

Recent Alumni Recognition Award Interview
2017 Recipient
Sarah Bedi, Class of '09

Q: How did you choose CIU?

A: As my burden for the bride of Christ increased, I took a Perspectives course that a friend recommended. Through that class, I knew that I was willing to serve God anyway he decided and began to pray that I would know Him more and make Him known. A year later, I began to seek out universities for Graduate school. A recruiter of OMF shared about CIU. Once I read the website, I was convinced this was the direction God had prepared for me.

Q: What impacted you during your time at CIU?

A: What didn't impact me might be a better question. The professors definitely impacted me the most. From their genuine care of my walk with the Lord as well as being equipped for ministry, their experience on the field allowing them to teach and share from personal experience, and certainly the quality of their own intelligence and education. I worked with Residence Life and was impacted by community living out the gospel together, and learned how to live authentically and intentionally with those around me. It was at CIU I really learned how to enjoy and keep a Sabbath. Great leadership...modeled for me what it meant to lead godly lives, and some have truly become my heroes.

What did you do after you graduated from CIU?

A: During my second year at a CIU, God opened more doors for me to consider full-time ministry. I took a job at the local church where I interned for my degree. Over that next year and a half, I got to be a director for the college ministry that became a church plant, while also helping the church start a partnership working with local churches in northern Sweden helping them start a college ministry at their university.

Q: What do you do now?

A: After three years working with the partnership in Sweden, God opened the door for me to move there working full-time toward the bigger vision of starting new churches. I lived in Luleå, Sweden for 3 years and saw a team form to own a simple church planting vision and growing as disciple-makers. Last summer, I moved to Stockholm. I live in an immigrant neighborhood starting to form a new team that will focus on the unreached people groups and immigrants. I also get to partner with local churches training new leaders for new church plants. Right now Stockholm has 1.6% of the population engaged with a local church, so we are responding to that statistic with a more intentional city reaching vision. I am convinced that this is where God has me and I love getting to know Him in the different seasons of life and ministry. I love having friends from all around the world. It is amazing to be part of a bigger vision: seeing Swedes engage in finishing the Great Commission.

Q: Your advice/encouragement to CURRENT STUDENTS?

A: There is no greater reward than living obedient to His plans. In order to be the best you for His Kingdom, you need to be in love with Jesus. Focus more on loving Him and letting Him transform you than the externals. Each one of you has a unique design that will impact the Kingdom as He sees fit. Don't compare your life to the person sitting next to you, instead celebrate His truth.

Q: Your advice/encouragement to ALUMNI?

A: Some of us are living out the dreams that were formed and affirmed during our years at CIU, others maybe have had to alter those dreams as life has happened. Regardless of where we find ourselves, the gospel is the root of our joy and identity. Thankful for the many of you that have inspired me and others to walk faithfully.

Q: Prayer Requests?

A: (1) This past year I began a tent-making work to help connect with community. It's not easy balancing the time and energy it takes. (2) Pray for unity and favor in building relationships with the new team. (3) I'm living in an area that is thick with darkness and distrust. Please pray for breakthroughs in connecting with others and finding people of peace.