

STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY OF EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE



February is often characterized with love and cupid's as the Valentine's Day holiday characterizes the month as a whole. As much fun as that may be, the source of love that is projected is insufficient. People fall down and fail. Luckily, we know the true love that is never failing, the love of God. We have the incredible duty to not only receive God's love but to also extend it to others. I would encourage you to find a way to let God's love be shown through you.

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." - 1 John 4:16

-Natalie Norris; Standing in the Gap Communications Manager

Student Spotlight: Hao Giang

I grew up in non-Christian family, so we did not know anything about God for my family; my mom worshiped Buddha as her God. So, before knowing God, I was a hot-tempered person; I could hit someone, even if it were just a tiny problem. Also, I mostly lived for myself, so it was hard for me to talk with people. I met God when I first moved to Michigan because I was new to the place, so I spent a lot of time with my family, especially my brother-in-law, whose name is Odie. One day, Odie and I were sitting on the porch to talk about things, and then I said, “Oh my God.” So, Odie suddenly asked me, “Who is your God?” on top of my head, the only one I could think of was Buddha. Then, he introduced me to the Bible by saying one of the commandments, which is “Do not worship other gods before God” it made me curious about God and also nervous because it was the first time I saw my brother serious about something because he said, “if I do not know who Jesus is, I will not go to heaven since the way to go to heaven is through him.”



After that time, I thought about it every night and started asking my brother-in-law about God so I could learn more. Then, my first year of college came, so I had to move to Saginaw; I lived on campus with my friend who named Marcellus. One night, I was curious about what he was doing every Tuesday night, so I asked him. Then he told me about Gap and explained to me what it was about. Since Gap is about God, I was intrigued and asked him to take me there. It was also the first I met Connor, Tony, Joshua,... and everyone who is my friend now. After the first day of Gap, Connor and Tony came to me and encouraged me to sign up for the foundation. I started to learn little by little in the Bible since I came to Gap because I wanted to take it seriously, and along with that is help from Connor and Tony’s explanation which helped me to learn about my faith in God. After my first year of college, I returned to my family for the summer. That summer was horrible for me because I broke up with my girlfriends, I got scammed, and my immigration identity got stolen. Everything that happened all at once in July made me overwhelmed and scared. Thus, I tried to pray every night. Surprisingly, everything was solved after two days. My sister said I could pay to renew my immigration identity, and the scammer vanished too. Those things happened to help me know how powerful God is. The time that I think my faith increased was when I moved to the guy’s house (a house rented by men in gap). At this time, I have talked with Joshua and Connor about Jesus. We encouraged each other whenever we said something wrong. Especially with Joshua, we had some small bible study sections to help me learn about God deeply. And then, in November last year, I got into a hit-and-run situation, I went home and talked to Connor about it, and he prayed for me. Then, Joshua also prayed for me. After praying for guidance, I was calm and solved the problem step by step, and I got a “fail to stop ticket”. When this happened, I believed more about God, and I talked to Joshua about getting baptized and turning my life into Christ so he could work through me to help me become a better person.

New Gap Chapter Planting Model

By Nate Polzin

For many years we at the Standing in the Gap Foundation and others have had the vision to expand Gap to other college campuses in Michigan. Many of you know that we have had Gap chapters on four campuses so far. We started at CMU in 1996, started SVSU's chapter in 2007, Ferris' Gap began in 2011, and Northwood's launched in 2017.

Unfortunately, CMU and Ferris do not currently have active Gap chapters. We learned some things, however, from what happened at those Gaps. In order to keep a Gap chapter going, growing and thriving, we need to have a strong church behind it. Our previous model for establishing new Gaps was to send a very small group (like just a couple people or one family) to an area and have them start both a church and a campus ministry chapter. That took a long time, significant finances, a lot of work and could really take a toll on folks.



Going forward, what we are planning to do now is recruit a team of 3-6 people who will commit to move to a community together for a period of at least five years. They will be trained by the Standing in the Gap Foundation and spiritually supported by The Church in Drive. (The Church in Drive meets both in person and on Zoom with our online worshippers participating fully in group discussions, small groups, church leadership, worship leadership, and more). The team will get jobs in the town and volunteer 10-15 hours a week toward launching the Standing in the Gap chapter on campus.

We are hopeful that this new model will help us establish new ministry chapters in a way that is more supportive of our ministers and more sustainable long-term. Please pray for those whom God would call to this work and for those of us who will be training, mentoring and supporting them!

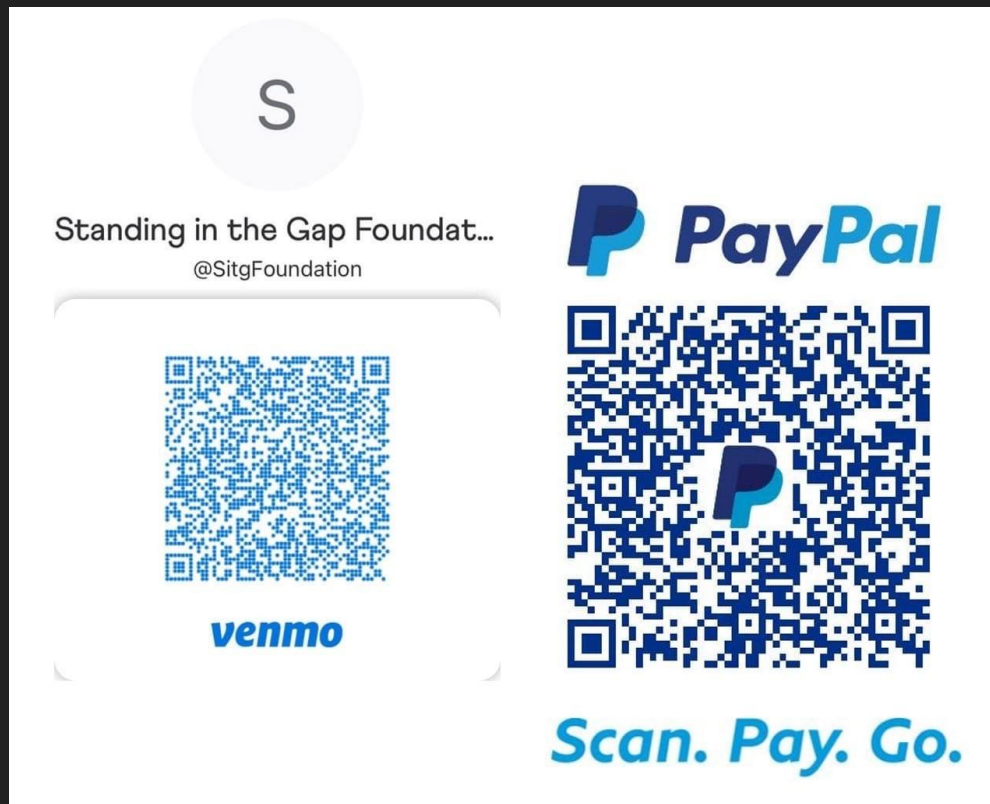
God bless us all!
Nate

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