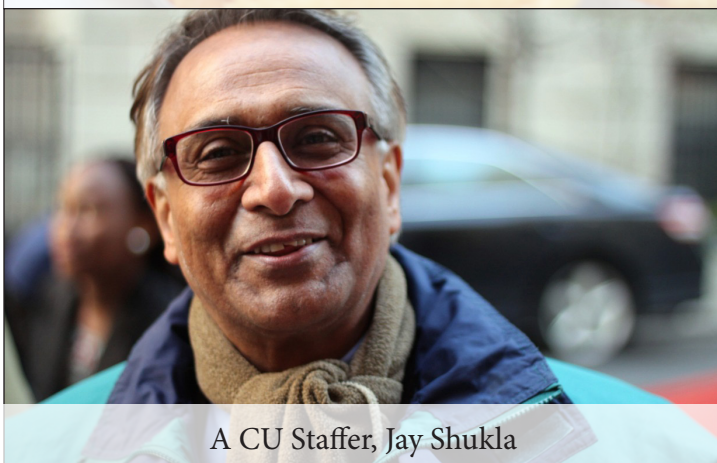




Delicious Shake-Shack Food



My team partner, Matthew



A CU Staffer, Jay Shukla



The Yale competitor, Joseph



the lovely Columbia ladies

Yesterday, I had the chance to participate in the pilot of Christian Union's Ivy League Bible Memorization Challenge. A few weeks ago, one of the freshman guys in HCFA (my campus fellowship group) emailed the group list to see if anybody was interested in entering the challenge with him, and having grown up doing Bible Quizzing and various other Bible memorization competitions, I told him I was up for it. We wrote ourselves a script, and yesterday we boarded a bus to NYC where we performed along with a student from Yale and four students from Harvard for a small crowd of Christian Union supporters.

Going into the challenge, I thought we had a good chance of winning or doing well. After watching my fellow competitors (and making a crucial mistake in my own presentation — sorry about that, Matthew), I quickly realized that we had absolutely no chance of winning, and I was totally okay with that. The competition was incredible. Joseph, a freshman at Yale, quoted THE ENTIRE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS! It was A-MA-ZING. I thought it couldn't get better until Columbia took the stage. Basically, they put together various passages in the Bible to form a sort of beat poem that was supposed to represent our questioning of God and crying out to him and his eventual response. It was absolutely incredible, and I feel very blessed to have been able to see them. And, since there were only three teams in the challenge this year, we all won prizes (yayyy for elementary-school everyone-wins challenges!), so Matthew and I got to take home \$50 gift certificates for CBD, and Eric Metaxas—a super-legit NYT best-selling author (author of *Amazing Grace* — the biography on William Wilburforce on which the documentary was based) who was one of the keynotes at the national prayer breakfast—was there to support us, so he gave us (personalized) copies of his Bonhoeffer biography, which I have been wanting to read.

God is so incredible. Sometimes (actually...most of the time) I forget how powerful the Bible is. I have grown up reading it and hearing it preached about, and I am often desensitized to what it is actually saying because of the fact that I have heard it so many times. Seeing it brought to life in the way that my fellow CU students shared it was such a blessing to me. It was the perfect way to reflect on Good Friday on what Christ did for me, and I am very happy that I chose to go.

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:4-6

Taken from the blog of Keren Rohe, Harvard 2013