

# Campus Voice

SPRING, 2019

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

I was having breakfast with a young Chinese man. I was fascinated and convicted by the testimony that he shared with me. He grew up in a “non-religious” home in China. He never claimed to be atheist because his mother would burn incense every morning because she knew in her heart there was a “higher being.” She did not name this higher being or know much about it; she just knew in her heart there had to be something greater than her.

Years later, the young man began high school, and on through college he fell in a state of depression and began to go on a search for “self happiness.” He found information about Buddhism and became a practicing Buddhist. All through Chinese university he continued his search of happiness by practicing Buddhism.

After college, he pursued his Master’s Degree in Germany. While being in Germany he was invited to church for the first time in his life. There was not much follow up with the church invitation but he found it interesting because church is a very western culture idea. After his Master’s Degree he went to Ohio State

University to work on his PhD. Upon arrival at the airport, an American family picked him up at the airport and soon they invited him to a church. The brothers and sisters gave him a warm welcome, and invited him to the sermons every week. The young man said it was the very first time he heard the gospel. The people at the church invited the students for a weekly Bible study.

My friend said he was not too interested in the religion part of it but it was a free English lesson, a culture lesson, and a way to make local friends. He said that it would have been silly for him not to go.

The Lord began to work in his life. Months later he accepted Christ as his Savior, and followed the Lord in believers baptism. After his salvation he began to call his mom and read scripture with her each

day. He encouraged her that she COULD have a relationship with this “higher being” and there is a name - His name is Jesus Christ the Son of the living God! Recently, his mother has also accepted Christ as her Savior and is now riding



*Continued on page 2*

a bus one hour each week to serve and worship her true Lord.

So my question to you : What will you do? Will you drive a van to pick up nervous international students? Will you help prepare their first American meal? Will you be their local friend and take them to Walmart for the first time? Will you share a pew with them in church? Will you show them how to follow along in a hymn book? Will you open your home for them to study and use your wife? Will you allow them to join your family for family devotions? Will you end their search of "self happiness" and introduce them to the Savior of the world? My friend, my question to you is, "What will you do?"

In closing I was challenged the other day by this thought.

The who, what, where, when, and why of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20):

If not you, then **WHO?**

If not the gospel, then **WHAT?**

If not here, then **WHERE?**

If not now, then **WHEN?**

If not, then **WHY?**



**Written by Lauren Hickman**

*Lauren has a compassionate heart for Jesus Christ and people. She returned to America after serving in China and quickly began seeking opportunities for ministry at a local college. God honored her efforts and ministry opportunities began to arise.*

*What I love most about her story is there is not a recognized ministry from the church on that campus. This is the result of one person in a local church burdened to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ who sought out international students. There are many ways people can become actively involved in reaching international students. The next article highlights some ideas to reach and engage these students. ■*

## CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION AND QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD.

### *How God is using the CFC ministry at the University of Michigan*



Leading CFC bible studies on campus at the University of Michigan has been a tremendous blessing for me and my wife. We've even been able to bring along our 5 month baby girl, Briana, to many of the bible studies as well! From seeing prayers answered and watching the Lord provide divine appointments, to observing

students grow in their relationships with one another and know Christ better, it's wonderful to see God at work in Ann Arbor. During this fall and winter alone, we've been able to see over ten new students come to CFC and we are consistently seeing anywhere from eight to ten-plus students attending each week. Compared to last year, we've nearly doubled in size and it's evident that the Lord is working!

One specific prayer request that we've been petitioning for is a freshman student who would be a good leader for CFC in the years to come. Three weeks ago, we met a freshman student who had been looking

for a good bible study to get plugged into, and ever since he has been coming to our bible studies each week! Pray for wisdom and clarity as we continue to get to know him better and discern if he indeed is the Lord's answer to our prayer.

I also wanted to share an excerpt of an encouraging note below from one of our graduate students, who graduated in December, describing the impact that CFC had on her over the past year and a half.

*"Three years ago, around this same time I was going through some very very rough*



# YOUR CHURCH CAN REACH AND IMPACT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON YOUR LOCAL CAMPUS. HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO DO IT:

The amazing aspect of reaching international students is the church does not have to have an active ministry on campus to do so. Here are a few ideas of how a church can reach out and impact international students:

**1. Host families.** Most schools desire families in the community to be a host family for an international student. This is a great avenue that is open even if your church does not have a recognized ministry on campus. The school will pair up an international student with a family. This does not mean the student lives with the family but rather this family will have the student over at their house, attend church, provide transportation to stores or possibly an airport. It provides a resource for the international students to help navigate the new place. This allows a believer to build a relationship with the student and will allow the church to reach and



disciple him or her. Contact the Office of International Education for more information on how to get your church family involved.

**2. Helping with English.** Many international students do not speak English fluently. You can offer a class to help them understand and speak the language clearly. This can be a tremendous link to your church and other areas of ministry.

**3. Host a dinner or provide transportation.** There may be an opportunity outside of the host family for your church or campus ministry to host a dinner for these students. This is a way for these students to experience American culture. You could do cultural lessons, explain common English phrases, and more at one of these dinners. There may be a need at your school for transportation to and from the airport. Contact the Office of International

*Continued on page 4*

*times. if someone told me then that I would soon be graduating from a school half way around the world, I might have classified that as cruel mockery. But God was secretly at work in the shadows and He opened unimaginable doors for me and brought me here. Ever since I started school here, there have been days when I thought I would not survive here, as you know, grad school is tough. But God has been faithful again, leading and guiding and guarding every step of the way...*

*CFC has been a tremendous blessing to me during these three semesters and I thank God for having given me the privilege of fellowshiping with all of you wonderful people. When I started school here, I was plagued by so many questions*

*and confusions about God, and about life in general. Reminiscing, I am amazed at the many questions God has cleared through our study of the Bible here. As you all know, we have dealt with some very pragmatic and tough questions here, and I am grateful that God has worked in my heart through all of these Bible studies. I am also thankful for the many praying people here, I couldn't have pulled through the past 16 months without you. And now, though I have many questions about the future, I can confidently say:*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures."*

We are grateful to see how the Lord has used CFC to impact students on campus at the University of Michigan and are thrilled to see what Christ will do through this ministry in the future! When you think of us, please lift us up in prayer that we may continue to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and see His will done on our campus in Ann Arbor.

*Written By Brandon Zerrip - University of Michigan CFC Campus Minister* ■

# WHATEVER YOU DO... DO NOT MISS THE FALL KICK-OFF EVENT!

The Welcome Week activity for student organizations at the beginning of the fall semester is an absolute vital activity to participate in. It presents a tremendous opportunity to meet new and returning students. This is the key event to building your core group of students which in turn allows you to reach out on campus with the Gospel. This is the most important event of the year to participate in.

I mention this because we have witnessed some groups miss this event and it proved detrimental to the



growth and overall success of the ministry. Make sure the campus minister is corresponding with the student officers to ensure the group is signed up and a spot has been reserved. Do not assume the student officers have taken care of this. Make this preparation over the summer before the fall semester begins. Do not wait until the last minute as some schools reserve the tables on a first come first serve basis. Whatever you do, do not miss this event! ■

## *Continued from page 3*

Education or there is usually an international club on campus that you can work through. Sometimes there are separate clubs for specific ethnic groups. Do not be afraid to reach out to these groups for any open doors.

**4. Provide a weekly Bible study for international students.** This is a great way to gather international students around God's Word. Some international students are believers. There is a need to find and connect these students to a group of believers and a church to attend. You may attract more international students if there is a meeting specifically for them.

**5. Find and talk with international students.** These students are easy to find and recognize on campus. Find them and be willing to talk. There are many questions you can ask to start a conversation like where they are from, about their culture, family, etc. Just

work on building relationships and see what God will do. Showing a genuine interest in other people goes a long way. Invite them to lunch, dinner, church, or Bible study.

Beginning an outreach to international students is a great way that a church could move forward to establish a recognized ministry on campus. If your church has a recognized ministry this is a tremendous avenue to get other people involved from your church and have a world-wide impact on your campus. Please contact us if you have any questions on reaching international students on your campus. ■

# Campus Voice

is a publication of Collegians for Christ



Kyle Austin, Director



(828) 832-6505



austin@CFCCampusMinistry.com



CFCCampusMinistry.com  
campusconnectministries.com