

Campus Voice

FALL, 2016

IS ASKING WHY A GOOD THING?

Is it ok for young adults to ask why? Is it actually ok for them to question their faith? Young adults asking why is not necessarily a sign that he or she is walking away from their faith. It is typically a good sign of a desire to understand more clearly and grow in their faith. We do not need to sound the alarm that we have another statistic of one leaving the faith.

The 18-24 year old age stage finds many of these young people questioning many areas of life. During this life stage, students formulate their views and beliefs they will hold well into adulthood. This is the stage when they take all they have been taught and begin to internalize it. They will process all that parents and teachers have taught versus the new ideas being thrown at them. They will figure out what they want to make their own.

The world is attacking the minds and hearts of young people in a very methodical way. They are bringing logical arguments against student's beliefs and providing evidences of why. The college campus is a place that will shake the thinking, world-view, and beliefs about many areas of life for many young adults. This same college campus will present many strong reasons why to think or believe a certain way.

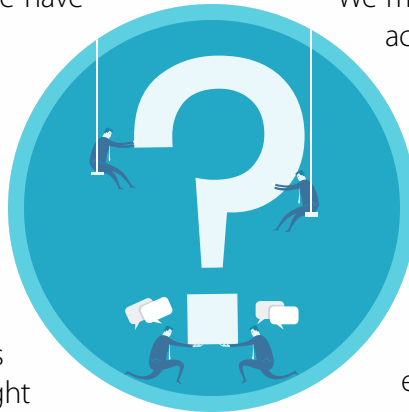
We can stand on the front lines watching as everything goes down. Staring in astonishment as the the world ambushes our defenseless young people's minds and hearts right in front of us. Or we can equip them to defend themselves against these attacks. What will we do?

Do not be scared of students asking why. Asking why is really a wonderful thing. This means they are thinking

and not just wanting to live on borrowed faith. Look at it as an opportunity to help him or her grow. We cannot respond with, "just believe it because that's what I say and it's right" or, "believe it because that is what the Bible says or that is what I was taught so that is just what it is."

We must consider if our response and answer is actually equipping this young person. What do I mean? A person is challenged in their thinking and their reason given for thinking that way is because so and so said it. When the person cannot defend their thinking or belief in their own mind how will they defend it against strong opponents? The world is definitely going to great lengths in equipping with evidences and arguments for their side so we should do the same if not more!

I think we become fearful of questions. One, because we do not feel equipped to answer some of those questions ourselves. We have not taken the time and effort to study out many areas of our own faith and are not equipped to defend our own beliefs. Two, we live on borrowed faith. We just take it because the preacher or another says it. Us explaining where, why, or how is a whole other story. Do not be intimidated by the questions of students or faculty. Use it as a tool to better equip yourself and grow in your faith. I have been confronted time and time again with young people questioning areas of their faith with extremely searching questions that honestly I at first could not answer well. This challenged me. I had two choices. Either brush off the questions or find the answers.



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Venture of Faith Camp in Lake Park, GA is hosting the

M.A.D. SINGLES CONFERENCE

(Making a Difference)

JANUARY 13-14, 2016

Join us for a tremendous opportunity for your young adults to be challenged by God's Word and encouraged by connecting with other people their age.

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LISTENING POST

An Effective Way to Speak with Students

I walked across campus one day and stumbled upon a table called the "Listening Post" in the Student Union. It really did not grab too much of my attention at first except for the fact that I was just curious as to what it was. In the following weeks, I noticed this table again and again. The table was set up with some fruit and mints in a basket. A sign in the middle of the table simply said "Listening Post". Two people, probably in their late 50's, just sat behind the table. My first thought was one of, "Well that is crazy. Who on earth would go up to a table and just start talking to strangers. I surely would not." I found out real quick that just because I would not does not mean others will not. I was wrong!

As the weeks followed, I noticed this table over and over again. I became interested in what was going on and really paid attention to the table. Students were at this table frequently talking with the two people sitting behind the table. I soon discovered that a different campus ministry was sponsoring this event. This has been going on for a couple years

now. Time and time again this couple sits behind the table talking with students.

I share this with you because I see it as a tremendous opportunity! An opportunity to listen and speak with students. An opportunity to encourage and pray with and for students.

An opportunity to share Jesus! It is a great opportunity to get other church members directly involved with your campus ministry. There always seems to be good response from the people in the church wanting to help and get involved with campus ministry.

This is an open door to effectively use these people to make a direct impact with students.

After years of working with and speaking to young adults, I have discovered there is a whole lot going on in their minds and hearts. Many times they just want someone to listen and share things with. They also want to hear another's input. If this idea of outreach was not already used at Appalachian State, I would definitely use it as an effective outreach opportunity for our ministry. Give it a try and see what God will do.



HELP ME PASS OUT TRACTS PLEASE!

Imagine that you want to pass out 10,000 tracts on your campus in one day. In order to do this you will need to recruit a lot of help and work hard. What if I said to you there are people on your campus willing to distribute these tracts for you? Would you take them up on it? Of course you would!

Another great tool for registered student groups is the use of the school postal system to distribute gospel tracts to students and faculty. Each school varies slightly in its procedure and requirements for getting this done. Some schools allow this once per semester while others allow

multiple opportunities. Some schools offer this to registered groups free of charge while others may charge a small fee.

As a registered group you have the ability to request student information. This can be extremely beneficial



A MISSION FIELD IN OUR BACKYARDS

Ty Rothing is the campus minister for Collegians for Christ at Montana State University. I first met Ty last year on a trip to beautiful Bozeman, MT to train and assist in this new start-up. I quickly felt right at home with him and was encouraged by his love for the Lord and strong burden to reach the lost especially on the college campus! Ty dove right into this ministry starting from scratch and since then God has grown it into a strong ministry. He has done a tremendous job of outreach making a significant impact on his mission field. Listen as he shares his heart in starting this ministry.

The secular college campus is often referred to as a “mission field”. This fact is often presented to the church when considering the start of a college ministry. I too presented this fact to Calvary Baptist Church here in Bozeman, MT as we were gearing up for the start of Collegians for Christ at Montana State University. At the time I believed this statement to be true, but did not realize how God was going to show me just how true it is.

We started our college ministry in the spring of 2015 and began

immediately with a Bible study at the church. Since I was only two years removed from high school, I had a few friends that began to attend our Bible study that were also students at MSU. In the fall of 2015 the Lord brought us a student from Dillion, MT that was more than willing to be our president. At the same time, a professor in our church was eager to be our advisor. So by God’s grace we became an official student organization by the second half of our fall 2015 semester and began meeting on campus for Bible study.

We are now into our fourth semester and have had the opportunity to minister to a variety of students. The Lord has blessed us with teenagers from Calvary that have graduated and are now a part of the College ministry. Beyond that, we have had students from other parts of Montana, Tennessee, California, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom come to Bozeman, MT with a desire to attend a solid, Bible believing church and get involved in our Bible study. Each one of these students came from a different background, a different culture, and

each one came with a different belief about God and His Word.

This has not come without its own challenges, however it has been a major privilege to teach and minister to these students, who for the most part, have never been away from home for any extended period of time. I am eager to teach these students and see the Lord grow them in their relationship with Him, and most importantly, see each of these students take what they have learned back to their home city, state, or country to teach and invest in others!

I now have a better understanding of how the Lord can use the secular college campus to reach so many different parts of the world! I encourage anyone that has been considering starting a campus ministry to truly consider how many people you can reach for the cause of Christ. The secular campus truly is a mission field!



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if you would like to target certain groups on campus with literature. You can access names and mailbox numbers to student groups such as incoming freshmen, transfer students, international students, students with certain religious affiliation, students with no

religious affiliation, and more. This is just another tremendous avenue available to get the Gospel across your campus.

CFC at Appalachian State places their gospel tract with an invitation to Bible study and church services in student boxes. This is approved through the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement. Each

year thousands of students who we may never come in contact with receive a gospel tract. I was recently reminded about the life of a gospel tract after finding one from two years prior that a student had kept and placed somewhere. Only God knows what He can do with these tracts as you saturate your campus with His Word.

MAKING USE OF THE FREE SPEECH AREA

An Avenue to Get on Campus Before You are Registered

For groups trying to get up and running from scratch it can be difficult to get on campus to get in front of the student body. Some schools will allow outside groups to participate in their welcome week events while others will not. Even for those groups who can participate in welcome week events, the struggle remains to get back on campus before students to connect them to an off campus meeting until you can meet your requirements.

In order to get students to attend a Bible study a person must go to the students and talk with them. This can be done by casually walking through campus talking with students and passing out tracts. It can be done by going to apartments and inviting students. These are effective ways but we have discovered what may be a **more effective way** to get on campus consistently and get students to attend your meetings.

Most schools have a free speech area on campus that is open to outside groups to use. Each school has a different procedure to go about in order to use this area. Some are as simple as finding out where it is located and

then going to use it as often as you like. For others you may have to contact the school and make a reservation. Whatever the process, these free speech zones are extremely effective to get on campus before students.

What are you going to do at this free speech zone? The initial goal is to get students interested in coming to your off campus meeting so that you can meet your requirements and get established officially on campus. Using outreach tables seem to be the most effective means. Set up a table with a banner so you look official and the student body can start becoming familiar with your ministry. In doing this, you will have many opportunities to speak with students and pass out tracts. You can simply set up, pass out tracts, and talk with students or you can have something to give away to attract students to you. Free coffee, hot-chocolate, lemonade, home-made cookies, etc. are always a good hit with college students. This brings the students to you. The ideas are really unlimited. Use this area frequently and God will connect you with students to form your core group and fulfill the school's requirements. ■



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What does this mean for us as campus ministry workers? If we are not there to help facilitate these questions and thinking guess what! Someone else or some book will be. The question is, who is that someone and what do they believe?

We must equip these young people. I have had to study and equip myself more since working with young adults than ever before. When

I am challenged I go home and study. Do not be afraid to tell a student you do not know the answer. This shows that you are real and teachable. Search for the answer working with the one asking the questions. Do not merely point out resources, but rather take the time and effort to provide the resources that will be solid. Go through the resources with these students. Invest the time! It could be what keeps another young

person from falling and becoming another statistic. You do not have to become an apologetics superhero. Just take 1 Peter 3:15 seriously *"be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."* **The goal is for each student to know what they believe, why they believe it, and where to find it in the Bible.** Students asking why brings this about. ■

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