

## CONFERENCE SUMMARY

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At Staff Conference 2020, we gathered to seek the Lord for kingdom breakthroughs in our own lives and in every corner of every campus. We directed our attention to preparing for revival, to renewing our calling in ministry, and to thriving together. We met the Lord through worship and Scripture, and received the gift of John Teter's teaching on John 13–17, Jesus' Upper Room Discourse. We heard powerful exhortations and testimonies from a variety of InterVarsity leaders serving in different contexts. We set aside time to fast and pray. We repented individually and corporately for things we have done and things we have left undone. We made space to listen for the Lord's voice, and we discerned what he said to us together.

Tom Lin opened our time by inviting us to a posture of childlike expectancy, dependency, and intimacy. The conference theme, "Longing for Revival," was emphasized throughout the week; our community heard repeated calls to repentance, holiness, and loving unity with one another. John Teter applied Jesus' teaching from the Upper Room to our context saying, "There is no Pentecost power without Upper Room union," and, "Revival is all about relationships." He pointed out the wedding motifs in Jesus' promises to his disciples in John 14. Jesus is our bridegroom who paid our bride price with his blood and is coming back for us. "Being engaged to Jesus as his future bride requires loyalty, provides security, invites intimacy, and establishes status." Dr. Alice Brown-Collins preached "a call to deeper consecration" from Isaiah 30 and reminded us that "in repentance and rest is our salvation, in quietness and trust is our strength." She urged us to lay down burdens of workaholism, busyness, and racing, unfocused minds and instead commit to lives of prayer (which Walter Wink calls "spiritual defiance"), characterized by Holy Spirit power and forgiveness (which fights off the devil). Robel Chemed, General Secretary of EvaSUE, the IFES movement in Ethiopia, shared the spiritual disciplines and strategies that keep their small staff team and 45,000-plus students thriving in a context of religious persecution and limited resources.

On the final evening, Tom reflected on and synthesized the program, calling all to a renewed study of the Word of God, to unity with one another in repentance, and to intimacy with God. Then the ELT led the fellowship in recommitting all of who we are to the Lord so that our own lives would become the first-fruits of the revival we long to see on campus.