

# Campus Voice

FALL, 2019

## WHY WILL THEY NOT COME?

*Where are all the single 18-29 year olds?*

You have probably heard it and heard it. If not you have more than likely noticed it first hand. In many likeminded churches today the single 18-29 year olds are M.I.A. or missing in action.

**It is a major, major problem!** Many of us have heard the stats over and over again that roughly 60-70% of 18-22 year olds who faithfully attend church stop attending during this age. One in three would be considered a "None", or having no religious affiliation or desires whatsoever.

Why will they not come? Why is it so hard to get 18-29 year old singles involved in the church? These are vital questions we must ask ourselves and each other.

Book upon book, survey upon survey, and article upon article has been written addressing and offering resolutions to the issue yet it persistently continues. I in no way dismiss the works written on this topic as they offer extremely valuable information. What I do want to offer is a simple yet effective plan that provides a foundation to build upon that can truly bring a change. God has allowed us to work first hand with singles and also travel the country visiting a variety of likeminded churches which has given us insight into both sides of the issue first hand. Lets examine the problem currently facing us.

**The Problem.** An age group and vital demographic of the church is completely missing or bare in most likeminded churches.

**The Result of the problem.** It brings loss of vital life in the church, a loss of energizing servants, a growth stunt in the life cycle of the church, and a downhill struggle to replace an older generation that is serving in the church.

**The Cause of the problem.** There is no specific ministry for this age group in the church, no leader to head up the specific ministry, and not going to where this age group is at.

**How can we repair this major problem?**

**1. Provide a specific ministry for this age group.**

There must be some type of connection point for these young people to gather at. Provide a Sunday school class, a mid-week Bible study, or some type of weekly gathering. I have talked with singles about this issue and heard them say over and over, "There is just nothing for me there."

With the average age to marry being 27 for females and 29 for males, a unique age stage and demographic has emerged over the years. It is the 18-29 year old single adult. This unique age stage or demographic must have a specific ministry for them. No ministry equals zero to very few singles retained in the church. Something specific for them equals a growing singles ministry with young people actively involved in the church.

One singles leader put it this way, **"We are not losing them because we do not have rock bands,**

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***we are losing them because we have nothing.”***

***2. Have someone to lead the specific ministry for this age group.*** If I was planning to mail out info about a singles conference or retreat there is almost always no one at the church to put it to the attention of. In order to organize and put effort into a singles ministry, there must be someone leading that effort. It does not have to be a full-time staff position. Lay workers or bi-vocational workers are ***excellent leaders*** for such a ministry.

***3. Go where this age group is at.*** This is the essence of the Great Commission. We cannot keep sitting around waiting for an age group that is not present to come through the doors on their own. ***It is not working!*** If they are not coming through the doors then we must go to where they are at to bring them to the specific ministry and connect them with the leader.

Where are these single adults at? With 88% of high school graduates attending some form of higher education by the age of twenty-six, the overwhelming majority of 18-29 year olds are found on a college campus.. If you have a college campus within thirty minutes of your church, you have a place to go. If you do not have a college campus, these young people are still out in the community. You will have to be organized and purposeful to get these young people to the ministry specific for them.

***If each church in America would implement these three foundational repairs, momentum would build rapidly and the problem of singles missing in action would diminish tremendously!***

If you are reading this and you are actively reaching this age group keep on. What you are doing is so needed and vital to reversing and repairing this major issue! If your church does not currently have something specific for this age group, we would love the opportunity to help you establish an effective singles ministry to strengthen and build your church.

## THE DIFFERENCE IN THE MINISTRY TO A SECULAR UNIVERSITY

Singles ministry in the church and on a secular university share similar aspects but also differ in some vital areas. While sharing the same goal of reaching and discipling young people, the methods in which the goals are carried out will differ. The church has a physical location with signage for advertisement. The church will naturally bring young people into the singles ministry through the graduates of the youth group, families that attend and visit, and results of combined visitation efforts of the entire church. While the singles ministry leader should be out reaching young people in the community, he will have these added benefits to sustain a ministry and for growth.

these added benefits to bring students in. If students are going to come to the main meeting or get connected with the sponsoring church, they will have to be sought out, informed of the meeting in various ways, and gathered through various outreach methods allowed on campus. To have an effective ministry on a secular campus, there will need to be a commitment of time and an investment of funds and resources to reach this city within a city. It will need for the pastor and church to be 100% behind and in support of such a ministry. It will need a leader with vision and a burden to get out on campus to meet and reach students.

***Merely meeting once a week for Bible study and doing no other outreach will not support nor grow a ministry on the secular campus.*** A great misconception

of having such a ministry is that by just having the weekly meeting it will grow on its own. While the weekly meeting does bring growth that growth only comes from the effort and time invested into reaching students through outreach. It honestly will operate much like a church plant on the campus needing effort to get the word out and get students involved.

This by no means prohibits a church with only a couple of people involved in campus ministry to be effective. ***One person with a burden for students and the campus willing to get out and reach students will far exceed in effectiveness a group of ten workers who only offer the weekly Bible study with no other outreach on campus being done.***

The ministry on the secular university will not have



# WHAT DO SINGLES REALLY WANT?

Out of all that we can offer singles in ministry, what is it that they really want? Is it more entertainment? Is it more services with larger crowds? Is it more meetings with electrifying once in a lifetime events? Is it not offering anything at all outside of the normal meetings because their lives are so hectic and busy? What is it that singles really want?

One word stands out in today's world of singles ministry and that word is **Community**. I have discovered this from personal experience in this ministry and through many conversations with various other leaders.

Community is a place to belong, a place to spend quality time together with others, and a place to let your guard down. It is a place to be encouraged and strengthened, a place to meet other like-minded young people, and a place to engage in meaningful conversations. Community is a place to ask the hard questions in life and not be judged. It is a place that a young person can question their faith and get biblical answers and guidance. It is a place that real discipleship happens. It is a place that relationships and life-long friends are discovered and made. Community is what singles really want.

It is hard to imagine that young people so connected via social

media, texting, and living on campus around thousands of other young people would thirst for community so strongly. But this is where we are at. Social media, texting, and merely living among a crowd can never replace that God-given desire for real, up close and personal time with others!

So how can community be formed in a ministry? Community is built on quality time spent with others so provide purposeful and routine times that offer **a great deal of hang-out time**. This can be done in a variety of activities and settings. Do not focus so much on the pursuit to entertain and keep young people busy as you do on some very low-key times for real connecting.

Beginning each year in our ministry we would discuss various ideas for events with students. We would then take a survey at the end of the year to discover what students liked best. Hands down, year after year, it was always the low key events where students were just able to hang-out spending quality time together that won.

And as crazy as it may sound the favorite was anything we did where students could come over to our house. This beat out all the fun and entertaining events. We offered a monthly get together and Bible study at our home while also opening our home at least once a week for students to gather. From this created a strong-knit community among students and allowed for fruitful conversation about life and spiritual matters.



## INTRODUCING CAMPUS CONNECT MINISTRIES

I would like to introduce you to a new name within our ministry. Campus Connect Ministries is now the 501c3 non-profit local church umbrella that Collegians for Christ operates under. Through the experience of establishing ministries on various campuses and working to meet the needs of students, workers, and churches, we discovered the need to have a distinct difference in the church side of the ministry and the student/campus side. We have accomplished this through establishing Campus Connect ministries with two separate websites now hosting information and resources specific for each aspect. Visit [campusconnectministries.com](http://campusconnectministries.com) and [cfccampusministry.com](http://cfccampusministry.com)

campus  connect  
MINISTRIES

# NEW CFC MINISTRY FOR THIS FALL

We are excited to announce that God has allowed us to establish a brand new ministry for this fall semester at North Carolina State University. For more info visit

[www.cfcraleigh.com](http://www.cfcraleigh.com). The door is wide open on the college campuses and you can establish a ministry on your campus.



## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

We recently launched two brand new websites. One for Collegians for Christ and one for Campus Connect Ministries. Each site has been updated to create a more

user-friendly experience, host new resources and information, and allow for future growth. You can visit each at [cfccampusministry.com](http://cfccampusministry.com) or [campusconnectministries.com](http://campusconnectministries.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 7-9, 2019

Mark your calendar and make plans to join is at the Loving and Leading conference November 7-9, 2019 in Milford, O.H. We will be offering equipping sessions on everything college and singles ministry related. You can get more info and register at [lovingandleading.org](http://lovingandleading.org).

### January 10-11, 2020

Venture of Faith camp in Georgia is hosting their annual winter Singles Retreat January 10-11, 2020. This is always a tremendous time gathering singles around each other and God's Word through powerful preaching, break-out sessions, and also fun activities. You can get more info and register at [ventureoffaith.net](http://ventureoffaith.net)

*Campus Voice*  
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