

Youth Sunday Talk – Christopher Lam

I stand here today as a young man who is ready to step forward in life. Some may call it the step into adulthood, the step taken from high school to college, the step that everyone takes at some point in their life. My name is Christopher Lam and I am a graduating senior at Landstown High School. And yes, I am the younger brother of Sean Lam, which I'm famously known for. I am currently one of the few senior athletes on the track team. I have been part of that team for four years.

I have been attending Emmanuel for about seven years now because my family searched for five years to find a church where they felt accepted as part of an extended family. I do enjoy the music and services at Emmanuel. I was recently confirmed. During my confirmation classes I had some interaction with the youth at Emmanuel. I have served as an usher. But I haven't taken advantage of many opportunities while I have been here. At a younger age I was a pretty shy kid who may have been caught sleeping during the church service. I was the kid who talked under his breath a lot when meeting new people, and I never really took the opportunity to meet the other youth who attend Emmanuel. I wish that I could have taken those same opportunities as the other youth, but as life goes there is no turning back the hands of time. You live and you learn. However I can already see that my younger brother Justin will be more involved in the church than I have been.

Over time, through my middle school days at Princess Anne and on through high school, I was able to open up more and become more of a likeable person. Some of you may remember [in his Youth Sunday talk] my brother talked about Coach Tom Anderson who inspired him a lot with his time in high school. He has done the same for me, too. We still pray after practice daily. He said to me as a young freshman who was learning his way on the team, "A person is not remembered by what accomplishments they make on the track but a person is remembered by who they are to others." That was the most important thing I learned from him because, yes, it's great to be a champion at whatever you do, but that comes and goes. People remember and forget but people never forget the way you are as a person. I wanted to make a name for myself and not be nicknamed "Little Lam" as Sean's younger brother. I feel that my parents are overprotective of me because of the mistakes that my brother Sean has made.

I am looking forward to attending Hunter College in Manhattan (NYC) where I hope to pursue my dream of becoming a high school math teacher. I plan to follow in the footsteps of my mother who seems to get so much satisfaction in molding young minds, helping them to understand that math is simply math. I haven't received a formal acceptance letter yet, but I have faith that it will be coming soon. People ask me *why a teacher who make so little? Why math? Why go so far away?* I say, "I like math AND I like to teach others what I have learned AND I like the busy lifestyle of New York." In addition, I think that being a good Christian means giving to ones who may be less

fortunate. So it's not because I'm a Yankee fan, but because I see better opportunities for me there. Because of the diversity of New York I will be able to work with people from different parts of the world and receive motivation from those who are less fortunate than I am. Due to my maturity, others may see me as a teacher already. I have always liked to help others even as a shy quiet kid and now as a young outspoken adult. I believe that my Christian upbringing has guided me to help others, especially those who may have been down at times in their life. I found out for myself that you are indeed remembered for who and what you are to other people in your lifetime. By serving others, you can often see God reflected in their eyes. I feel that it is important to pay back what I have received. It is not necessary to be a "perfect" person, but to be yourself and become the person you want to be remembered as.