A Prayer Letter from Alex Berg

Easter was absolutely incredible. After several weeks of planning and many phone calls with the staff at the University of Washington, (You want to do *what* in Kane Hall?"), we somehow managed to turn the brick and barren walls of Kane Hall into a life-giving, glorified worship space to proclaim that Jesus has risen and to demonstrate transformed lives through baptism. Wow.
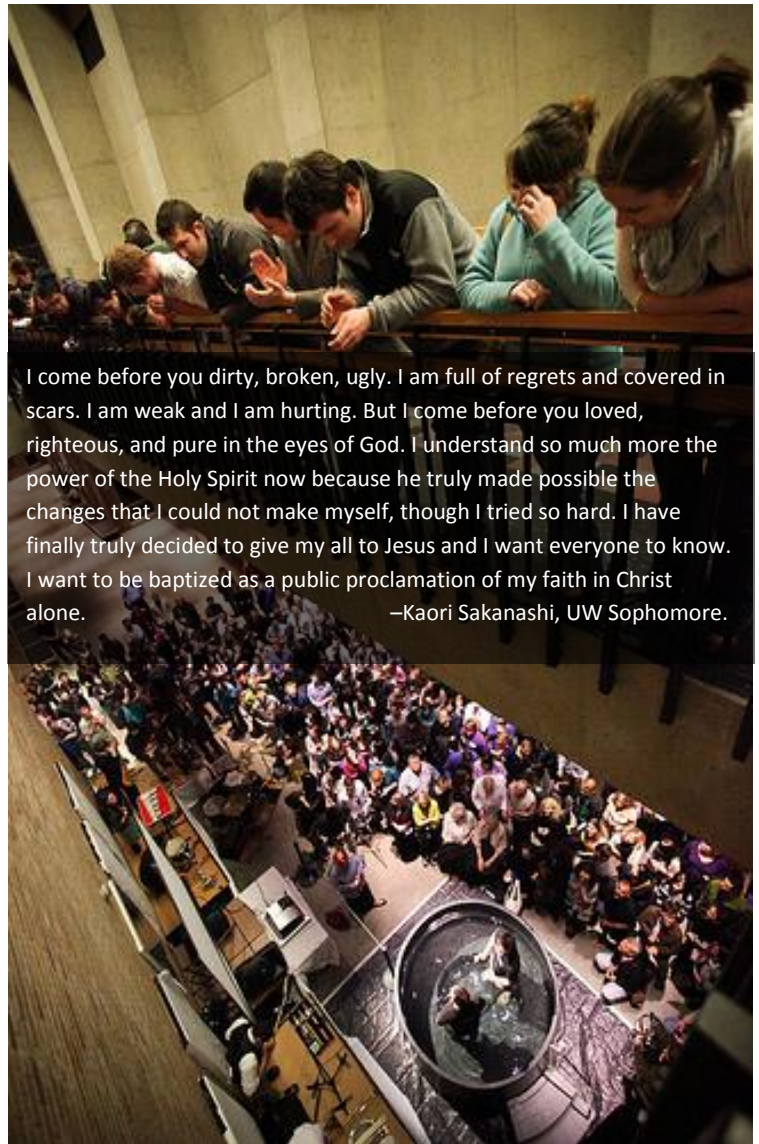
We had flowered décor, a 10-foot cross, white linen, 500-gallons of water in a hot-tub sized tank, a precarious stage, hot chocolate, and Pastor Matt Jensen in a suit: this was not your typical Sunday.

Chaos is really the only word to describe it as a crowd of 400 people filled the lobby, with some students even climbing up to the balcony to get a better view. I can't say that I'd had any prior experience managing a baptism operation so I enjoyed running around making sure people had clothing to change into, towels, and attempted to control the flow of the line so that people who were not planning on being baptized could do it.

There were **19 baptized,** 5 of them were spontaneous, and I even witnessed a 6-year old decide to be baptized as her family responded in overwhelming joy, tears, and emotion at the news. Her father was so moved by her decision to become a Christian that he decided to get baptized himself. Seeing the huge emotional response from this family was amazing to be a part of.

–Daniel Saiku, UW Sophomore

I come before you dirty, broken, ugly. I am full of regrets and covered in scars. I am weak and I am hurting. But I come before you loved, righteous, and pure in the eyes of God. I understand so much more the power of the Holy Spirit now because he truly made possible the changes that I could not make myself, though I tried so hard. I have finally truly decided to give my all to Jesus and I want everyone to know. I want to be baptized as a public proclamation of my faith in Christ alone. –Kaori Sakanashi, UW Sophomore.

This event was yet again another reminder of God's grace in the U-District. It was our first ever Easter service and amidst the chaos and commotion, the event was a huge success because God showed up. We can only do so much, and God makes it perfect in our weakness.

For more photos from Easter, and to see a video of the baptisms, visit www.facebook.com/udistrict.

Thanks for all your support!

Alex

What to pray for:
*Building space in the U-District for summer
*Development of more musicians & 2nd band leader
*Growth of community groups & additional leaders
*$362 per month needed for GCM support