



Happy to be at Competition!

The memories were already underway for the 2008 Christian School Finals Competition participants by the time they checked in on Sunday, May 18th. Many teams arrived excitedly chattering about their journey to ORU as well as some of the challenges encountered just to get to Competition.

By the time everyone checked in, there were fourteen schools represented at Competition. Three of these schools were attending Competition for the first time, and six of the schools traveled from outside of the United States. Additionally, for some of the students, it was their first venture to the United States.

RECAP

SUNDAY – The Battle is not Yours but God's

The golf event kicked off the Competition. Participants and sponsors both started catching up with old friends and making new friends over their first meal that evening. At the Welcoming Service, Dr. James Barber challenged everyone to remember that the battle is not ours, but God's. At the end of the service, Dr. James Barber was led to pray over each sponsor and have each sponsor in turn pray over each student. It was a precious time of ministry.

MONDAY – Open the Floodgates of Heaven

The Competition events got into full swing on Monday. 3-on-3 soccer began Monday afternoon. The highlight of Monday was the evening outdoor Worship and Prayer service. The students and sponsors gathered in the courtyard between the cafeteria and the Timko Barton building at about 8:00 p.m. Using an acoustic worship set, the worship team ushered us into the throne room of God. As a beautiful chorus of "open the floodgates of heaven, let it rain, let it rain" resounded throughout the crowd, students lifted up the nations and each other in public prayer as well as praying together in small groups. This anointed time opened the door to a week filled with spiritual emphasis as well as competition.

RECAP continued...

TUESDAY – Running the Race

Tuesday was a day for team spirit and camaraderie as both the basketball and volleyball tournaments got underway. The day continued on a high note as competitors displayed their talents in the start of the vocal and instrumental events. That evening dinner at the track meet in Jenks provided an opportunity for everyone to get off campus and cheer for their favorite tracksters.

Wednesday – Making a Joyful Noise

Early in the morning the Cross Country runners took off from the Upper Lot on campus to run their race. Soccer finals took place that afternoon, and the Praise and Worship band event set the stage for the evening Chapel service. Dr. Dan Guajardo continued with the theme that the battle is not ours but God's in his message from 2 Kings Chapter 7. Just as the four lepers had to trust God to take care of them, we must also rely on Him to provide for us, to sustain us and to make us victorious in all situations.

Thursday – Every Good Gift Comes from Above

The talent showcase on Thursday is always a Competition favorite and gives everyone the opportunity to view each other's unique abilities. The 2008 Competition showcase certainly ranks among one of the most memorable.

Thirty-three different entries were highlighted in the showcase, including many drama and musical events, interviews with artists and photographers, as well as a science project. All were outstanding.

Friday – Victory in Jesus

Friday morning opened with the Commissioning Service. Dr. Clarence Boyd charged everyone to leave Competition fresh and renewed with victory. Many stayed to worship after the service. A sports extravaganza followed, with a full day of volleyball, table tennis and basketball finals. The cheerleading and winter guard competitions were featured in the middle of all the finals which kept the spirit and energy high.

At the Awards Ceremony:

National Grand Champion was awarded to Jesus Chapel School.

International Grand Champion was awarded to Josue Christian School.

Team Decathlon was awarded Jesus Chapel School.

Per Capita Award went to Grace Christian School from Mason, Texas.

The Spirit Award went to Word of Outreach Christian Academy.



Above: Monday evening outdoor worship

Below: Praying for each other at the Commissioning Service





The 2008 Christian School Finals Competition was truly an exceptional week. Many of the participants had prepared for many weeks and even months prior to competition and traveled far just to attend. They arrived at Competition excited and ready. They left knowing they had given their best and along the way they renewed acquaintances, made new friends and worshipped God with a new devotion.

There were 3 new schools that attended Competition for the first time:

1. **Agape Christian Academy, Honduras**
This school brought 21 students and 4 sponsors. They won first place in Girls Tennis Singles, Strings Solo/Ensemble with Bow, Percussion Solo and Mixed Instrumental Ensemble.
2. **Colegio Cristiano Semilla de Vida, Colombia**
This school came with 18 students and 3 sponsors. They won first place in Boys 3-on-3 Soccer and Praise and Worship Band.
3. **Grace Christian School, Mason, Texas**
With 6 students and 4 sponsors, this school won first place in Puppets, Physical Science Project, Illustrated Storytelling and the Per Capita Award with a four-year tuition scholarship to ORU.

Congratulations to our newcomers!

We would also like to congratulate Evangelistic Temple School on their first graduating class, the 2008 seniors!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT COMPETITION: MAY 17-22, 2009.

To see photos and get other information about the week visit our Web site at <http://competition.oru.edu>. Or contact us at:

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