how to love with that reservation or fear of rejection from others.

For the next year, I want to really want to ask God for continual direction in my life and for correction in all areas—spiritual, academic, and personal growth. I want to pray for my family. I want to be a listener, who is sometimes someone who needs to be kind of hard to deal with, and I just want to ask God to lead whatever steps have formed. I also want to ask God for courage and boldness—and increased faith in Him.
December 21

- Show Your Family That You Appreciate Them by Doing the Blessing Assignment
- Read Susie’s Reflection
- Be Joyful and Eat a Piece of Delicious Candy

**Blessing**

You’re finally home for an extended period of time and it’s been a while since you’ve probably been back. So do something nice for your family. When I go home, I try to vacuum the house, take out the garbage, and do the dishes. Just anything I can do to serve my family, so spend not only today, but throughout your break, find ways to serve your family by doing chores that you used to do, or do something that will surprise them, and bless them!
December
22

- Read Sarah's Reflection
- Do the Online Assignment
- Listen to A Christmas Carol on the Radio

Sarah Chew

Major lessons: We should have faith in what God is doing. It is surprising that I was reminded of running the first girl's track event. God is always at work in our lives.

- Typing text - encountering God
- Living in the US, we are the comfortable, wealthy, entertainers. I was reminded that I need to live outside of my comfort zone and put myself out there.
- Out of my comfort zone. This was the first time I felt truly engaged and involved with what I am studying.
- God's work. I feel like I am part of something bigger than myself.

Daily prayer: Family
- Pray for forgiveness and strength for my brother. I love him the rest of my family.
- Thank you for my past as well as what I will be doing next year.
- My friends and people. God will use these things for his glory.
- Let people know!
- I like to say that I love people, but I don't think I do.
- The extremes of life.
- People pray that I will be able to grow in compassion and genuine love for other people.

Improvement: discipline
- I try to think that I'm pretty disciplined, but God and the Holy Spirit work together to make me realize that this is being pressed.

Sched of Ed
- Not sure if I am注册ing all the classes I will be taking, but I know that this will be a huge adjustment of the old-timers and the freshers.
- I want to be a good witness to my classmates and show them that God has changed my life.

While you're online...

We're sure during break you'll be online chatting with friends or checking and updating your facebook and probably checking how your grades were for the past semester, but maybe you can spend 10-15 minutes visiting this website and taking a test about your knowledge of AIDS.

http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/AidsTest.html/$FILE/AidsTest.html

We're hoping that this upcoming year, we can get more educated about AIDS, but also seeing what our small group can do about it. Hopefully this exam will open our eyes to the needs to be praying and doing something about this epidemic.
December

23

- Color the Picture of Snoopy
- Read Rebi’s Reflection
- Double Check your Christmas Shopping List & Make Sure You Bought Everything

Rebi Vergiyana

"The majesty of God was making me aware..."

Improvements:
1. I want to keep growing in my prayer life, becoming a man that prays in greater ways.
2. I want to be more fruitful building relationships & sharing the love of Christ to people all around me.
3. I want to commit to losing weight & improving my health over the Winter Semester, & also studying for my GMAT.

Prayer Request:
1. Pray that I will be fruitful as the leader of this group, leading not by my wisdom but by prayer.
2. Pray that I will be fruitful in losing the people God has brought into my life.
3. Pray for more relationships, to continue to have fun, & to be a radical witness in this campus."
December 24

- Draw a Picture of Your Favorite Christmas Gift of All Time
- Read Rachael’s Reflection
- Watch A Christmas Special on TV

Lesson:
- Something I've learned this semester is that God provides. Even when school is hard and life is busy, He is still with us and watching over us and providing us with the support of friends/family (like small group) and with His grace when we really need it.
- I've also learned how life is not something I live for myself, but for God's purpose and glory.
- I've learned how to praise, how to pray, and I'm learning to surrender.
- It's not easy, but God is patient and forgiving. Praise my Lord.
- Yay for Baptism! God is so wonderful! I am excited to share it with the world!

Improvements:
- FAITH: I'm learning what it is & trying to have more.
- STUDYING: Whatever it's studying the Bible or reading lecture notes, I need to do it more.
- I realized sometimes take work to understand better.
- PERSONALITY: I need to be more organized with my life/time.
- I can't expect to be able to do so much without first knowing my schedule. Plus, I let a lot of important tasks pile up when I get 'busy.'

Prayer Requests:
- In 2008, I want to glorify God more than before.
- I ask for prayer for faith, perseverance, and patience with myself.
- Pray also that I might grow spiritually, and put my trust in the Lord above all else.
My Favorite Christmas Hymn

We hope and pray that you’re having a great Christmas! I think for today, it’d be good to spend some time reflecting on the birth of Christ, but we’re going to do it a bit differently. Take some time to find your favorite Christmas hymn and listen to it, read the lyrics, and write down why you choose that song.

I will post below, my favorite song’s lyrics, ‘Little Drummer Boy’. The reason I love this song is because I feel like having that kind of heart to serve God is all that God wants. That he doesn't want us to give some extravagant gift or anything, but He just wants us and our best, and that’s what I see from this song.

The little boy didn’t have any crazy gift to bring, but he played, played his best for baby Jesus and that was enough to make the baby smile and that helps me to realize what God wants from me. I hope as you reflect that you’ll be able to get blessed this day as we think about Jesus’ birth!

Little Drummer Boy: Lyrics

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A new born King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
When we come.

Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That’s fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum,
On my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum.
o Take Some Time to Pick a Good Book To Read
o Read Julie’s Reflection
o Learn A Word In Another Language

NYTimes: The 10 Best Books of 2007

Fiction

• MAN GONE DOWN
  By Michael Thomas. Black Cat/Grove/Atlantic, paper, $14. This first novel explores the fragmented personal histories behind four desperate days in a black writer’s life.

• OUT STEALING HORSES
  By Per Petterson. Translated by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, $22. In this short yet spacious Norwegian novel, an Oslo professional hopes to cure his loneliness with a plunge into solitude.

• THE SAVAGE DETECTIVES

• THEN WE CAME TO THE END

• TREE OF SMOKE
  By Denis Johnson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $27. The author of “Jesus’ Son” offers a soulful novel about the travails of a large cast of characters during the Vietnam War.

Nonfiction

• IMPERIAL LIFE IN THE EMERALD CITY: Inside Iraq's Green Zone
  By Rajiv Chandrasekaran. Alfred A. Knopf, $25.95; Vintage, paper, $14.95. The author, a Washington Post journalist, catalogs the arrogance and ineptitude that marked America’s governance of Iraq.

• LITTLE HEATHENS: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression
  By Mildred Armstrong Kalish. Bantam Books, $22. Kalish’s soaring love for her childhood memories saturates this memoir, which coaxes the reader into joy, wonder and even envy.

• THE NINE: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court
  By Jeffrey Toobin. Doubleday, $27.95. An erudite outsider’s account of the cloistered court’s inner workings.

• THE ORDEAL OF ELIZABETH MARSH: A Woman in World History
  By Linda Colley. Pantheon Books, $27.50. Colley tracks the “compulsively itinerant” Marsh across the 18th century and several continents.

• THE REST IS NOISE: Listening to the Twentieth Century
  By Alex Ross. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $30. In his own feat of orchestration, The New Yorker’s music critic presents a history of the last century as refracted through its classical music.
December 27

- Enjoy a Good Sudoku
- Read Paul’s Reflection
- Give Somebody a High Five

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Paul

1) I feel like one of the major lessons that I learned this semester was just responding to difficulty. Last year, and the beginning of this year, whenever I faced difficulties, I became frustrated. I would become annoyed at myself and even with God. But more and more, God has just showed me how to deepen my trust in him. Now when I face struggles, I remember the verse from Romans 5:3 that says in my struggles, God teaches me perseverance. So now, I’ve become less afraid of times of difficulty and I know that my God will be behind me, and the lessons I will learn from my struggles will strengthen my endurance of my faith.

2) Next year, I really hope to continue to grow and run after God’s purpose. I feel like I’ve reached a place where I can’t just be content with receiving but that I should be investing in others as well. I pray that God will give me the boldness and courage to reach out to the people around me. I also want to continue to improve my communication skills. I really want to be a person that is consistent and a man of my word.

3) One prayer is for growth. I’ve been adjusting my personal and quiet times so that I will just be able to pray and quiet times so that I will just be able to pray more and not worry so much. Another prayer is to have a greater focus on mission everywhere. As I pray, I also pray that my surgery next year heals and I can’t wait to see an optimistic attitude.
December 28

1) What were some major lessons you felt you learned over this past semester?

Although I had been less focused on God and I was spiritually weak past semester, God replied me with even greater love and blessing. This really made me to realize that how I am thankful to know God and to be loved by God. I really was reminded again that God is always with me, looking after me. God has everything planned out for me and he will never give up on me even if I might forget about him. So, I think I have learned that I am so blessed to be loved by God and I need to love him more. :-)

2) What are a few things you want to improve on next semester academically, spiritually, and/or personally.

I want to grow more spiritually and enjoy life. I pray for my family too, and I want all of them to really grow spiritually. Finally, I pray that everything in upcoming new year will go well under God's blessing and I hope to love neighbors more. :-)

3) Finally, what are some personal prayer requests you have as you look forward to the year 2008?

As I said above, to grow more spiritually and enjoy life. I pray for my family too, and I want all of them to really grow spiritually. Finally, I pray that everything in upcoming new year will go well under God's blessing and I hope to love neighbors more. :-)

-Helen-

**BRP Assignment**

Read Psalm 94; Mark 12:28-44 and write down some of your thoughts on these passages.
December 29

- Read Carl’s Reflection
- Do Starbucks Blessing Assignment

Starbucks Blessing

Take this gift card and bless a friend or family member you haven’t talked with in a while with a drink! Make an effort to share what God has done in your life this past semester.

Major Lessons Learned Fall ’18

Obedience to God will yield a greater faith in Him: There were times during the semester that I started to do things my own way and thought I could take care of myself. This is not the case, as I began to Surrender my life to His will. I could see a change in my life, though I question and still struggle with total surrender. I know that as long as I trust in Him, everything is good.

Your name is as good as your word: I learned this through a easy and hard way. When I said I was going to do something and put my name on the line, there were times that I saw my words through and lived up to it. On the contrast, there also were times where I’ve been called out on not doing what I’ve said. This is the hard part because you hurt the person who you gave your word to. It’s not about reputation, but if you give the person your word, your word is still honored. It sucks, because there is no excuse you just gotta show them through your actions again, networks.

Improvements for EKG

Academics - Get more strong, last semester as it would be good to do well in my classes because they are all major classes.

Spiritual - Show some maturity in my walk actively share with in being a person that younger people can connect with actively.

Personal - Work out more, meet up with more friends because sometimes in AA could be done far, continue to love others no matter.

Prayer Request

Trust in the Lord about my future & Job search; where I will be and what I will be doing.

Check the moments that we have made, and give to the Lord all that He teaches.
December 30

- Read Erica’s & Grace Holliday’s Reflection
- Do Nuts Assignment

I Miss My Nuts!!!!

December 12th was our last small group meeting so it’s been a while since we’ve seen or talked to one another. Catch-up with your small group, by giving your LCG and/or other people in the small group a call to see how their breaks are going.
In light of our past small group that focused on how to be a “global citizen”, read this article to become more informed on where Obama stands!

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007

Inside Obama’s Iowa Ground Game
By Jay Newtson-Smal I/Des Moines

At just 25 years old, Michael Blake may have more to do with Barack Obama’s chances of becoming President than anyone besides his candidate himself. That may sound like a stretch, but Blake has the all-important job of bringing in new Iowa voters to caucus for the Illinois Senator. And while some campaigns may focus most of their efforts on one or two constituencies, the way John Kerry so successfully courted military veterans in 2004, Obama is spending an unprecedented amount of money and effort to turn out a wide cross section of new caucus-goers.

“This is the most extensive effort to reach out to new constituencies in the Iowa caucuses. I think, ever,” says Blake, who comes from the Bronx and was in the first class of “Yes, We Can!” a program Obama started soon after he was elected to the Senate to train minors to more effectively use the political system. “Campaigns here have traditionally gotten attention for going after one or two groups. We’re applying that principle and hope fully will enjoy similar success with multiple groups.”

Over the last eight months, Blake, with the help of his staff of about 25, has been developing what he calls peer-to-peer contacts. Volunteers call veterans, high school students call high school students and so forth. Seven staffers reach out to black voters, for example, and three handle Latino voters even though Latinos make up only 3% of Iowa’s population of three million and there are only 67,000 blacks in the whole state, according to the 2006 census. “This is exactly why it’s a problem for the Clinton campaign to bring in 100 new staffers in the last month,” said Tommy Vietor, Obama’s spokesman.

While the results have yet to be proven, most observers agree that Obama has made the biggest bet on reaching out to different groups of voters. “I do think he’s got a more legitimate claim to bringing in new people: younger voters, college voters, or bringing in new audiences,” said Iowa State Senator majority leader Michael Gronstal, a Democrat who isn’t endorsing a candidate yet. “If he can bring in new Iowans, that’s the advantage. If not, then Senator Clinton’s old line of establishing a Demo comeback telling, “In a past election years, many candidates that set the farm on getting new faces to sacrifice an hour and a half of their time to argue with their neighbors have more often seen their campaign hopes fade away.” While Jimmy Carter and Gary Hart both brought in significant numbers of new faces, many more candidates, such as Howard Dean, have failed in spectacular fashion.

The former Vermont governor bet that more college and high school students, inspired by his insurgent candidacy, would turn out to caucus for him. Instead, he ended up coming in third in 2004 behind Kerry and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards. And while people could certainly suffer as surprising a defeat as Dean, his supporters believe he had the advantage of being in the right place at the right time. "I think he’s got a more legitimate claim to bringing in new people. He’s got a more legitimate claim to bringing in new audiences," said Michael Gronstal, a Democrat who isn’t endorsing a candidate yet.

While Obama is also reaching across party lines by appealing to Republican and independent voters who can change their registration at caucus sites by simply signing a letter of intent. Said Miller: “He is probably the only candidate that could really do that [bridge the party gap].” It’s important to him, he knows it’s central to what he wants to accomplish.”

As evidenced by his highly publicized campaign swing with Oprah Winfrey last weekend, Obama isn’t exactly ceding the female vote to Clinton. In fact a recent Des Moines Register poll showed Obama outpacing Clinton among women voters for the first time in the race. N 31% to Clinton’s 26%.

Obama is also doing his best to appeal across party lines. He has been reaching out to Republican and independent voters who can change their registration at caucus sites by simply signing a letter of intent. Said Miller: “He is probably the only candidate that could really do that [bridge the party gap].” It’s important to him, he knows it’s central to what he wants to accomplish.”

The hostess of the Ames house party, Andi Smith, was a former independent who twice voted for...
January

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Write Down a New Year’s Resolution
- Read Grace Liu’s Reflection
- Watch the Capital One Bowl at 1PM on ABC (Michigan vs. Florida)

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION...

Grace Liu

Reflection on Feb 2007

1. Have been looking forward to the new semester:
   - Worked with myself on a hands-on being helpful to others in a small group. Have learned that you are not
     just being helpful when you are helping someone or just learning about what you are doing.
   - Have been encouraged by others in group projects.
   - Also have been learning about what it means to be a team player.

2. Made some improvements:
   - Learned that being open and honest with others is important.
   - Also learned that being open and honest with others is important.
   - Also learned that being open and honest with others is important.

3. Next year I'd like to improve:
   - Be more organized in my studies.
   - Be more effective in my studies.
   - Be more effective in my studies.

4. Never again:
   - Never again.
   - Never again.
   - Never again.

For unto us a Child is Born

Isaiah 9:6
January 2

- Read Deb’s & BJ’s Reflection
- Get Ready for a new Semester! Hooray!

Deborah Choi

- deepening spiritual growth for my small group members
- interesting for my small group and friends
- re-teaching of the importance of our relationship with God
- purpose and love behind relationships
- to be thankful and joyful
- the power of prayer (undergoil, referred)
- savior to advancement - to end’s joy
- increase in faith, trust, patience, and love with God and people
- do things faithfully and with excellence
- grow in my passions (dance, music) to transformation
- to be a blessing unto others

- to know God more
- to be selfless, blameless
- bridge to “Israelite”
- divide my head and make it clean.
- open my heart to receive...women
- please me, hear what you desire, show me how to love like you have loved me.
- show me how to love like you have loved me.
- break my heart for what breaks yours.
- every load I can for your kindness came.
- every link I hold with eternity.

BJ Choi

Lessons learned:
- God is too big for me to know fully by myself.
- God has things regardless of outworn details.
- I am nothing alone, compared to God and His plans.

Improvements:
- Become a man of prayer
- a L.I. of integrity
- a person of vision and faith

Prayer requests:
- Faith in God
- Outward expression of God
- Outstanding account for God
- Loving men towards people.

Mixed Nuts