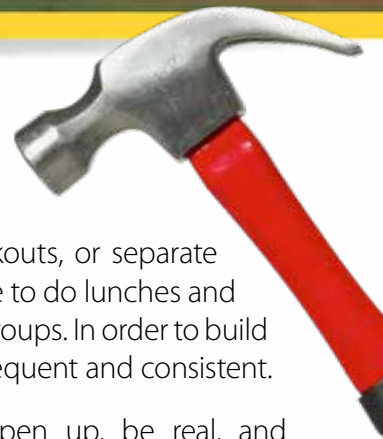


Campus Voice

WINTER, 2017

BUILDING A COLLEGE & CAREER MINISTRY



Develop a Mission/Purpose for the College & Career Ministry. This provides a destination to aim at and a map to guide along the way. Run everything you do through the lens of your purpose. Reference it often and share it with the singles. This will give vision to the ministry. This ministry should not exist to merely maintain, but to reach, teach, disciple, and develop the church's next leaders. Below is our mission statement.

Our mission statement is: To reach students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teach them from God's Word, provide discipleship, and connect these students to other believers and a local church to serve in. We want students to know what they believe, why they believe it, and where to find it in the Bible.

Have a Gathering Place for Singles. Gather singles around God's Word, prayer, fellowship, & food. Do this on a weekly basis. Three places to gather are:

- a. Church- Have a Sunday school class or another Bible study time.
- b. Home- Have a consistent scheduled time at someone's home. Here you can do separate weekly or monthly evening Bible studies, meals, and hangouts.
- c. Campus- If you have a college campus establish a weekly Bible study on campus.

Develop an Atmosphere of Community. Singles thrive on community, fellowship, and a place to belong. Some ideas to build community are offering Sunday/Wednesday night fellowships, fun activities, and ministry outreaches for the singles to serve in. Have students over to your home weekly or monthly. Here you can

have a Bible study, games, cookouts, or separate guys/girls Bible studies. Take time to do lunches and dinners either individually or as groups. In order to build a strong community do these frequent and consistent.

Do life with your singles. Open up, be real, and transparent. You want them to feel comfortable to ask you questions and share what is going on in their lives. Building community is all about discipleship and building relationships which takes time.

Go Where Singles Are. With the fact that 60-70% of teenagers that regularly attend church stop attending during 18-22, do not plan on building your ministry on graduates from youth ministry. You have to go to where these young people are to engage and reach them. Do you have a college campus within twenty to thirty minutes from your church? If so establish an outreach there. Put your single-adult glasses on and you will see singles all around you in town, working jobs, at Walmart, the mall, apartments, etc.

Get the Church Involved. Develop a ministry team as you grow and in order to grow. Get couples, ladies, kids, and older adults in your church involved. Be sure to train the church on the need and how to reach singles. Singles can be misunderstood, especially by the older generation. Have church members adopt a single/student. Encourage them to pray for, take out for lunch or dinner, write a note, and invest time into their lives. If you have ones that are away at school it can be lonely. Pray for them and drop them a frequent card, text, and care basket. Do not forget about them. Pray for them.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CAMPUS PRESENCE

Establishing a Strong Presence on Campus

The stronger your campus presence the greater your ability to reach out to different groups on campus will be. If you are a registered student organization this is a great achievement and brings an open door on campus. Think with me for a moment. Lets say as a registered group you now meet weekly on campus for Bible study. You go out once a week to pass out tracts and invitations. This is great! Lets consider the campus presence you have. Any students, faculty, and staff outside of your weekly meeting and who you may not pass out an invitation to do not know you exist. Lets say you have 20,000 students on campus and 4,000 faculty and staff. You have twenty students coming to your weekly meeting and you pass out 2,500 tracts. You have been exposed to roughly 2,520 people out of 24,000. This is your campus presence.

Having a strong campus presence is crucial to your effectiveness and opening other doors of outreach. How can you increase your campus presence? You must find ways to constantly have your ministry name in front

of students. Do weekly outreach tables with a banner setup. Place yard signs around campus announcing your meetings and web address. Have your weekly meetings in a busy place on campus and place your banner outside of your door. Hang posters in buildings and on bus stops. Leave your invitations on counters of local businesses that will allow you where students visit often. Canvass the student apartments. Place your info in the apartments welcome bags for new move-ins. Use the school postal system to distribute tracts and information to students and faculty. These are just a few ideas to forming a stronger campus presence.

The goal and purpose of this is for the entire student body to see and know your ministry. Students, faculty, sports teams, sororities, fraternities, and other organizations will recognize your ministry and your faces. They will see how you interact with the student body. As you build a stronger campus presence it will open doors you never thought would be available for ministry. ■



DRAWING THE NET

D.L. Moody gave some great advice in his book, *The Overcoming Life*. I think this would be helpful for our personal soul-winning and in our weekly meetings. He said, "There is one reason—and a great reason—why so many do not succeed at Christian service. I have been asked by a great many good men, "Why is it we don't have results? We work

hard, pray hard, and preach hard, yet success does not come." I tell them, "Because you spend all your time mending nets. No wonder you never catch anything."

The great matter is to give invitations and compel sinners to come and pull the net in and see if you caught anything. If you are always mending and setting the net, you won't catch many fish. Who ever heard of a man's going to fish and setting his net, then letting it stop there and never pulling it in? Everybody would laugh at such a man's folly... My friends, if you want to catch men, just present the Gospel and pull in the net."

As you share the gospel faithfully on campus make sure to bring these students to a point of decision. Dealing with students in a post-Christian country they will not always know what to do after hearing the gospel. They do not know how to respond to Jesus. Do not assume they know what it means to believe in Jesus or to call upon Him for eternal life. It is our job to present Jesus but also let them know what to do with what they have heard. Seek to draw in the net as much as you can as you are fishing for students. ■

SHARING CHRIST ON CAMPUS

The college campus presents the church with the ability to carry out the entire Great Commission in Acts 1:8. There will be students from the local town, counties in the state, states in the US, and countries from all around the world. Here are a few thoughts about sharing Christ on campus.

The Power of Being Equipped.

What is the biggest hinderance to sharing Jesus with others? Fear. The fear of what others may think about us or say to us. The fear of not being prepared for their response or questions. Ephesians 6:15 says, "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Notice the word preparation in this verse. Preparation is the act or operation properly fitting one for a particular purpose, use, or service. We are instructed to be prepared with the gospel. What does a soldier do to prepare? He or she learns the weapon and armor thoroughly by practicing and conducting drills. Preparation and practice cast out fear. Here are seven areas to equip yourself to share Christ on campus.

1. Prepare yourself.

- Learn, study, and practice witnessing. Memorize key verses.
- Mark your Bible. Highlight key verses and write the next verse to go to on that page.
- Place answers to questions in the back of your Bible for quick reference.
- Keep tracts with you and be familiar with it in order to go through it with a student.

2. Break the ice. Here are a few questions you can ask any student to start a conversation. Are you a student here? How is school going? Where are you from? What are you studying? What year are you in school? Do you have a church home that you attend?

3. Turn the conversation to spiritual matters. As the Spirit leads, we must turn the conversation to spiritual matters. You can easily do this by

asking, "Do you mind if I ask you a question?" Which 99% of the time they agree to. Then follow with one of these questions: Where will you go when you die? What do you believe about Jesus Christ? Do you have any kind of spiritual belief? Remember to always ask open ended questions to avoid getting just a yes or no answer. It makes the student think through the question and their response.

4. Listen. Listen intently to what they have to say. They can see through you just rehearsing these questions like a salesperson. Make good eye contact and listen with your eyes. Atheist, agnostic, or students completely leery of religion will listen to what you have to say because you are interested in what they are saying.

5. Ask questions to stay in control of the conversation. Always ask open-ended questions.

- How did you come to that conclusion?
- What do you mean by that?
- Where is that at in the Bible?

6. Answer their questions, but keep it central to the gospel. Always answer questions from the Bible and not from your opinion. If questions and thoughts get off track always bring it back to Jesus.

7. Bring to a point of decision. As the spirit leads you bring them to a point of making a decision to follow Jesus. You can ask questions like: What do you want to do? Would you like to become a follower of Jesus? What do you think about this?

The Power of Talking About Jesus.

Make sure you focus on the person of Jesus and not big words, arguments, or religions. People are drawn to the person of Jesus not a religion. Learn not to speak "Christianeze". Define your terms and stay away from using big, theological words. Students in a post-Christian society will not understand what we are talking about. Always have in your mind that you are sharing

Jesus and your faith with someone who knows nothing about the Bible, church, or Jesus.

Remember, we are not trying to convert people to a religion or from one religion to another. This is extremely important as you are dealing with international students. Jesus always invited people to follow him, not become a Christian. Learn to talk about Jesus and invite people to become followers of Him. As you talk about Him sin, hell, and eternal life will naturally come out.

The Power of Being Intentional

In Matthew 9:37-38 we learn there are already more people ready to receive Christ as their Saviour than there are people to go and tell. If we are going to share Christ on campus we must be intentional everyday.

Being intentional means we get up each day prepared with a plan to fulfill the Great Commission. We get up and plan a way for us to share the gospel. Benjamin Franklin said, "If you fail to plan then you are planning to fail."

Ways to be intentional: Keep a prospect list. Include people you are praying for, witnessing to, and the lost around you. Schedule it. Put a reminder on your phone. Plan one or more attempts for each day whether leaving a tract, building a relationship, or engaging a person in conversation. All with the intent to share Jesus. Get your church involved in sharing Christ on campus and at apartments. Find a partner and go. This will encourage you and keep you accountable. The best way to learn is by going.

Acts 17:32 & 34 show us the results of Paul sharing Christ on campus. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter... Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed."



SHARING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Truth is truth but the way we deliver this truth will determine if it is received or not. It is impossible to love others without sharing the truth. I have witnessed truth being shared on campus in a very harsh and condemning manner. As you can imagine, this is received about as well as it is given. It makes people angry, frustrated, and leads to this person forming a negative perception of Christianity and thus Jesus. Many times these people will build a wall of defense around anything having to do with Christianity. I have encountered students who instantly bowed up and were ready for an argument at the mention of anything having to do with the Christian faith.

This same truth delivered in a loving manner to the same person is received in a totally different way.



The truth of God's Word can be hard. It is black or white and brings conviction to people. The delivery method makes all the difference in the world. Think about how Jesus shared truth. He shared the truth in a loving way.

He did not water the truth down, but His approach and how He spoke with people allowed this truth to be received. He loved people first.

We must take Jesus' example as we share truth with college students. You may need to tear down a wall with a student that they have built due to another's way of sharing the truth. Love will tear down this wall. Love will change this person's perception of Jesus. Love will allow you to converse with atheists, agnostics, and haters of anything "Christian".

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Provide Ministry Opportunities. Singles ministry should be about developing the church's next leaders. Provide opportunities to serve in your weekly meetings, church, and outreaches. Get these young people involved in the areas of outreach your church has. If there are not many opportunities start a new one.

Teach them God's Word. They are searching for truth in a world of information. Teach them God's Word, how to interact with the texts,

how to navigate through the Bible, and how to apply truth in their daily lives. Get them into a habit of reading consistently on their own. Be prepared to confront unbelief. You do not need to have a PhD in apologetics but having some knowledge in defending the faith in key areas will be helpful.

Stay Connected. Stay in constant contact with your singles. Pray with and for them. Send them words of encouragement and let them know you are thinking about them. Connect through texts, social media, and a good old fashion phone call.

Send out weekly email reminders of meetings and events. Setup a social media page or account for your ministry.

Be Patient. This is key! Singles growing can get messy. Be patient as they grow. Love them in and through the mistakes. Sometimes they will seek advice but not heed the advice given. Be patient with relationship issues that will come up. It can be a little messy but worth every moment!

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