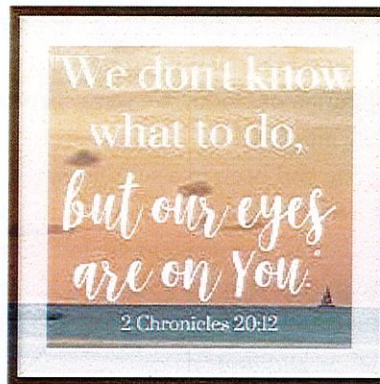


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"We don't know what to do..."



"but our eyes are on You"

There is a powerful story in the book of 2 Chronicles 20, in which King Jehoshaphat and all of Judah are overcome with fear at the threat of approaching armies that seek to destroy them. At this time in the history of Israel and Judah, it was rare to find godly leadership, so this instance of humility and trust in the Lord stands out. It says:

"Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all of Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord."

Standing in the temple courts, Jehoshaphat goes on to pray; the entire assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at his side. What strikes me the most are his closing words to the LORD, their God:

*"We are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. **We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.**"*

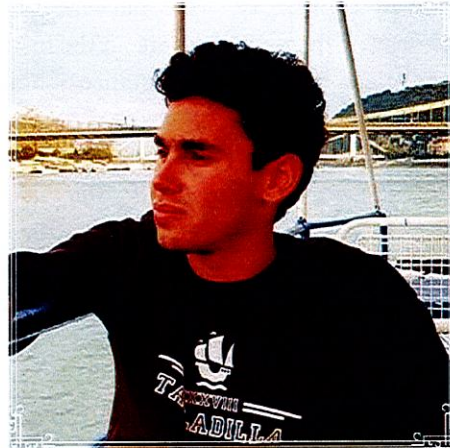
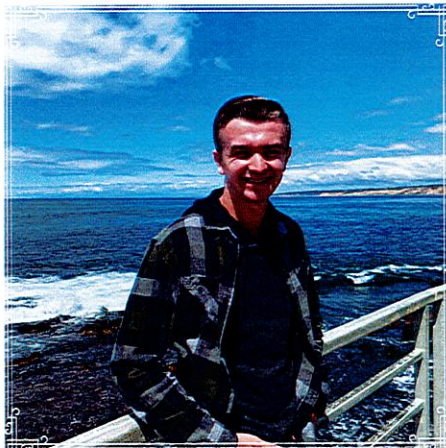
As I read this passage in one of my recent times with the Lord, I couldn't help but think of how this relates to ministry in this season. A month ago as our Bridges' (the ministry of Cru that reaches international students) student leadership team met to pray, cast vision, and plan for the fall, I led us in this passage during a time of reflection. The students gained a great deal of encouragement and hope from it, and the verse *"We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you"* unofficially became our theme for the year. The tactics we might have relied on in the past to meet international students are now unavailable to us, and we must trust God for new ways to introduce us to them.

One of the ways our staff and students are stepping out in faith to do so, is through Instagram. As we sift through various groups looking for students who currently study or have studied in San Diego in the past, we send them a brief message to say hello and see if they're interested in connecting with us. Here's an example:

different cultural and faith backgrounds. In Bridges, we love to be a home away from home for international students, help with any needs they might have, and have deeper conversations about life. Would you be interested in hearing more?

Mark, one of our American student leaders with Bridges, sent a similar message to Manuel, a Spanish student who had studied at SDSU the year before. Manuel responded with enthusiasm, and Mark and I had the chance to set up a call with him the following week. As we jumped on Zoom, we were surprised to find Manuel with an extremely red eye, and a white bandage wrapped around his head. We discovered that three weeks previously, he had been in a serious waterskiing accident in Croatia, and underwent surgery for a fractured skull. As we got to know Manuel and learned more, he openly shared that before the accident, he felt somewhat "lost spiritually", but now he was in a place to pursue that part of his life. Mark and I were amazed at the timing of meeting Manuel, and how the Lord had given us favor with him. We look forward to getting to know him more.

Please pray for our relationship with Manuel, and the several other students from around the globe with whom we hope to share the Gospel. Although we often feel that we don't know what we are doing, as our eyes remain on the Lord, we trust He will move in ways this year we never would have imagined!



Mark, (on left), our Bridges student leader, and Manuel, our new friend from Spain

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