

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are delighted that you will soon be joining us on a short-term missions trip! We are praying for you as you prepare, that the Lord will reveal Himself to you in new and wonderful ways and that you will spend time seeking Him and being in His presence. Only when we are filled with Him - with His love, His grace, His mercy and His wisdom, can we effectively share Him with others.

Each day during your outreach to unbelievers, you will be sharing a little bit more with them about who God is. We call these "Chapel Talks". Each Chapel Talk should be no more than 6-8 minutes long in English. Don't forget: these will usually need to be translated! Here are some tips to remember:

- Use simple words and short, concise sentences. These translate better.
- Use objects and ideas that will engage your audience.
- Ask them questions, make them think, involve them in the story. End the Chapel Talk with a thought provoking question.
- Make it fun and interesting - not dry. Don't try to be a theologian.
- Be animated. Practice in front of friends and the mirror. Would you want to listen to you?

In general, follow these themes:

Day 1 - God Exists/He created us and the whole universe

Day 2 - Sin has separated us from God

Day 3 - God's Love is unconditional

Day 4 - The Cross/Jesus' Free Gift

Day 5 - Growing as a believer

Below, we have compiled a number of Chapel Talks used by previous teams to give you some ideas. There are two sets. SET #1 are general ideas and SET #2 are more specific to Computer Outreaches, but either set can be used by everyone.

Please feel free to modify these as you feel led by the Lord or use your own ideas. We will be happy to add your ideas to our list for future teams!

Also, depending on the strengths of your team members, you may choose to assign one person with a gift for sharing these kinds of messages to present the Chapel Talk every day or team members can take turns.

Not later than 3 weeks prior to your departure date, please send the material that you will be using for Chapel Talks to your eDOT team leader for review. This is such an important part of the outreach. Please prepare well!

Set #1: General Chapel Message Ideas

Day 1 - Existence of God

Started by giving a basic definition for faith: Believing in something that you cannot see. Quote a verse from the beginning of Hebrews 11, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we cannot see." Explained that there are many things in this world that we have faith in or believe in even though we cannot see them. Ask if anyone could think of an example. (Electricity, wind, sound, our souls, etc. are possible answers). Start with gravity. Say something like "We all believe that gravity exists, even though we cannot see it. So for example, if I were to drop this pen (hold it up), we all know that it would start floating up toward the ceiling, right?" ("No" response from crowd, hopefully!) Drop the pen, and watched it fall to the ground. "Another example I can think of is air. Air is all around us in this room, and we believe that it exists even though we cannot see it. I'd like to do a demonstration to show you that the air exists, and is in fact all around us in this room." Proceed to fill a glass with water (must be a glass!) until it was almost full. (Remind them that if we were to turn the glass upside down then, gravity would cause all of the water to spill out!) Then, put a piece of cardboard (slightly larger than the top of the glass), shiny side down; over the top (use an old cereal box, this works really well). Hold the cardboard over the top of the glass, and quickly flipped the glass upside down, then carefully removing your hand from the cardboard. Explain that gravity is still working to try and make the water spill on the floor, but that the air - which we cannot see - is stronger than gravity and is pushing up against the cardboard to keep it in place. After a few seconds, flip the glass right side up again. Say something like "There is one more thing I can think of that we should believe in, even though we cannot see Him - and that is God. We can have true faith and believe in Him, even though we cannot see Him. If you're ever doubting whether He exists or not, you can think of the various examples of things that we have faith in, and feel confident that the God of the universe, who created all the beauty of creation around us, truly exists as well!"

Day 2 - Sin Separates Us from God

Begin this day by asking for someone's definition of sin. After a few, state that it is basically disobeying God and His will. Explain something like "as a little kid, I didn't really think I was a sinner, because I had never committed any of the 'big sins' such as murder, or stealing." (or something that is truthful for you). "However, I later learned that all it takes is one 'little sin' to become imperfect, and a sinner in God's eyes." Quote verses such as Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and then state that the wages or penalty of this sin is death (Romans 6:23a). You could then say something like "Let's pretend for a moment that this rock I have here (hold up a small rock) represents 'little sins' like lying or fighting with siblings, and this rock here (hold up a larger rock) represents 'big sins' such as murder or stealing. If I were to drop them both at the same time, from the same height, which one would hit the ground first? (The heavier one is the hoped for answer. Drop them both at the same time and watch them both hit the ground at the same time. Repeat if necessary). "So, as you saw by both rocks hitting the ground at the same time, it doesn't matter which is bigger or smaller. In the same way big sins and little sins are all the same in God's eyes. Thankfully, the story doesn't end here - because God loves each and every one of us, equally, and even sent His Son to die for us. I will tell you more about that tomorrow."

Day 3 - God's Love

This day involves picking three to four items that everyone in the audience would really like and want to have, and then one item that no one would want. You could use pieces of chocolate and candy for the desirables, and dirty, smelly sock (or piece of used Kleenex) for the undesirable. Begin by stating, "I'd like to tell you all about the love of God today. If you remember yesterday, I explained that we are all sinners in God's eyes, and deserve death as the consequence for our disobedience. But I also told you that the story doesn't end there, because God loves us all very much! Before I tell you more about His love for us, I brought a few things with me today and I was wondering if anyone might want them." Proceed to hold up each of the different items, and have them raise their hands if they think they might like to have the various items. Hopefully they'll all be raising their hands for each item, until you get to the last one, when no one will want it. Ask a second time, making sure no one really wants the undesirable item. Then explain, "The reason I asked you if you wanted all these different things is to demonstrate God's love for us. There are some people in our lives that everybody loves. We all like it when we have lots of friends, and lots of people love us. However, sometimes there are people that we may not love when we choose our friends, and we find it's a little bit harder to love them, just like it was

for these items that I held up. Thankfully, it's not the same with God - He loves us all the same, no matter who else does or doesn't like us, or how many friends we have! It says in John 3:16 that "God so love the world that He gave His one and only Son..." The word that is used for world means the entire world, all the people in it! So, to show His love for us all, He sent His Son, Jesus, to come to this earth, and die on the cross for each one of us! One example of how Christ loves everyone is found through the life of Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector during Jesus' day and tax collectors were known as very greedy, mean people. No one liked the tax collectors. They were like dirty socks. And yet, when Christ came to this earth, He actually asked Matthew to be one of his followers, or disciples. Jesus loved Matthew! Matthew even ended up writing one of the books that is part of our Bibles today, the Gospel of Matthew! So you can take comfort and find joy in the fact that God loves you, even if you think you aren't a very lovable person, or you don't have many friends. God cares about you! And tomorrow, I would like to share with you the wonderful news of what Christ did, just for you!

Day 4 - What happened at the cross (the Gospel presentation)

Idea #1 - Today, the Gospel presentation is given in visual form, through the use of a demonstration involving colored water, a saucer, a coin, a glass, a short candle, and matches. Remind them all of God's love for each of us, that we talked about the previous day. Then share with them that today I will demonstrate what Christ did for each of us when He came to earth. Hold up the saucer, and say that it represents this earth. Hold up the coin, and explain that it represents each one of us. Place it on the saucer toward the edge. Explain the colored water represents our sins, and so pour it onto the saucer, making sure the coin is submerged (or covered) in the water (sin). Now state that the candle represents Jesus. Place it at the center of the saucer. Light it, and say that the flame represents the life of Christ, when he came to this earth. Tell the students to watch carefully as you take the glass and place it over the lighted candle. Within a few seconds, the flame will consume all the oxygen in the glass and it will go out. At the same time, a vacuum will be created inside the glass, causing the water to be drawn up inside the glass (surrounding the candle), and leaving the coin dry (free from sin)! Explain that on the cross, Jesus gave up His life (the flame went out) so that he could take our sins on Himself and we could go free!

Idea #2 - Let me tell you a story about a lady named Vivian. Vivian lived for 2 1/2 years in a home without running water. She had to drive a great distance to a spring and load up heavy 5 gallon jugs to haul water back to her home to use for washing and drinking. All the while, there was a perfectly good 2000 Liter reservoir right there on her property. The water was there, but she didn't know how it could be used or how to get to it.

That is like the gift of Jesus. He has already died on the cross for you and now offers you the opportunity to be forgiven of your sins and to be reconciled to God. The gift is there waiting for you! All you have to do is accept the gift, believe in Him and trust Him to take care of you. You will become His child. You will have eternal life with Him and He will love you and stay with you forever.

However, Jesus is a gentleman. He does not force anyone to take the gift. It is up to each of us to reach out and accept it. Just like Vivian did not know the water was there, we often don't realize until someone explains to us that Jesus has this amazing gift for us and all we have to do is accept it and believe.

The assurance of eternal salvation is based on the promise God makes in His Word in John 5:24 and 1 John 5:9-13 that everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ alone possesses eternal life

Demonstration:

(Two team members bring up a beautifully wrapped gift filled with pieces of candy.) One team member A offers it lovingly to the other team member. That team member

B turns away and refuses the gift. Team member A looks sad. The person giving the devotion asks "Who does the gift belong to? Does it belong to A or B?" They will say it belongs to A. "That's right - B must accept the gift before it belongs to B. A loves B and wants B to receive and enjoy the beautiful gift. Jesus loves you so much and is very sad when you do not accept His beautiful gift of eternal life with Him." A again tries to give the gift to A. This time B accepts the gift and A and B start to open the gift together. While they are doing this, the Devotion giver says "Now who does the gift belong to?" They will answer B.

I'd like to pray for all of us now. If you have never repented of your sin and accepted the gift of eternal life that Jesus is holding out to you, you can pray with me now.

Jesus, I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe that you died to pay for my sins. I want to repent of my sins, give my life to you and accept your gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer with me, please let someone know - (name the names of the church members present and the North Americans) before you leave today.

"And do you know the most exciting thing about receiving the gift of eternal life from Jesus?" "You can then share it with others". The two team members then share the candy with the whole class.

Day 5 - God's guidance - help for our lives

Idea #1 - We are all on a journey through this life, and God has given us three things to help us: His Word, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. If, however, we try and travel through life on our own without calling on God to guide us, we will make mistakes and go off in directions that are not part of God's plan for us. Produce an ordinary (round) balloon. Blow it up, but do not tie it. Choose a volunteer to be the target. Have him/her stand about 20 feet away. State, "This balloon represents a person trying to go through life on their own.. Most people do want to go the right way. Their intentions are good. Therefore I am starting off by pointing the balloon at the target, but let's see what will happen when I let go!" It should go all over the place, definitely missing the intended target. Ask for volunteers, and repeat this a couple of times, each time with the balloon going all over the place. Explain, "No matter how hard we try on our own to do the right things, and stay on the straight and narrow path, we may be able to do it for a very short while, but we will inevitably end up way off the path. What this balloon needs is a guidance system - something to help it hit its target. I have one right here. Produce a 20 foot piece of string, and thread one end through a drinking straw. Make sure that the thread or string fits easily through the straw. Now, have the volunteer standing as the target hold one end of the string, while you hold the other end (making sure the string is taught). Blow up your balloon (a long, narrow balloon will work best) and tape it to the straw, making sure it is aligned straight along the string. Release the balloon and watch hit its target. "That balloon stayed right on target, because it had something to guide it. In the same way, we will stay on our target, the straight and narrow path, in our journey through life, if we let the Bible and the Holy Spirit guide us and we pray to God, and ask Him for the help that we need. He doesn't leave us alone in this life, but gives us the help that we need!"

Idea #2 - When you choose to follow God, you start on the most exciting journey of your life. You are no longer trying to live out your life by yourself, but you are giving God control of your life. When we repent and give our lives to Him, He gives us you three things to help you grow. These are the Word of God which we call the **Bible (hold up a Bible)**, the church which we call the **family of God** and the **Holy Spirit**, whom God gives you when He saves you. When you learn to rely on these three gifts from your Heavenly Father, you will begin to grow and mature and become more like His Son, Jesus.

When we first start to grow in our relationship with Jesus, we are like living plants which grow if you put them in good soil, water them correctly and give them enough sun light. (Demonstrate by showing the soil, watering a plant, hold a paper sun up over the plant) So the same thing should happen to us, right? (Water your self with a little watering can) Answer: Wrong!!! We are made differently than a plant. But

like plants need soil, water, and the sun, we need the Bible, the family of God, and the Holy Spirit to grow.

The soil a plant needs reminds us of God's word, because it is rich in nutrients. A verse in the Bible, in 2 Timothy 3:15-17 it says "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work". Without soil a plant is not anchored and will get tossed around in the wind and eventually die. Without God's word in your life, you can be tricked into doing something wrong or sinful, which will interfere with your friendship with God. But with God's word, you will be able to face any challenge that life brings you. We read in Phil 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who strengthens me." So how do you plant yourself in God's word? One day at a time. When you get up in the morning or before you go to bed, read, study, and memorize the Bible.

The water a plant needs reminds us of the family of God, which is our fellow Christians. Have you ever been outside on a very hot day and became very thirsty? What do you need, to get rid of the thirst? Water of course. As you drink, it refreshes you and you no longer are thirsty. The family of God is like that. When you meet with other Christians to pray and worship God, you feel refreshed. The Bible tells us to do the following "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another. Hebrews 10:24-25 Our church family is there to refresh us and renew us on a regular basis.

The sun that a plant needs reminds us of God's Holy Spirit. The sun is the plant's source of energy. God's Holy Spirit is our energy source. In the Bible Acts 1:8 says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;" This is not a magical power but God's Spirit working through you. The energy God's spirit gives you enables you to help others start the same journey you are on once you have repented and He has saved you. You must learn to listen to God's Spirit to use His power. Elijah was a man in the Bible who learned how to listen. Elijah was having a very rough time in life. Then the Lord came to him and said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. 1 Kings 19:9-13 Elijah had learned that God's voice comes in a gentle whisper. You must learn to listen to God so that you can use His power.

You see God made you with a purpose in mind. He wants to get to know you and He wants you to get to know Him. He also has some work for you to do. Work that he made especially for you and work that you will love to do. Remember to read, study,

and memorize *God's* word, meet with other Christians on a regular basis, and listen to the Holy Spirit. Then you will begin to grow and mature in Christ.

Set #2: Computer Specific Devotional Messages

1. Day 1 The Existence of God

To show that there is an intelligent creator who made us and that we are not just a product of chance.

Have a number of parts of some object. For instance, it would be ideal to have a number of computer parts, and put them into a bag. Have someone shake the bag up and pour out the contents to see if a whole, working computer (or another object that you have the parts for) comes out. Try it several times. Ask, "How many times do you think you would have to do this to get it to work and to create a complete, assembled, object?"

Another demonstration, if you do not have computer parts, is to have an assembled puzzle of the US, show the students where you are from. Then put all the pieces in a bag and ask "if you just pour these out on the table will they fit back together by themselves?"

Ask who believes it is possible for all the pieces to fit themselves together properly and to create something that functions properly. Ask what the chances are that this could happen.

Say "Some people say that the world came into being by a similar process. All the pieces were shook up and out popped the heavens and the earth and all the trees, animals, and even human beings."

But the Bible gives us a much more believable account of what happened:

Show the Biblical passage on the overhead or read them. You can add other Creation verses if time allows.

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:27 "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

Conclusion: There is an intelligent creator who made us and declared that what He had made was very good.

2. Day 2 The reality of sin and our separation from God.

The lesson seeks to show that something tragic happened to disconnect us from our God and that this separation has serious consequences in our lives.

Show a computer that is plugged in and up and running. Compare it to another computer that is not plugged in and does not have a power cord. Have some of the students call out some of the differences they can see between the two computers. What is the reason for the difference between the two computers? Can anyone find out what is wrong?

What are the symptoms of a computer not plugged into the power source?

The Bible tells us that the human race suffers from a condition of being separated from God. Sin is the thing that separates us from Him. We were created in a way that if we want to function well and in the way that we were intended to, we need Him as our power source. We must find a way to not be separated from Him by sin anymore. Our condition manifests itself in several ways and has very severe consequences.

Some possible verses to use:

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Romans 6:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

What are some issues in our lives when we are not "plugged into God"?

3. Day 3 The love of God and what he did for us through Christ

To show that God took the self sacrificing initiative to give His own Son to die in our place so that we could be forgiven.

What can the computer do for itself when it is sitting there unplugged and unable to function? Nothing, it takes someone else to do something for it.

This is how it is with God and us. God needed to take the initiative to do something for us and here is what He did:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Romans 5:6-8 "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God has taken the initiative to get us plugged into Him and has removed the barrier that separated us from Him.

4. Day 4 Our need for a new birth and reprogramming (Gospel Presentation)

To show that we need to be reprogrammed from within to that our lives can be changed and run according to the new software that is directing us.

Demonstrate how what we see on the computer and what we are able to do with it is dependent of the programming that goes into the computer. It isn't enough to be plugged in, but must have the correct software and coding to act the way it should.

Jesus has provided the "new software" that we need to live out lives for Him. He wants to "wipe out our old hard drive" which contains all the sins we have ever committed and will ever commit. He has done this by laying down His life for us. He wants to give us this gift of forgiveness and eternal.

The Bible tells us:

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone the new has come."

Demonstration:

(Two team members bring up a beautifully wrapped gift filled with pieces of candy.) One team member A offers it lovingly to the other team member. That team member B turns away and refuses the gift. Team member A looks sad. The person giving the devotion asks "Who does the gift belong to? Does it belong to A or B?" They will say it belongs to A. "That's right - B must accept the gift before it belongs to B. A loves B and wants B to receive and enjoy the beautiful gift. Jesus loves you so much and is very sad when you do not accept His beautiful gift of eternal life with Him." A again tries to give the gift to A. This time B accepts the gift and A and B start to open the gift together. While they are doing this, the Devotion giver says "Now who does the gift belong to?" They will answer B.

I'd like to pray for all of us now. If you have never repented of your sin and accepted the gift of eternal life that Jesus is holding out to you, you can pray with me now.

Jesus, I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe that you died to pay for my sins. I want to repent of my sins, give my life to you and accept your gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer with me, please let someone know - (name the names of the church members present and the North Americans) before you leave today.

"And do you know the most exciting thing about receiving the gift of eternal life from Jesus?" "You can then share it with others". The two team members then share the candy with the whole class.

5. Day 5 Our needs to find God's purpose for our lives and to be part of His church.

To show that God has a purpose for our lives now that we belong to him and that we must accomplish what He has made us for and not just what we want.

Demonstrate that once the computer is plugged in and the correct software is loaded, the computer exists to accomplish what the person using it wants to do whether it be to type a letter, go on the internet, send email, take a course etc.

Demonstrate/explain how all the parts of the computer are needed and work together. If one is missing, the result is incomplete.

1Corinthians 12:12-20 "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body is not one member, but many.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body."

God has a purpose for our lives. Part of the purpose is individual and part of the purpose is for us to be involved with other Christians in the church.

2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.