

The International Community of Bible Quizzing
By Grace Tower

I was so blessed to be part of the Western Great Lakes District team at Bible Quizzing Internationals 2022 this year. I saw God answer prayers and work in powerful ways, and I feel so privileged that I got to be part of it. God is good!

Internationals was at Crown College in Minnesota this year. On the way there, my teammate and I were quizzing each other on the verses we'd memorized, and I remember that at one point I just stopped and realized that the only other sound I could hear was my teammates reciting Scripture to themselves and to each other, and it was really powerful to realize how much time we'd spent studying God's Word and committing it to memory. It was a moment when I realized that we were all going to do our best in the tournament, but we'd already gained the real prize, and that was knowing God's Word for ourselves.

We got to Crown, checked in, and headed to our dorms to get settled. It's kind of crazy the way it worked out. I'm an introvert and not really the kind of person to smile and wave at someone I don't even know, but it was amazing to see myself opening up, smiling, waving, and being outgoing to teens I'd never met in my life.

Internationals gave me the opportunity to be myself. When people ask me what I'm interested in or what I do for fun, I start and can't seem to stop talking about quizzing, because I love it so much and am so passionate about it. It's part of who I am because it's such a huge part of my faith journey. To get to spend a week with teens who feel the exact same way and love it just as much as I do gives me a sense of belonging I rarely feel anywhere else.

My favorite part of Internationals is the community. Every year I meet new people, and every year I have a great time with them. There's something about the teens at Internationals that makes it easier to connect with them than other teens I meet, and I know exactly what it is. It's the Word of God, because that is the reason we gather together. We come for the competition, yes, but most of us mainly come for the community. Bible Quizzing seems kind of weird from an outside point of view, but once you're on the inside, you find that it can actually draw you closer to God and other believers than you ever imagined.

As competitive as I am, I truly value the fun aspect of quizzing above the competitive aspect. It was so cool to see our team change the atmosphere of whatever room we walked into just by being encouraging and friendly to everyone. We started pushing tables together at meals so a bunch of quizzers could sit together, and it was so cool to see the number of Bible Quizzers around the tables get bigger every meal.

I can't say enough how amazing it is to be around teens who love, study, memorize, and apply God's Word. I was able to freely talk with teens I met only days ago or hadn't talked to in a year, and I think it's a little taste of what heaven will be like. People from all over the U.S and Canada gathered together because of God's Word. Every morning after breakfast we would head to the chapel for worship and a devotional. It was so powerful to see teens and adults from all over worshipping together. We may not be from the same place or on the same team, but we all worship and serve the same God.

I got to spend a week studying, memorizing, reciting, and applying God's Word. I got to spend a week worshipping with and spending time with teens who make it a priority to know the

Bible for themselves. That is something really special, and the impact it had on my spiritual life was amazing. It was the highlight of my summer.

I'm still in contact with many of the quizzers I met. Just recently, I helped organize a quiz meet over Zoom so we could all quiz together just for fun and see each other's faces again. To have such a strong connection with people from all over America and Canada, despite having only spent a week with them, is something I know is only possible because of Christ and the impact His Word has had on our lives.

We study it, memorize it, and connect with each other through it. It is near us, it is in our mouth and in our heart, that is the message concerning faith that we proclaim (Romans 10:8). It will be there to help us through any storm or challenge in our lives. It will equip us to share the gospel with others, and live lives worthy of the calling we have received. That is the eternal impact of Bible Quizzing.