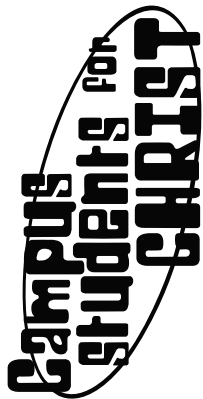


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



I am Paolo Gabriel Romero, a 24 year old graduate student from the Philippines taking a master of music in piano performance.

I had been to the United States several times prior to studying here at WIU. While the previous visits had acquainted me to American culture, it was only from the perspective of a visitor. Now that I am here living at CSC, I get to know up-close what it is like living here. My classmate from undergrad (now studying in another state) recommended I live here, telling me he had enjoyed his time there, so I did!

Since it is my first time living away from home, CSC has a fun and wholesome Christian community that makes me enjoy my stay. The weekly Bible studies and small group meetings ensure that I still keep growing in my walk and also have us pray for one another. The Sunday worship, currently running its series on the life of Christ, have also given me the joy of gathering with the saints physically, something that was unlikely (and still is) back home, given the current health situation.



Paolo Romero

I am also blessed to have roommates that share common interests and bring life to the apartment. It is barely a dull day when I am with them and visitors. When we have cereal nights, birthday cake nights, et al, I feel comfortable and at ease just enjoying meals at the end of the day with friends. Among these, my favorite event is Winging It, having wings at Bdubs (Buffalo Wild Wings) with the boys to the glory of God, as I say.

What better way to have fellowship with God fearing men than to have spicy wings? We spice up our taste buds and spice up our love for the LORD! A big win!

Nonetheless, living at CSC has been one of my best experiences in my life so far here in the United States. I do encourage my fellow students here in WIU to come have fellowship with us and make the most out of their college lives being with those who love the LORD. Mabuhay!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In this newsletter, I only have a few updates. Our summer projects, which I outlined in detail two newsletters ago, have gone well and are either wrapped up or are waiting on warmer weather to finish minor aspects. Our ministry took 5 alumni and 7 students to Juarez, Mexico, this winter break and still managed to build the house in just 3 days!

There will be videos to share on our website soon. We also went to FAME over Valentine's weekend and will be going to Red Bird in May. Our last annual Harvest Banquet went very well, despite some minor snafus. Since we had it in our own auditorium, the atmosphere was much cozier, the conversations were more relaxed, and we were even able to give some apartment tours. I am afraid some of you may have been under the impression that it was the last Harvest Banquet ever, but I hope that is not the case. While we are planning on doing a spring open house for our next fiscal year, we will remain open to having future Harvest Banquets during some fall semesters. Please stay tuned for more details on the spring open house for 2023.

Lastly, at the Harvest Banquet I announced our plan to hire a part-time employee to oversee maintenance of the building and grounds. In order to do so, we humbly request that you pray for God's provision for this much needed role to be filled and the corresponding giving increase, as this will free up our ministerial staff for dedicated ministry. A final thought to leave you with. Last semester our worship team led us in the song, "The Blessing," by Elevation Worship. It is based on the high priestly prayer of Aaron in Numbers 6. The ESV reads, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." While this is the high priestly blessing of Aaron, the words were given to him through Moses who got them directly from God. I am not sure where you are spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially, or physically, but if your life is anything like mine, I could certainly benefit by remembering that God, Himself, blesses us through His people and through His covenant with us. Looking forward to the glorious work that God has called us to do on the campus of WIU. I know that we will face many difficult circumstances, yet I stand firm in the knowledge that God, Himself, will turn toward His church and give us peace if we will trust in Him.

PICTURES FROM CASAS TRIP



FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year is July 1-June 30

	From July 1-Feb 28	Budgeted
Church gifts:	\$44,296.58	\$58,000
Individual:	\$67,931.77	\$76,000
Rent Income:	\$43,505.26	\$33,000

STAY CONNECTED

Office Phone - 309-837-4787

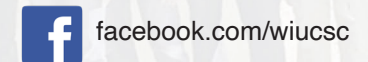
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Jesse Patton - Associate Minister - jesse@wiucsc.org



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Temesgen and Paolo sorting eyeglasses at FAME



Women's Bowling Night