CEB STUDENT BIBLE

Edited by Dr. Elizabeth Corrie, The CEB Student Bible is by and for young people. Dr. Corrie worked alongside biblical scholars, youth ministers from multiple denominations, and teens who have participated in YTI to create a Bible that helps students think with and live through the Scriptures.

The CEB Student Bible seeks to invite students into deeper forms of personal and social holiness, helps them make connections between the world of the Bible and their own world, offers resources for engaging the text in personal and group study, and embodies a commitment to taking young people seriously as Christian leaders now, not just in the future. It is a resource that helps young disciples of Jesus Christ as they transform the world.

First published in 2011, the Common English Bible was built by the collaborative effort of 120 Bible translators from 24 denominations and 500 Bible readers from diverse backgrounds and hundreds of different churches. The CEB uses words and phrases that sound natural and conversational and offers a balanced, accurate and sensitive translation that mirrors how people talk, read, and write.

CEB REFLECTION: VIKTORIYA SEREDYUK

When Dr. Corrie offered me the chance to contribute to the CEB Student Bible, I was filled with feelings of both excitement at the opportunity to be published and also a deep sense of inadequacy. I do not have a degree in Theology and did not grow up learning about the Bible like most young people at YTI did. In a nutshell, I felt I was not qualified enough to discern complex meanings of the Bible—only the most famous book in the world. Would anybody read my devotional? Would anybody relate to it?

I felt a similar hesitation in creating another opportunity for growth this summer—accepting an invitation to teach English in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Our days were
long—four classes of English each day as well as three slots of private tutoring in the evenings. Apart from the English, I taught two elective courses: Psychology of Leadership and The Pursuit of Happiness. I realized that one can learn only through teaching. By taking the role of guide to my students, I was able to better understand my purpose for being in Ukraine and the ways I could serve a country that I love. Similarly, my words in the CEB Student Bible are a guide for young people that are struggling with their light and doubts of self-worth in the eyes of God.

I read my own devotional on the last day of “The Pursuit of Happiness” elective class when we did a release exercise. I asked my students to write a letter to the person who hurt them or betrayed them in their lives. The letter could also be addressed to themselves and contain moments when they felt inadequate, fearful, broken, and cruel to themselves. Later, I took them outside the camp to have them share and finally burn their letters, releasing their feelings. Before burning, I read aloud the passage and we had a moment of silence. I was where I needed to be. Reading aloud my own devotional on 1 John 3:1 reminded me exactly why I wrote it. The experience of sharing my devotional with the class opened a new avenue for mutual understanding and respect for our common struggles. Through this exercise, I became closer to my students because I was in the circle among them as we were burning our angers and fears—not on the opposite side of the table. It was a covenant that we created. My trip to Ukraine and the lessons I learned through teaching brought me back to my first experience of being a part of an inclusive covenant group during YTI 2012. This summer I found the affirmation I was looking for: it was personally empowering to share but I also witnessed how my words impacted others, related to them, and empowered them. I became approachable in a new way.

VIKTORIYA SEREDYUK

Viktoriya is a junior from Lviv, Ukraine at Emory University majoring in Psychology and Political Science. She attended YTI in 2012 to learn more about herself and how the Church can take a front seat in social justice issues. Viktoriya is fluent in English, Ukrainian, and Russian, and studies German. Viktoriya is part of the Emory Integrity Committee at Emory’s Center for Ethics. She was the only undergraduate recipient of the 2015 Emory Alumni Leadership Scholarship and was recently inducted into Who’s Who in America’s Colleges and Universities. Before Emory, Viktoriya was a competitive figure skater. In her spare time, she practices Pilates, sings, and cooks (sometimes all at the same time). She is fond of her cat and is not a fan of pumpkin spice lattes.
CEB INTERVIEW: REV. J. DREW JOHNSON

How/why did you get involved in this project?
I got involved with the projected simply because Beth asked. When awesome people ask you to do things, you simply do it. It was also a great invitation to read and study parts of the Bible I was not as familiar. I wrote on several books including Nehemiah, Daniel, and 1-3 John. Loved getting to know those sections of the Bible.

What your devotional/prayer inspired by?
The older I get and the more involved I become in church, I am inspired by the people who simply live out God’s call everyday. As my own life becomes filled with work, children, schedule (all great things), I begin to understand the incredible depth and faithfulness for people to do everyday things with the grace and love of Christ, and then push beyond to serve local communities through food ministries, homeless ministries, or hospital ministries.

NAME: Rev. J. Drew Johnson
AGE: 42
LOCATION: Richmond, VA

YTI MINI-REUNION
IN DURHAM, NC

Thanks to the Raleigh-Durham crew for taking time in the midst of their busy schedules to fellowship with other YTI alumni in the area on Wednesday, October 7.

Photo (L to R): Rob Lee ’10, Palmer Cantler ’10, Katey Reighard ’03, Kelly Lence Godinho ’06, and Aaron Klink ’96.
BECAUSE YOU GAVE:

A WORD OF THANKS FROM LOUIS SALEM, 2015 YTISCHOLAR

At the end of the 2015 academy, Louis and his fellow scholars took time to write thank you notes to the special folk who helped make YTI possible for each of them. Here is what Louis had to say...

Dear YTI Donor,

Thank you for your generous gift to YTI this year. As I come to the end of this three-week experience, I have grown, been challenged, and formed some of the deepest relationships of my life. I am especially thankful I had the opportunity to fly from Jerusalem to Atlanta to learn more about my faith and the world.

I am deeply grateful for you making this possible for me.

Thank you,

Salem Jerusalem

You can help support future scholars just like Louis through annual or monthly gifts to YTI. Please make a gift today! Thank you to all of our generous donors who faithfully support this important program.

For questions about giving to YTI, please contact jessica.mcdaniel@emory.edu or 404.727.0058.
SPREAD THE WORD:

YTI SUMMER ACADEMY 2016 WILL BE HELD
JUNE 26–JULY 16, 2016

Applicants should have a strong academic record, curiosity about the relationship between theology and public issues and a commitment to serving the public good through reflection and action.

We seek theologically curious youth from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, denominational and religious backgrounds. We welcome youth who have not been formed by specific faith traditions.

Scholarships are available!

The application requirements include several short essays, two recommendations and a high school transcript.

Applications are due March 1, 2016.

If you would like more information, please email yti@emory.edu.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Do you have an update, a story, or a reflection to share? Was there an article that resonated or challenged you? We want to hear from you!

Please contact yti.press@gmail.com if you are interested in