

NBA Rising Star Jeremy Lin Not Too Busy to Pray

After Jeremy Lin set an NBA record for the New York Knicks with an incredible stretch of 109 points scored in his first four starts, and the *New York Times* included a link to StudentSoul in one of its Lin stories, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's page views went through the roof. "Linsanity" it has been dubbed.

Because he was a varsity athlete, Lin's involvement in the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Christian Fellowship (HRAACF) and the broader Asian community at Harvard was somewhat limited, according to Adrian Tam, who was an HRAACF Campus staffer during that period.

"Jeremy was in the spotlight at Harvard before he was in the spotlight in the NBA," Tam says. "He showed that Asian-Americans could be leaders, they could be athletic, and they could be bold and open about their faith in a winsome way."

In a video testimony, Lin said he missed Christian community at Harvard until he connected with HRAACF. Tam became a spiritual mentor to Lin, meeting with him regularly, studying the Bible together and reading together such books as *Too Busy Not to Pray*. "He loved his roommates, spending lots of intense one-on-one time with them, leading investigative Bible studies with them, and just plain hanging out with them," Tam says.

What Tam remembers most about Lin, from the time they first met, was his humility. "Even though he was more accomplished, smarter and just plain bigger than I was, he always treated me with respect and honor," Tam says. "He was real with me, earnestly desiring to **follow God** in all things. He had a quiet ambition—not only to be the best basketball player he could be, but also to be the best **Christ-follower** he could be."

“Jeremy Lin is the kind of alum that makes InterVarsity Asian American Ministries proud,” says James Choung, director of InterVarsity’s Asian American Ministries (AAM). “I’m not talking about his prowess on the court, though it’s fun to see. What I love is that when he’s given the spotlight, he gives glory to God and others in a way where his humility shines through. And because of who he is, he’s giving national attention to Asian-American Christianity as a whole.”

HRAACF is one of eight InterVarsity chapters at Harvard and currently has about 50 students regularly involved in its activities. Its history goes back 18 years to a time when InterVarsity student leaders noticed a growing number of Asian-American students who weren’t engaged by any campus ministry.

One of those leaders, Tom Lin, graduated in 1994 and joined InterVarsity staff, commissioned to plant HRAACF. Today Tom Lin (no relation to Jeremy) is InterVarsity’s vice president for missions and the director of Urbana.

“Generations of staff and student leaders have influenced HRAACF students, and I think we all count it a great privilege and joy when we see world-changers like Jeremy,” Tom Lin says. “I personally am inspired, and so **thankful to God** for the role that this InterVarsity chapter has played in Jeremy Lin’s life.”

InterVarsity AAM chapters are operating on over two dozen other U.S. college campuses. However, more than two-thirds of the Asian-American students involved with InterVarsity are a part of multiethnic chapters.

“AAM seeks to introduce Jesus to students who would never enter a majority culture fellowship,” says James Choung. “And with the growing numbers of Asian-Americans on campus, we’re needed more than ever before. As they take on more influence in our culture, like Jeremy Lin, we hope that our ministries

will prepare Asian Americans to exert that influence with the love and **values of Jesus.**"

In a video below, Lin recommends two Christian music artists to the television network Fuse, saying he listens to them "to remind myself why I'm playing the game and to remind myself I'm playing to glorify God."