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P E N T E C O S T A L evangel

sept · 26 · 10

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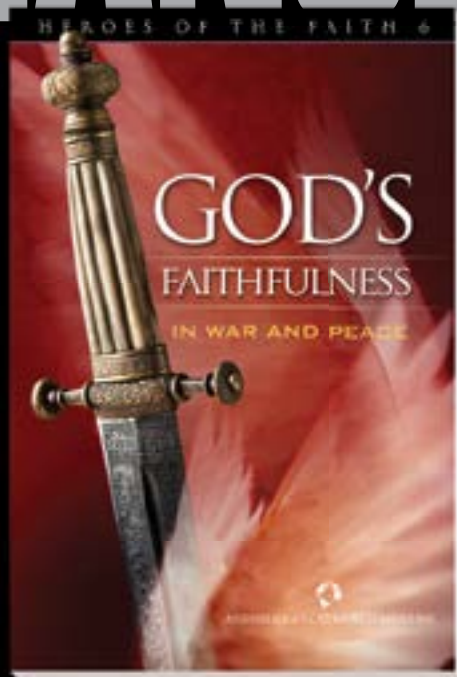
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Ministry on the Secular Campus

I spent only two years in a secular college before going off to a Christian college and then seminary to train for the ministry. But those two years have been augmented by a lot of time since then spent on major campuses such as the University of California in Berkeley. Much of that time has been spent in ministry. My last two pastorates were in university towns.

I have been in that environment enough to know that secular and Christian campuses are two completely different worlds. And the secular campus desperately needs the salt and light provided by Christian students and workers.

That is where Chi Alpha Campus Ministries has excelled. And that is why we feel honored to give you a closer look at Chi Alpha in this week's *Evangel*.

In preparation for this edition, our staff spent extensive time with Chi Alpha members, staff and leaders at conferences and in personal meetings.

I came away from these meetings exhilarated by their passion, impressed by their anointing, and encouraged for the future of Christian ministry on the campuses of secular colleges and universities.



The secular campus desperately needs the salt and light provided by Christian students and workers. That is where Chi Alpha Campus Ministries has excelled.

I was also struck by the freshness and creativity of these young campus missionaries. God is getting a grip on America's campuses by gripping the hearts and lives of students and graduates. Many Chi Alpha participants don't realize that continuing ministry in Chi Alpha will be their future.

An honest look at our campuses shows many students enter college away from God. Some are backslidden believers; others have never made a profession of faith in Christ. God uses Christians to see these lives transformed spiritually. Ultimately many of them are called to serve with Chi Alpha. Most leave their schools with a commitment to live for Christ in their future profession.

Chi Alpha does a superb job of training leaders. Because of this, Chi Alpha Christians are reproducing themselves exponentially. Each new or reawakened Christian on campus accelerates and spreads the move of God.

As you read this issue, I believe your hope for America's campuses will grow.

Ken Horn

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

Write Us

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Islam in America

I was encouraged by reading the June 27 article "Islam in America." I found what Dr. Mark Hausfeld and Dr. Tommy Hodum had to share was optimistic and useful in a time when most American Christians can easily be given over to harmful stereotypes that can hinder our helping and ministering to Muslim peoples. Thank you for your ministry.

SCOTT SMITH
VIA E-MAIL

I attend First Assembly of God in Bakersfield, Calif. The "Islam in America" article was of special interest to me. I'm the Central California coordinator for a non-profit Christian women's group, and I speak on Islam anywhere I am called to.

REBA LANCASTER
BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

A FELLOWSHIP REMEMBERS ITS PENTECOSTAL STATESMAN

[In response to the June 27 article "A Fellowship Remembers Its Pentecostal Statesman" by Wayne Warner] I can still hear Brother Joseph Flower's deep, keen voice as he ministered God's Word at one of the monthly Monday night fellowship meetings we had in the North Central Section of New York.

THELMA VIRKLER
COVINGTON, VA.

REACHING OUT WITH TRUTH/WIELDING PRAYERS

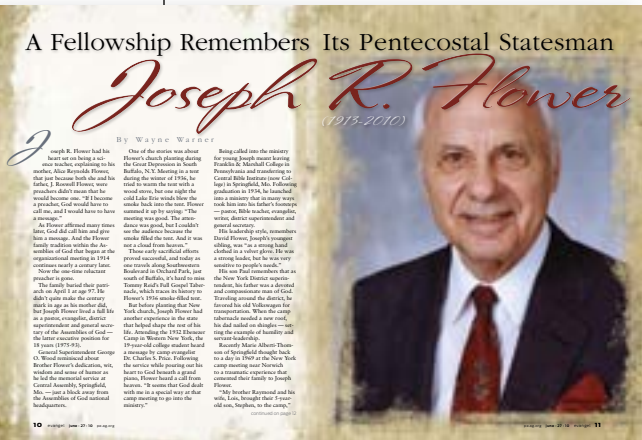
I found your June 27 articles "Reaching Out With Truth" [by Ken Walker] and "Wielding Prayers" to be very informative and encouraging regarding homosexual behaviors. I am doing my best to teach my only son to follow God's plan. I also tell him to love others who do

not follow God's teachings regarding this. May God bless the *Evangel's* ministry.

CHRISTINA KILLGORE
VIA E-MAIL

Thank you for publishing the article "Wielding Prayers" in the June 27 issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel*. I particularly appreciated the author's comment: "We found freedom to be silent so the Holy Spirit could speak to our son." The story and the Scriptures shared composed a portrait of a loving Heavenly Father.

What a wonderful, heartfelt lesson to share with parents struggling to come to terms with their adult children's behavior. Whether it's homosexuality or other types of rebellion, God is merciful toward us and our children. As hard as a parent's lesson may be, we learn to trust God with our most precious possession: our child. In turn, He teaches us that they are His.



JOYCE WISOR
VIA E-MAIL

WE BELIEVE

the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19). in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (John 1:1). in the blessed hope — the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming (Titus 2:13). the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ (John 14:6). regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation (Titus 3:5). in water baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:19). the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer (1 Peter 2:24). the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Galatians 5:16-25). in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation (Revelation 20:11-15).

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C O N T E N T S

Issue no. 5029

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Reaching college students with the gospel is essential to reaching the world for Christ.

BY DENNIS GAYLOR

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Growing the Gospel on America's Campuses

Seven Chi Alpha leaders share what God has done and is doing through the ministry.

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More than half a century since it began, the Assemblies of God campus ministry is reaching more students than ever before.

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

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N E X T W E E K

Father and son pioneer missionaries Victor and David Plymire have served in Northern Asia for more than 100 years.



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If you could somehow picture the 18 million students who attend college in the United States, you would be contemplating a multitude larger than the individual populations of 153 nations.

Walk onto any large campus and you discover a city within a city. Housing, food services, recreation centers, social activities, movies, library, banking, sports arena and stadium, campus police and transportation services — all operate in a separate world.

The university represents every race, creed, culture, language, philosophy and religion. The university, by its very nature, is an open forum.

Millions of students, major population centers, the entire spectrum of humanity — the 21st-century university is an answer to world evangelization.

In Acts 17:16-34, the apostle Paul's second missionary journey took him to Athens, the birthplace of democracy and a city of

great influence with interesting parallels to the university campus. Athenian philosophers and poets, like millions of collegians today, discussed and debated and listened to the latest ideas. Paul determined to communicate the gospel to the Athenians, who were intelligent but spiritually lost and in need of salvation. He knew from these centers and crossroads of activity the good news would advance.

Chi Alpha sees an Athens in miniature on each of America's college and university campuses. I'd like to share with you five reasons why we are targeting today's university with the apostle Paul's missionary zeal.

Openness and opportunities

Collegians are searching for meaning and purpose and truth. College students are making formative decisions and developing life patterns and habits that will affect them for a lifetime. In this open forum environment, evange-

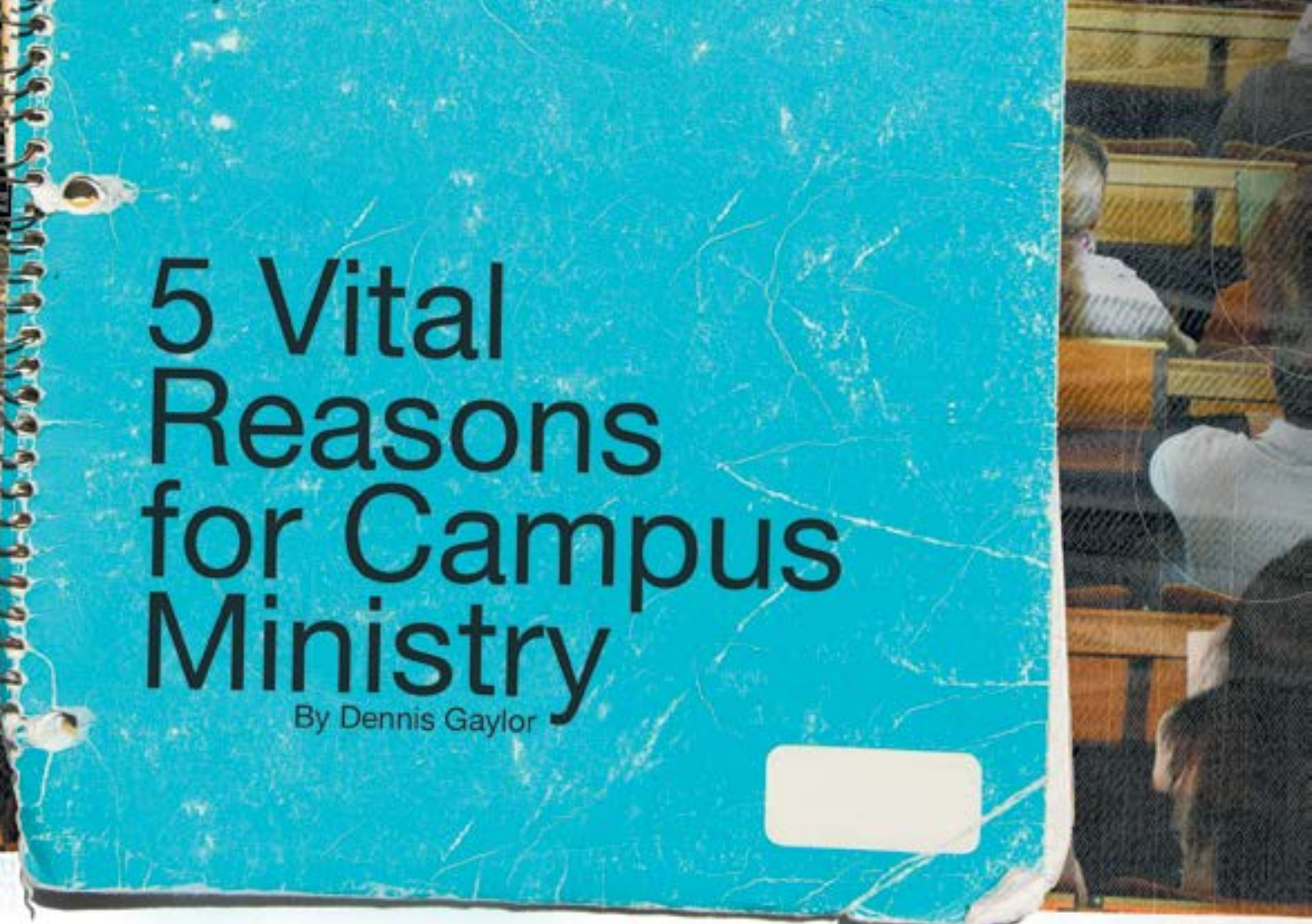
lism opportunities abound.

Sometimes we fear the university or are intimidated by it. I'm convinced the university is gospel-friendly. Yes, there are issues and challenges we face on campus, but there is no setting with such unparalleled opportunities for evangelism, for changing lives and changing the world than on America's campuses.

You can do almost anything on campus from dorm talks, to open-air preaching in free speech zones, to Christian literature tables set up in a highly trafficked area, to speaking in classes, to Alpha courses, to coffeehouse outreaches, to evangelistic Bible studies in residence halls.

At Purdue University, Chi Alpha participants stood outside the campus union, read the entire New Testament out loud, sang, preached the gospel, gave away ice pops and invited passers-by to their meeting.

Texas State University conducted



5 Vital Reasons for Campus Ministry

By Dennis Gaylor

a week of outreach including a live reenactment of the Passion of Christ, and sponsored a Christian illusionist to present THE MAZE, a creative presentation of the gospel, to 1,100 students. Some 200 students made salvation decisions.

Most students who are not Christians want to belong before they believe. Jodi, a freshmen at Louisiana State University, knew three students when she came to campus and was on the wrong path. She partied, skipped classes and made poor decisions until she came to karaoke night at Chi Alpha, fell in love with the students and committed her life to Christ.

Today's students, tomorrow's leaders

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders in commerce, government, entertainment, education and science. And these future leaders are deciding what they believe about God right now on the college

campus. Their decision now will radically shape how they serve in the classroom, the courtroom and the boardroom.

These leaders will direct countless organizations and local and state governments and make decisions about our lives. They will shape the minds and lives of our children and youth through teaching positions in our schools.

Universities are primary tributaries to cultural development or demise in terms of leadership. They are a wellspring of leadership, for better or worse, directing where the culture is headed. As a nation's young leaders go, so goes the future of the nation.

What America is and what it will become are directly related to what happens on its university campuses. The college and university campus offers the last opportunity to reach this important segment of our population in one place at one time — tens of thousands of students

concentrated on a few acres of land for a moment in time!

If we ignore the university, we ignore the culture.

Preserving the faith

Sarah from Western Washington University grew up going to church and youth group, but said her first semester was the hardest time of her life. Like so many students, she was lonely, hopeless, homesick and depressed. Her life at college was not working. She wanted to give up completely. Then Sarah met Jeff, and he invited her to Chi Alpha. It transformed her college experience.

According to the Fuller Youth Institute, approximately 40 percent of youth group seniors significantly struggle with their faith. Christian students tell us the three struggles with their transition from high school to college are 1) making friends, 2) being alone, and 3) wanting to find a church but not knowing how.



5 Vital Reasons for Campus Ministry

The relational connection is critical as students are separated from many of their anchor points — friends, parents, church — resulting in a heightened need to fit in, be accepted and be loved. This stress often leads them to bond with the first group that accepts them on campus.

After all of the investment in our youth during their first 18 years, we must take seriously our role in helping them successfully transition to college. Chi Alpha wants our students to thrive. We encourage a personal faith in Jesus Christ, promote growth in their relationship with God, help them find a place of worship and ministry, offer opportunities to develop a relational network of fellow Christians, and invite them to follow God in life wherever He may lead.

Every year we see 45-50 Chi Alphas earn ministerial credentials, and three times that number going into short-term missions.

Reaching the world

The Assemblies of God has always been a missionary-sending organization. God has blessed our Fellowship because of this commitment to the Great Commission.

Walk on any campus in America and the world is there! Never in the history of the Christian church has a generation of Christians had a greater opportunity to reach the nations of the world than we have in the U.S. today.

In God's wisdom and compassion, He has brought the world to us. Almost 850,000 international students and scholars study on U.S. campuses. Almost all of the 195 nations of the world are represented by international students. More

international students come to study on U.S. campuses than anywhere else in the world. Many of these students will one day assume national responsibilities and are key for opening doors globally.

International students want to make American friendships and learn about our culture. Foreign students who want to study in the U.S. must pass an English proficiency exam, so to get into college they must speak English. Every year around 60,000 students come for Intensive English Programs to qualify for college entrance. This creates many evangelism opportunities.

Christians can reach the world right here in America without a passport, visa, or having to learn a language and culture. International students have come to us. And it works both ways. International students reached with the gospel on American campuses can take the gospel to their home countries. At a recent international student conference with 40 nations represented, 11 international students were saved, nine were water baptized, and 15 were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Students, revival and spiritual awakenings

The history of religious revivals and spiritual awakenings are interwoven with the campus. Because of their age, idealism, energy and openness, college students are always at the forefront of what God is doing.

Charles and John Wesley were students at Oxford University in 1726. They formed the Holy Club, which emphasized rigid self-discipline based on Judeo-Christian morality. They were called Methodist because of their methodical approach to life. John pioneered a formula for many Christian student movements to come — commitment and personal discipline enhanced and empowered by religious experience.

Robert Wilder, a student at Princeton, formed the Princeton Foreign Missionary Society. Luther Wishard, head of the evangelistic YMCA college ministry, invited D.L. Moody to speak at a student conference in 1886. Some 251 students from 89 campuses attended. Robert Wilder brought a delegation of 19 students with a sense of mission to enlist 100 volunteers for full-time missionary service. This birthed the Student Volunteers Movement, resulting in thousands of students sent to the foreign field between 1886 and World War I.

Our own modern Pentecostal Movement that began at the turn of the 20th century involved a college student, Agnes Ozman, who attended a school in Kansas. While studying what the Scripture had to say about the Holy Spirit, she experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues.

What's next?

What will happen if there is another student awakening? What will happen if students from every nation and worldview encounter Christ on campus? What will happen if the thousands of AG students who already attend secular campuses are mobilized to reach their peers? What will happen if campuses known for partying and alcoholism and indifference to God can be recognized as hubs of spiritual awakening? What will happen if a Spirit-filled outreach is launched on every secular university campus in America?

Chi Alpha wants to create the opportunity for these happenings. Will you pray with us and encourage college students you know to join us in this effort? **e**

DENNIS GAYLOR is national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries USA.

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

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'CHI ALPHA CHANGED MY LIFE'

Since its inception in 1953, Chi Alpha has creatively introduced countless students to the gospel, and has done so on America's secular college campuses. Recently, Technical Editor Jennifer McClure gathered these stories of lives forever changed and now bent on continuing the ministry of Chi Alpha.



Tia Shaw

Chi Alpha meant a whole lot to me because that's actually how I met Jesus. I was a lesbian-rally-leading, hard-core atheist. When I encountered Jesus it was this automatic, *Wow! God is real, and He loves me, and He forgives me.* It was a radical change in my life. Chi Alpha prayed for me as a group for two years. They did one all-night prayer, and my name was the first one taped to the cross. I know that Jesus used Chi Alpha to reach me. Now I want to serve Him through Chi Alpha so other students can have the same opportunity to experience the grace and mercy of God that He has so abundantly given me.

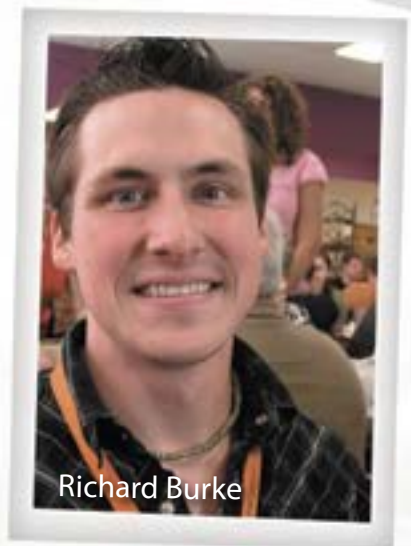
— **Tia Shaw**, CMIT (campus missionary in training) at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio



Araceli Rivas

I grew up knowing a lot of legalistic rules, and that pushed me away from the Lord. Coming to college was like, *Freedom!* I didn't have to go church. I didn't have to act like someone I'm not. The first year I did the party scene. Then I met a lot of really cool girls who were in Chi Alpha. They took me to Chi Alpha, and it was really different. They were really worshipping God. These girls showed me what it meant to be redeemed. When I really started walking with the Lord, my plans changed. I wasn't living for myself anymore; I was living for a bigger plan.

— **Araceli Rivas**, CMIT at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas



Richard Burke

Chi Alpha was the first ministry I was ever involved in where a pastor or a student or anyone actively wanted to pursue a one-on-one discipleship relationship with me. So it was the place where I grew the most because someone actually cared about me, what I was going through, what I was dealing with, and helped me work through issues that I had.

— **Richard Burke**, district-appointed missionary and Chi Alpha campus director at Georgia Southern University



Lydia Cash

The sense of community and the tight-knit group that I was looking for, the sense that I belonged somewhere, was a huge thing for me. I had never experienced that close, Christian fellowship that I found in Chi Alpha and people who were willing to accept me just as I was but were also willing to hold me accountable and encourage me and pray for me. They're just the best friends I've ever had.

— *Lydia Cash, CMIT at Auburn (Ala.) University*



Deanna Ceasar

I grew up in an unstable home, moved around a lot and really struggled with building relationships. Growing up I didn't know Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. It was all about rules and regulations. When I got to Chi Alpha, I was introduced to a community of believers who were following Christ in every aspect of their lives, having fun and in relationship with each other. Chi Alpha changed my life by showing me, through loving relationships, how to live my life out for Christ and just love people for Christ.

— *Deanna Ceasar, CMIT at University of Louisiana at Lafayette*



Anthony Morrison

Being involved in Chi Alpha from the very beginning in a leadership position really kept me grounded and brought me to where I needed to be with God in my walk.

— *Anthony Morrison, campus missionary associate and full-time student at the University of South Florida*



Ashley Smith

Chi Alpha is where I got saved. I went to East Carolina University to party. One night my friend and I were bored, so we went to Chi Alpha to see what it was all about. We just thought we'd make fun of them. We

went, and they were really nice. I had never met a nice Christian before. They were normal. They liked the same things I liked, dressed the same way, and I was puzzled that they were so into God. So I came back. I was really interested, and I was praying, "God, what are they so excited about?" Right there, clear as day, I heard Him say, *Come with Me*. It scared me to death. I believed there was a God, but not that God spoke to people. After that, I gave my life to Christ. He helped me get away from the stuff I was doing, and I stayed involved in Chi Alpha.

— *Ashley Smith, CMIT at Sam Houston State University*



Kyle McAllister

Chi Alpha gave me a path to follow. I wasn't a Christian for most of my life. When I became a Christian, it was in name only, and I didn't see how to walk it out. Through discipleship, Chi Alpha helped me realize I was a broken person and learn how to really live an authentic Christian life.

— *Kyle McAllister, MAPS volunteer with his wife, Brittany, to University of Guadalajara in Mexico in response to Chi Alpha's challenge to "Give a Year and Pray about a Lifetime" e*

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.



GROWING THE GOSPEL ON AMERICA'S CAMPUSES



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Evangel Editor Ken Horn recently visited with seven of Chi Alpha's dynamic leaders and invited them to share their vision for ministry and the miracles they are seeing in students' lives.



PETE BULLETTE, Chi Alpha director at the University of Virginia

EVANGEL: You interned at Georgetown University's Chi Alpha in Washington, D.C. Then your very first assignment was to pioneer a work, correct?

BULLETTE: Yes, at the University of Virginia. I remember calling the local Assemblies of God pastor. I said, "Pastor Pete, we're going to come and pioneer Chi Alpha at the University of Virginia." And he said, "I already knew that. In fact, I presented you to the board last night for missionary support." That was a big prophetic confirmation to the Lord's direction in our lives.

EVANGEL: That was about nine years ago. What's going on in the ministry now?

BULLETTE: God's been very gracious to us. Our first meeting ever we had 52 students show up, which is just unheard of. We created a core out of that of about 20 students, and we have steadily grown for nine years to about 350 today.

EVANGEL: What emphases have helped your ministry to grow?

BULLETTE: No. 1 is our small group ministry. We started with three groups — my wife led two, and I led one. Next year we'll have 35 groups, all led by students. Our growth has been very steady and stable because it has been rooted in relationships through small groups.

EVANGEL: What kind of students do you reach, and how do you reach them?

BULLETTE: There's the student who grew up in church. He has a lot of big questions, but also a sincere faith. We have a party on move-in day, so we throw out the nets immediately. They say the first 10 days on campus are the most important, that the friendships you make then will be the friendships you have for the rest of your time there. Those first 10 days may be the most important 10 days of a student's life. Because when they leave the university, they've established values, beliefs and trajectories that they'll live out the rest of their lives. So those first 10 days, we're extremely active.

Then there's the person who doesn't know the Lord. One young lady came to our party and was shocked by how people really wanted to get to know her. So she joined a small group and started to study Scripture. On our retreat, she

became a follower of Jesus, and she has been revolutionized.

We also reach international students. A student from China saw an ad on Facebook that invited people to our mug party. Within one minute of arriving he said to me, "I'm here for an education, but that's not the most important thing. I came because I want to learn about God." This young man ended up giving his life to Christ at our fall retreat. He got into a small group, and right now he's back home for the summer having been powerfully impacted by the gospel.

EVANGEL: How does discipleship work out in the life of a new convert?

BULLETTE: The discipleship is done through the small group structure. Our small group leaders are matched up with a staff worker or somebody who is older than they are, who invests in them. Then our small group leaders invest in the people in their small groups.

Students are able to sit at a table with someone regularly and talk about Jesus and study the Bible and learn what it means to live out the Christian life at a secular university.

EVANGEL: What makes a healthy campus ministry?

BULLETTE: One, you have to be authentic; people can smell fake a mile away. Second, you have to be relational. You've got to love people. And third, you've got to be substantive. This generation wants substance. We're not trying to make good Chi Alphans; we're making good lifelong followers of Jesus.



ERIC TREUIL, *South Central Area director for Chi Alpha and the Louisiana District representative*

EVANGEL: *You've been ministering in one place for more than 20 years.*

TREUIL: My wife, Annabelle, and I are both from the New Orleans area. We got married in 1985. In 1987, we felt the Lord leading us to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. We went there in '87 and started out with three students. I was impassioned. I wanted to see this campus reached for Christ. I really thought the three students would feel the same. I shared my vision, and right in the middle one of the students raises her hand and says, "You know, I'm not into this." And she just walked out. I was down to two. But God was faithful, and the group has grown through the years. We just completed 23 years, and we've had the opportunity to see a number of student generations come and go. Now their kids are starting to come. Longevity has its benefits. I have a lot of opportunities today that I did not have when I first showed up.

EVANGEL: *You're conducting a campus missionary training program right now that has trained 88 interns. You have 35 current Chi Alpha missionaries.*

TREUIL: Our interns have to have a college degree and a sense that God is calling them to do campus ministry. They do a 10-month internship where they learn about theology, Scripture, how to preach, how to do small groups — they learn in a

classroom and by practice.

In the process, we're looking at their personal character, developing the character of God in them, and hopefully giving them tools to go and do this on another campus. We have 11 full-time units on various campuses in the state, the majority of whom have interned with me. The number of students we're reaching exponentially is incredible.

EVANGEL: *Talk about some of the creative evangelism you've done.*

TREUIL: We do Café Chi Alpha: A free meal with a message. A couple of years ago, we did what we called a Resurrection Awareness-a-thon. We set up a coffin on the busiest corner of the campus, and for three days, around the clock, someone was in the coffin. It was a visual that Easter isn't about the Easter bunny, it's about a Man named Jesus who actually died and came back from the dead.

One year, a young lady was working a coffee cart right next to the casket. The third day she came over and said, "OK, what is this about?" They explained it to her, prayed with her, and she gave her life to Christ. Now she's a youth pastor.

EVANGEL: *You've also had the opportunity to be a sports chaplain.*

TREUIL: For the last 15 years or so, I've been chaplain for our football team, the Ragin' Cajuns. I've worked now with three head coaches, and I've had the opportunity to do a chapel service for the team. When we travel, I travel with them. I'm on the sideline for every game. It's been a great opportunity for ministry.

I do an athletic Bible study mid-week. Today it has close to 100 students. When Charles Tillman, who plays for the Chicago Bears now, was a student, I had two students coming to my Bible study. Charles came in to study. He'd be sitting in a corner listening. After three

weeks, he joined us and shortly after joining he gave his life to Christ. He was baptized in water in the university pool. I later had the privilege of officiating his wedding.



CURT HARLOW, *director of the West Coast Chi Alpha Area*

EVANGEL: *How did you get involved in Chi Alpha?*

HARLOW: I came to faith in my high school years, but I didn't have a lot of discipleship. Three months into college, I had not attended a church service, youth group or cracked open my Bible. I ran into a similarly off-the-track Christian, and he said, "We ought to just go to church." I can remember walking into my first-ever meeting filled with Chi Alpha students and literally hearing the distinct whisper of the Holy Spirit saying, *I want you to show up to this thing every week and every Sunday morning and never miss a time.*

Four years later, I did a trial internship for 10 months at Central Washington University. I was two weeks into it and just knew it would be my life's call.

EVANGEL: *Talk about your ministry at Chi Alpha.*

HARLOW: We've always had a heart to start new Chi Alpha groups. We were in a Chi Alpha group that was very healthy at CWU. The discipleship we received left me with the sense that I have

an obligation to be mentored and to mentor (2 Timothy 2:2). We wanted to start a new group, so we went to Cal State Stanislaus. We saw an explosion of students there. From there we went to the University of the Pacific and started sending out teams of new campus missionaries from our internship program at UOP to pioneer new works on unreached campuses. A lot of teams did well, and a lot of teams struggled.

Eight, nine years into that experience we thought, *Maybe we ought to take a little break and learn why some of these teams are not doing as well.* We spent a year on our church staff. After that, Dennis Gaylor asked us to come on the national staff.

Eventually the Lord said to go back to California, which we did five years ago. There are so many strategic campuses. We said, "What if we team with church planters and districts and local churches to strategically combine to start Chi Alpha groups together?" And that's what we've endeavored to do. We've seen about 12 new groups form. We had 12 brand-new campus leaders graduate and begin ministry last year. We have eight more coming into the program this year.

EVANGEL: *What do you do to reach people?*

HARLOW: People want to experience the community of faith, and they want to experience God before they commit. In a pluralistic culture where they've been exposed to a lot of different worldviews, they're really weighing these things. But the gospel still works. It works at Stanford. It works at UC Davis. It works at UCLA. We've seen it work at USC. It works in community colleges and urban areas. I run into very few people who are outwardly hostile to me. A little bit of intelligence and a little bit of kindness can really shock people into saying, "I'd like to consider this."

EVANGEL: *Share a testimony with us.*

HARLOW: One post-graduate student at Stanford had a Christian student from our Chi Alpha group studying with her. This Christian student befriended her and articulated the gospel to her. She said, "You know, I don't believe what you believe, but I like you guys." Slowly but surely, she began to hang around Christians. Chi Alpha sponsored Francis Collins, the famous geneticist, to give a talk on God and the DNA of humankind. We had an amazing hour with him. After that, over a week's period, she began to change. At one point, our campus pastor asked, "Would anyone like to share a testimony? Just something God is doing in your life?" And she raised her hand and said, "I have begun to trust Jesus as my Savior, and there is no other way to describe this other than to say it's like springtime in my spirit. It's as if I've been born again."



PAUL AUSTIN, director of the Big Sky Area for Chi Alpha

EVANGEL: *How did you get involved in Chi Alpha?*

AUSTIN: I grew up in the Assemblies of God. After I graduated from high school I realized I wasn't living my faith out. I went off to Montana State University in Bozeman. Dick Schroeder, the Chi Alpha director there, had been alerted that I was coming to

continued on page 18

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Chi Alpha is a missions ministry of the Assemblies of God to secular universities throughout the United States.



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international university student

Chi Alpha gave me a Bible

see the story at chialpha.com

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I prayed to God

God wanted me to meet
people in Chi Alpha

Miracles happened

God had a plan

I don't believe
in coincidence

I found chi alpha

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campus by my uncle, an alumnus of that Chi Alpha group. Dick knocked on my door and offered to take me out for a Coke, and for nine years we met one on one. He disciplined, mentored me. I went on a summer missions trip and was called into ministry. I was trained there at Montana State. I was on staff five years.

EVANGEL: *Then you moved to Idaho State?*

AUSTIN: Yes. The first three years weren't so good. As we went to pioneer, we just tried to duplicate what we were doing in Bozeman, but it's a totally different world. Our campus was 70 percent Mormon, and it was a commuter campus, not a residential campus. It took us almost six years of trial and error to figure out the dynamics of the two different worlds.

EVANGEL: *You've adapted some of the Church Multiplication Network materials to help pioneer Chi Alpha groups.*

AUSTIN: Right. Because our experience was so challenging and frustrating in pioneering, I began to talk to other pioneers around the United States. I began to think, *There's got to be a better way. We've got to be able to do this faster, more efficiently, more effectively.* In 2005, Chi Alpha set some five-year goals. One was to establish a strategy to more effectively pioneer campus ministry. We looked at other fellow campus ministries, and we talked to Church Multiplication Network and attended their church planting BootCamp. I recognized I didn't have to go outside the AG family to figure this out.

EVANGEL: *Tell us about being a chaplain for sports teams at Idaho State.*

AUSTIN: I approached the head football coach when he got to campus and said, "Is there any way I can help?" Well, the Chi Alpha director at Washington State, where

our head football coach came from, was the team chaplain. So he agreed. My first couple of years, I went to practice and did a pre-game Bible study, and there would just be six or seven guys. We have grown to 20-40 guys who attend. I get to pray with the team before the game, and I do a lot of one on one. I've had some great opportunities. We've got five guys out of Idaho State who are in the NFL today. One of them, Jeff Charleston, who plays for the New Orleans Saints, has a Super Bowl ring. It was a treat to pray with him the night before the Super Bowl.



SARAH MALCOLM, *National Chi Alpha Training Team member*

EVANGEL: *Talk about your five years of Chi Alpha ministry in Scotland.*

MALCOLM: I went to Scotland in 2004 with some missionary friends, Joe and Jayne Zickafoose, and we pioneered the first university ministry of the Assemblies of God in Scotland and all of the U.K. We worked in the city of Aberdeen. Outreach was really to a diverse group of people. They weren't just Scottish, but also came from the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. We did different creative outreaches and discipleship. We were able to see a community of believers created in that city.

EVANGEL: *What happens when someone comes into Chi Alpha and gives their life to the Lord?*

MALCOLM: First, we celebrate. It's a wonderful moment. But then

I think what Chi Alpha does best is train them in discipleship. We have a long history of really investing in people and making sure they understand that their faith continues to grow over a lifetime.

EVANGEL: *Talk about your current role as a member of the National Chi Alpha Training Team.*

MALCOLM: Chi Alpha has been committed to training since it began. But, for the first time in its history, Chi Alpha now has a training team working on development of resources specifically targeted toward our students as they exit the university and enter the marketplace. I work specifically with a program called Menternship that takes students from their university years and what they've learned about living out their faith on the campus to learning how to live out their faith when they go into their place of work.

Menternship focuses on servant-leadership. It's the lifestyle that we see in Jesus; His servant-leadership completely transformed the world. Because He was able to train a few so well, He was able then to reach the masses. We have created an online training program that will teach our graduates 11 servant-leadership consistencies.

EVANGEL: *What is the basic outline of the Menternship program?*

MALCOLM: It's completely given and assessed online over about a 10-month period. You do eight courses in four-week blocks. Through Webinars, podcasts, online video, PDFs and interacting with instructors, you're in a very rich learning environment.

It's for several different audiences, but it was first created specifically for our Chi Alpha graduates. It can also be used by people overseas. If you've given a year overseas to a university ministry and would also like some training, this would be a perfect program for you to sign up with and have a Mentern as a foreign campus mis-

continued on page 20



Kids Edition

Since 2002, young readers of the Pentecostal Evangel have enjoyed an annual Kids Edition. Released in October, each issue proved to be a popular addition to church fall festivals and community outreaches.

In response to requests from boys and girls, as well as parents and children's workers, this year the Evangel is offering two Kids Editions.

In the May 16 spring issue, "Truth Sleuths," mascot Petey took young readers on an exploration of the four core Bible doctrines of the Assemblies of God. In the Oct. 31 Evangel, Petey will lead another adventure, communicating biblical truths along the way. You'll want extra copies to share with the boys and girls in your congregation and community.

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sionary. But it could also serve the church staff community. If there was someone who was a church staff member who specifically wanted to reach out to university students, this could be a program that would suit them perfectly.



GINA WHITE, director of Chi Alpha at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EVANGEL: Talk about Chi Alpha's influence in your early Christian life.

WHITE: When I went to UNC, I was not walking with the Lord. That first year a lot of things changed in my life that really started me seeking. So, my freshman year I gave my life to Christ.

But I found myself as one in the midst of 28,000 students. I was the only Christian I knew. One day a good friend and I were talking, and I told her what had been happening in my life. She said, "You know, I grew up Christian too. But I haven't been doing anything since I got here at college, and I need a church." I said, "Well, I need a church, but I have a car!"

So we began searching together and found an Assemblies of God church. A couple of years later, we had been plugged into the church, but there was nothing on campus that we were really plugged into. Eventually Chi Alpha started a new group there, and we were two of the first students in the group.

In Chi Alpha, I found people who loved Jesus and were living that out in real ways. I really got invested in Chi Alpha. It was the point of no return for me; I chose to go full throttle.

EVANGEL: Your internship was in Washington, D.C., then you returned to your alma mater to work on staff. The majority of your ministry there has been while you've been single. Talk about ministry on campus for a single woman.

WHITE: I have served eight years in Chi Alpha, and I just got married last year. Doing ministry as a single woman had its challenges, but I wouldn't trade that time. I feel like that was a great shaping time in my ministry and a great time of being able to model for my students that, yes, you can be single and you can have a healthy, Christian lifestyle and be a leader at the same time.

EVANGEL: What do you see ahead for Chi Alpha at University of North Carolina?

WHITE: We have a track record of producing good, solid leaders, and that's what we really want to maintain. We just want to produce people who are competent, have the ability to lead, who love Jesus and will go out there and change the world.



TERRY BROADWATER, director of the Chi Alpha Network

EVANGEL: You have a somewhat unique background for a Chi Alpha minister.

BROADWATER: I've been a lead pastor in two churches for more than 20 years. The first was in Leesburg, Va. It was what I would call a revitalization project before we understood revitalization. Then we came to a well-established church in Hagerstown, Md. The last seven years, we've planted four churches, and God's really blessed it.

EVANGEL: How did you become involved in Chi Alpha at this point in your ministry?

BROADWATER: We were speaking into the lives of these young leaders and looking to plant more churches. My daughter, my youngest child, is very athletic, and began to be recruited out of high school for volleyball by major universities along the East Coast. And so we were on a lot of campuses. She ultimately chose the University of Connecticut. I realized they didn't have a Chi Alpha. That concerned me because suddenly I'm about to leave my kid at a secular university. I quickly became more aware of what was happening on our campuses.

God began to touch my wife's and my hearts, and we became burdened. I began to see some possibilities. So I met with Harv Herman, who is part of the executive leadership team, and asked one question that has changed my life: "What about the marketplace transformation aspect of Chi Alpha's mission?" He said, "We're not doing that very well." When I got home, I said, *God, show me something about marketplace transformation for these students.* I wrote out a strategy, called the Chi Alpha Network, that is essentially an exit strategy for students when they graduate the secular university to intentionally involve them in church planting opportunities around the country as well as opportunities for marketplace transformation and impact.

We've been orchestrating all the relational networks. Church Multiplication Network, led by National Director Steve Pike, has partnered with me, and they've been incredible. We're believing God that in the next two to three years this will be an incredible strategy to intentionalize the process for Chi Alpha students to enter the marketplace on missions to fulfill the cause of Christ. **e**

AGTV Visit pe.ag.org for links to all seven of these video interviews.

For more about Chi Alpha, visit chialpha.com.

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

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A. Admit you are a sinner.

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(See Romans 5:8; 6:23.)

Ask God's forgiveness and repent of your sins.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13 (See Acts 3:19.)

B. Believe in Jesus

(put your trust in Him) as your only hope of salvation. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
(See John 14:6.)

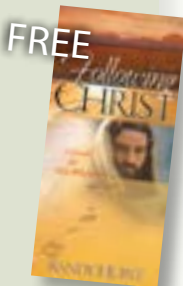
Become a child of God by receiving Christ.

"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."
John 1:12 (See Revelation 3:20.)

C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (See verse 10.)

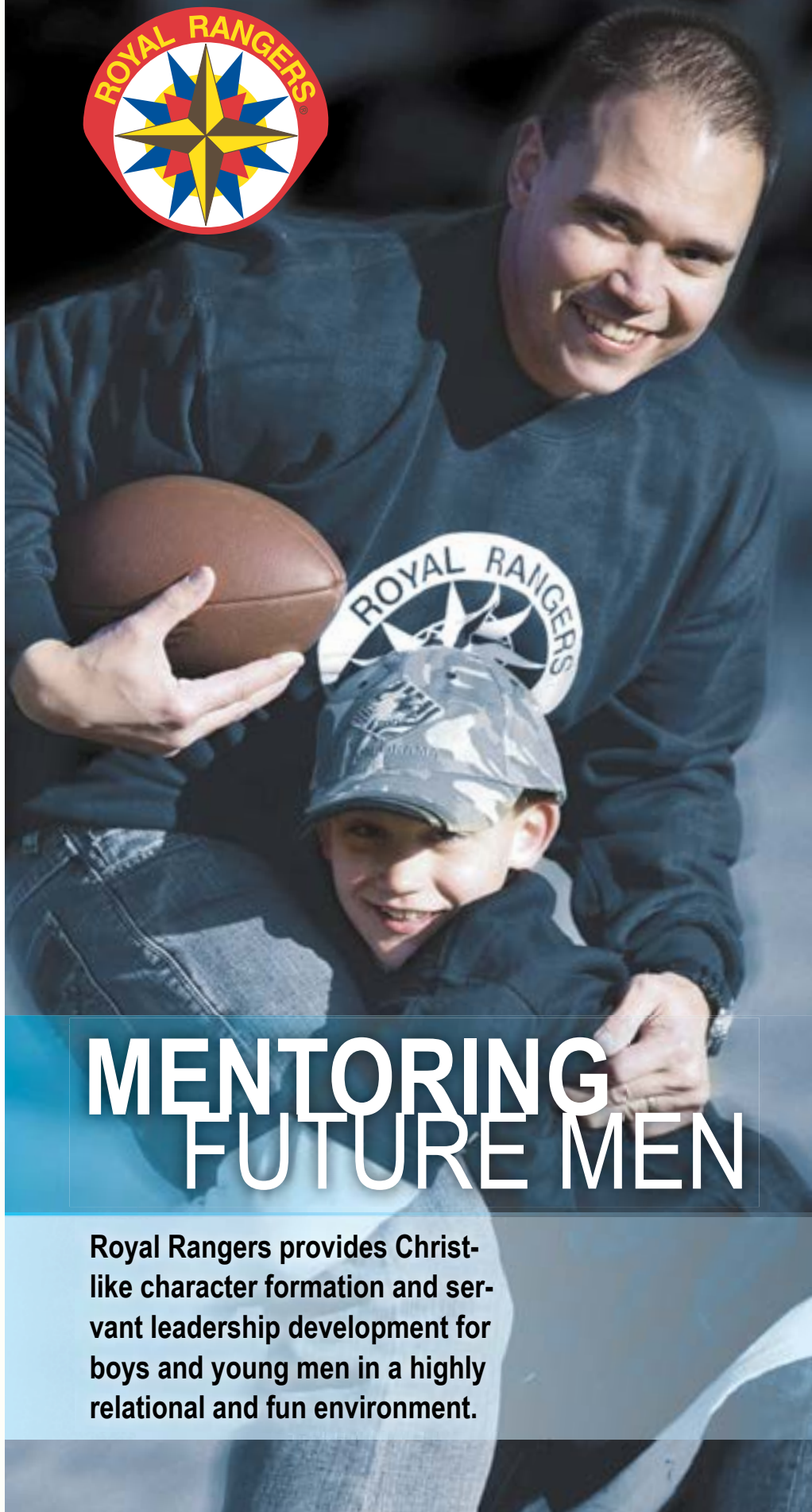
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Chi Alpha

Poised to Expand Campus Ministry

BY JOHN W. KENNEDY

Seven young men gathered in San Antonio in 1977 to plot the future philosophy of ministry for Chi Alpha, the Assemblies of God outreach on mainstream college campuses.

While Chi Alpha has been around for more than half a century, that gathering 33 years ago proved to be a pivotal point in the growth of the organization, which has the goal of reconciling students to Christ and equipping them through prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship and mission to transform the university, the marketplace and the world.

The growth has been especially impressive in the past decade. Today there are chartered Chi Alpha groups meeting on 279 campuses, compared to 206 in 2000. Affiliated staff now total 613, nearly double the 321 from 10 years ago. In that span, the average group meeting size has increased to 57 from 35.

All of the San Antonio Seven still are involved in missions or pastoral ministry. Two of those men are in organizational leadership roles with Chi Alpha. Dennis

Gaylor is the national director, and Harv Herman is national director of missionary training. Another of the seven, Brady Bobbink, has served at Western Washington University for 35 years, the longest tenure ever on one campus by a Chi Alpha leader.

The first national director was appointed in 1963, and four more

Gaylor believes the ministry really took off in 1986 when it was moved from the National Youth Department and began to be recognized on university campuses as part of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

“The biggest change is we’re more organized and strategic now,” Gaylor says. “Earlier there was no system in place for becoming a recognized campus missionary.”

“The whole movement had incredibly young leadership,” recalls Herman, author of *Discipleship by Design: The Discipling of Christian University*

Students. “We had no way to raise money.”

Herman earned \$50 a week when he pioneered the Chi Alpha



The San Antonio Seven gather in front of the Alamo in 1977. From left, C. David Gable, Harvey Herman Jr., Dennis Gaylor, David W. Argue, Brady Bobbink, Herschel Rosser and Jim Hall.

followed in the next 15 years. Gaylor, 61, has given continuity and development to the post, which he has held since 1978.

group at the University of Iowa in 1975. His wife, Sally, a nurse, provided the primary income for the family.

Now, Chi Alpha leaders itinerate, as other missionaries do. An average of 60 percent of their budgets comes from friends, as opposed to traditional missionaries whose support stems largely from churches.

“This allows them to fulfill their calling and to be compensated properly,” Gaylor says.

For his first dozen years as national director, Gaylor had no staff. Today there are five, including Herman, who is based in Charlottesville, Va. Gaylor is swift to decline taking credit for Chi Alpha’s growth, saying the implementation of decentralized organization and field-level leadership — eight area directors and resource personnel — has enabled campus leaders to stay resourced and in touch with the vision of the ministry.

“This has significantly pushed the Chi Alpha program forward,” says Herman, 59.

Having well-trained campus personnel in place is the key to growth because that makes it easier to mentor future leaders, Gaylor says.

“The face of Chi Alpha is many faces,” Gaylor says. “There are a lot of talented people out there serving on campuses.”

Most leaders have been raised up as students through a local Chi Alpha group, are called into campus ministry, and attend Reach the University training. This preparation is complemented by a yearlong internship, Campus Missionary in Training (see page 24), where they earn ministerial credentials. Fifty new Chi Alphans earn ministerial credentials annually.

The first official Chi Alpha group formed in 1953 in Spring-

field, Mo., at what is now Missouri State University. As originally conceived, the group served as a way to safeguard the faith of Assemblies of God youth on secular campuses. By the time he left as national director in 1968,



The San Antonio Seven (in the same order) gather for a reunion last year in San Diego.

Rick Howard suggested the then-radical idea of reconstituting Chi Alpha’s mission to reach out to not just AG college students, but to the whole campus community.

In some contexts, Chi Alpha is starting campus churches. Two-thirds of students going to Chi Alpha meetings these days have no connection with an AG church background, and thus won’t gravitate to an established local congregation. Some students have no transportation and are reluctant to attend a church elsewhere.

Besides the traditional large-residence campuses and college towns with state universities where Chi Alpha is well established, Gaylor is eyeing urban multi-university environments and community colleges as logical expansion locations for Chi Alpha. Thousands of students are concentrated on elite urban campuses, and a large num-

ber live near community colleges.

“It’s very expensive for our campus missionaries to live and minister in the urban setting, but we must establish a presence on these prestigious, world-influencing campuses,” Gaylor says. “Also, the

community colleges offer incredible potential for ministering to students. If we could mobilize in areas where there are community colleges, we could double in size.”

Meanwhile, Gaylor is excited at the opportunity Chi Alpha has to reach some of the 843,000 international students and scholars studying on U.S. campuses. Overall, one out of five Chi Alpha participants is from overseas.

“The cream of the crop among international students are in the United States,” Gaylor says. “If we build friendships and share the gospel with them, they will change the world.”

Chi Alpha hopes to have 1,200 leaders on 500 campuses ministering to 50,000 students by 2015. **e**

JOHN W. KENNEDY is news editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

world **view**

CAMPUS MISSIONS

Chi Alpha Conference Attracts Record Numbers

Around 600 campus missionaries and their families gathered in Phoenix for the largest Chi Alpha staff training event in the history of the ministry to university campuses. The week-long July event brought together leaders from 150 colleges and universities nationwide.

The conference addressed four key issues: cross-cultural sensitivity as it relates to Muslim students and other non-Christian religious worldviews; how to communicate the gospel truth to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender

students on campus; how Christians can broaden their reach and engage ethnic minorities on campus; and how personal evangelism looks on today's diverse campuses.

"This type of training is vital for our campus leaders," says Chi Alpha National Director Dennis Gaylor. "Understanding the differences of students

is the first step in reaching them for Christ on today's university campuses."



Rick Richardson, director of the masters in evangelism and leadership

degree at Wheaton (Ill.) College, served as featured speaker at the conference. Richardson, who also is an associate evangelist with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, has authored books including *Experiencing Healing* and *Evangelism Outside the Box*.

Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples International Director Mark Hausfeld spoke about reaching Muslim students, and Brady Bobbink, a 35-year veteran campus missionary at Western Washington University, addressed homosexuality and the campus.

CHI ALPHA

Staff Training Prepares College Campus Leaders

Every year in June, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries conducts Reach the University Institute (RUI) to train new and prospective campus missionaries in the theology and methodology and skills for ministering on today's secular campus. Begun in 1976, RUI serves as the primary venue to prepare more than 1,500 staff for university ministry.

The RUI class of 2010

meeting in Springfield, Mo., included 70 attendees representing 35 colleges and universities from as far away as Virginia, North Dakota and Texas.

Most of these future staff combine the intensive, week-long RUI with a school-year-long internship known as Campus Missionary in Training (CMIT). Chi Alpha has 18 CMIT-approved interning programs nation-

wide, attracting 50-75 new interns annually.

Many of these interns were former students in Chi Alpha before graduating. Church staff or world missionaries transitioning to campus ministry in the states are part of every RUI.

The training includes Chi Alpha's five pillars of ministry centered on being a community on campus. Chi Alpha draws its theology and

methodology from Acts 2:42-47 on "being a community of worship, prayer, fellowship, discipleship and mission."

"RUI is our best training for an individual or couple interested in reaching college students on campus," says Chi Alpha Campus Ministries National Director Dennis Gaylor. "We draw from the expertise and experience of our leading campus missionaries and ministries."

Groups Must Allow Homosexual Members

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 28 that a law school can legally deny recognition to a Christian student group that won't let homosexuals join.

The court turned away an appeal from the Christian Legal Society, which sued to get funding and recognition from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. The CLS requires that voting members sign a statement of faith and regards "unrepentant participation in or advocacy of a sexually immoral lifestyle" as being inconsistent with that faith.

But Hastings, which is in San Francisco, said no recognized campus groups may exclude people due to sexual orientation.

The court on a 5-4 judgment upheld the lower court rulings saying the Christian group's First Amendment rights of association, free speech and free exercise weren't violated by the college's nondiscrimination policy. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the 5-4 majority opinion in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*.

The decision is a setback for the CLS, which has chapters at universities nationwide and has won similar lawsuits in other courts.

"All college students, including religious students, should have the right to form groups around shared beliefs without being banished from campus," said Kim Colby, senior counsel at the CLS Center for Law & Religious Freedom.

The ruling could affect other campus organizations, including Chi Alpha, the Assemblies of God outreach that has a similar position on membership.

"Chi Alpha is open to all students on campus, but to vote and be a student leader in the ministry, students must adhere to our beliefs and practices," says Chi Alpha National Director Dennis Gaylor.

Last year, the Chi Alpha group at Cornell University had its funding temporarily suspended during an investigation into the forced resignation of a student leader who began an active homosexual relationship.

they said it

The opinion expressed in this column does not necessarily represent the views of the Pentecostal Evangel or the Assemblies of God. This column contains quotations from a broad spectrum of people, including non-Christians. The intent is to promote a greater awareness of the spiritual state of our nation and, hopefully, to stir readers to prayer and action. Today's Christian must be informed and committed to prayer if America is going to experience spiritual renewal.



"I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that today's decision is a serious setback for freedom of expression in this country. There are religious groups that cannot in good conscience agree in their bylaws that they will admit persons who do not share their faith."

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Samuel A. Alito Jr.**, in his dissent in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*

"You have the echo of the baby boom and children of immigrants."

— **Robert Lang**, University of Nevada-Las Vegas urban sociologist, explaining in *USA Today* that the college-age population is high so university enrollment is high

"There is a place being prepared for us. It's an actual, literal, physical place. That gives us hope as we look at our world around us, which seems to be unraveling in so many ways, whether it's nationally, internationally, politically or environmentally."

— Heaven: My Father's House author **Anne Graham Lotz** in *Charisma*



Abortion Protester's Arrest Tossed

An abortion protester arrested in 2007 had a First Amendment right to demonstrate on a sidewalk near the entrance of the building that houses the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, a federal appeals court has ruled.

The decision overturns lower court rulings that upheld the arrest of evangelical Christian Michael Marcavage, who had been sentenced to a year's probation for refusing a National Park Service order to move to a nearby designated demonstration area.

The appeals court tossed the two charges on free-speech grounds. The three-judge panel said Marcavage caused no more of a disturbance than other people near the Liberty Bell entrance, including a cancer-survivors group and the drivers of horse-drawn carriages.

Marcavage founded a group, Repent America, that opposes abortion and homosexuality. Park Service rangers voiced concern for tourists seemingly distressed by Marcavage's graphic speech about abortion.

Christian Groups Decry Separate Porn Site Domain

The agency that controls domain names has agreed to add .xxx to the list of suffixes people and companies can pick when establishing their identities online, a move met with skepticism by ministries that fight pornography.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICANN, paved the way for a digital red light district to take its place alongside suffixes such as .com and .org, ending a decade-long battle. The move marks a significant loss for those concerned about the

safety, security and sexual health of children, according to Donna Rice Hughes, president of Enough Is Enough.



Stuart Lawley, CEO of ICM Registry, which will manage the pornography domain, expects to make \$30 million a year by selling the .xxx sites for \$60 each.

“The creation of a .xxx domain will allow Internet pornographers to co-locate their content on both their existing .com domains and the new .xxx domain, thus dramatically increasing pornography’s pollution of the Internet,” Hughes says.

Penny Young Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America, agrees.

“It will not isolate all pornography to one area, but it will cause parents to think the Internet is safe for children,” Nance says. “Worse, it continues to ease the seepage of pornography

into the popular culture.”

ICANN had rejected the application three times since 2000, partly under pressure from Christian groups concerned with the spread of online porn, according to Stuart Lawley, chief executive officer of ICM Registry LLC, which will manage the .xxx suffix. Lawley says the new address could easily attract a million sites.

Although implementation may not be until next year, 112,000 reservations already had been made before announcement of the decision.

guard your heart

Information provided in Guard Your Heart is reported so readers can make God-honoring entertainment decisions. Information should not be viewed as an endorsement or recommendation of item evaluated.

In the following movies the minimum number of times you’ll see or hear sexual content, violence/gore, profanity, disrespecting God, and alcohol, tobacco and drug use are listed. A complete archive and explanation of our ratings system is available at pe.ag.org.



Iron Man 2
 Rating: PG-13
 Sexual content: 4
 Violence/Gore: 10
 Crude language/Profanity: 12
 Disrespecting God: 8
 Alcohol, tobacco and drugs: 1



Robin Hood
 Rating: PG-13
 Sexual content: 5
 Violence/Gore: 12
 Crude language/Profanity: 7
 Disrespecting God: 3
 Alcohol, tobacco and drugs: 1

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher of the Year Honored

Sept. 26 is National Sunday School/Teacher Recognition Day in the Assemblies of God.

“The heroes of our faith include humble, sincere servants working in Sunday School classes and small groups,” says Dan Stanley, AG Discipleship Ministries training coordinator. “They are making an impact on the Church by following the Great Commission of Jesus to make disciples.”

The 2010 National Sunday School Teacher of the Year is



Peggy Sutherland of Industry (Ill.) Assembly of God. Sutherland has taught Sunday School at

the church for 35 years.

“Her diligence in studying the Bible as she prepares her lessons and her commitment to pray for her class has resulted in life-changing discipleship,” Stanley says. “One of Peggy’s great strengths has been her ability to build relationships with class members. Through mentoring and intentionally making time for dialogue in her classes, she has grown the kind of discipling relationships that make a difference in her students’ lives.”

“Each individual sitting there in class has something to give back to me if I just take time to listen,” Sutherland says.

For more information on teacher training, visit tec.ag.org.

Mentoring Future Men

Since 1962, Royal Rangers has pursued the mission of evangelizing boys for Christ, equipping them in a Christ-centered life, and empowering them for service to their families, church and communities. Through the years, countless men and boys have been changed by the power of the Holy Spirit through the efforts of faithful men and women who have committed themselves to lead boys into a maturing faith.

Today, Royal Rangers is expanding the scope of its ministry, reaching beyond the traditional camping-focused program to a more inclusive program format to reach boys with varying interests.

“Royal Rangers is a men-

toring ministry for future men, providing Christlike character formation and servant leadership development



for boys and young men in a highly relational and fun environment,” states the opening paragraph of the *2010 Royal Rangers Leader Manual*. “Our mission is to evangelize, equip and empower the next generation of Christlike men and lifelong servant leaders.”

Oct. 3-9 is National Royal Rangers Week in the Assemblies of God.

AG Website Updated

The Assemblies of God made significant updates to its national website structure. The main website, ag.org, has a new look as well as added features.

One of the main enhancements to the site is the creation of a national events page.

“This will allow us to provide a centralized spot for helping to connect our Fellowship, even those outside of our Fellowship, with all of the events that we host through the General Council and our many affiliated ministries,” says Tim Laffoon, digital communications coordinator. “We will also be including events that our district offices are involved in to help bring added exposure.”

Live-streamed events will also be added to the page so that viewers can connect to those events.

A new GC11 website, generalcouncil.ag.org, has been launched for the 54th General Council meeting in Phoenix, Aug. 1-5, 2011.

— Becca Dickson

it figures

Church Activities for Youth

Organized youth group offered by 78 percent of congregations

Youth retreats, conferences or camps sponsored by 78 percent

Youth minister or other leader coordinates activities at 75 percent

Congregational events planned or led by youth at 65 percent

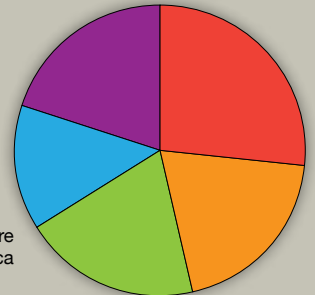
Youth serving on governing committees or boards at 42 percent

— American Congregations, Hartford Institute for Religion Research

Age of Moviegoers

- 2-17: 26.7 percent
- 18-24: 19.8 percent
- 25-39: 19.7 percent
- 40-49: 14 percent
- 50 plus: 19.8 percent

— Motion Picture Association of America



across the fellowship

Chi Alpha/National: Benson Hines has written a free Web book, available at ReachingtheCampusTribes.com, based on visits to 181 campuses in 44 states during 2007-08. In the fall of 2009, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries asked Hines to visit 10 Chi Alpha groups and write about his experiences. Gospel Publishing House has now published his book written from those visits, *Chi Alpha on Campus*. Hines remarks on his blog, ExploringCollegeMinistry.com: “Chi Alpha Campus Ministries very explicitly considers its staff missionaries. As I note in *Reaching the Campus Tribes* (p. 56), ‘The Assemblies of God promoted a missiological understanding of college ministry by declaring Chi Alpha to be a “campus mission” and moving its oversight from the denomination’s Youth Department to U.S. Missions in 1986. National leaders feel the change has significantly aided Chi Alpha’s growth since that time. I certainly can’t argue that every denomination needs to make this specific move, though it’s worth their consideration. But I can (and do) argue that American Christians will reach college students best when they approach it as a true missions effort. Chi Alpha has chosen to do that, and far more than just “on paper.” ’ ”

- 1 Exodus 15:22–26
- 2 Numbers 12:9–16
- 3 Numbers 21:4–9
- 4 Deuteronomy 32:36–40
- 5 2 Kings 4:18–25
- 6 2 Kings 4:26–31
- 7 2 Kings 4:32–37
- 8 2 Kings 20:1–7
- 9 Psalm 6:1–5
- 10 Psalm 30:1–5
- 11 Psalm 41:1–13
- 12 Psalm 103:1–5
- 13 Psalm 107:17–22
- 14 Isaiah 57:15–21
- 15 Matthew 4:18–25
- 16 Matthew 8:5–17
- 17 Matthew 9:1–8
- 18 Matthew 9:27–33
- 19 Matthew 15:21–31
- 20 Matthew 17:14–21
- 21 Mark 7:31–37
- 22 Mark 10:46–52
- 23 Luke 8:40–48
- 24 Luke 17:11–19
- 25 John 5:1–15
- 26 John 9:1–11
- 27 Acts 3:1–10
- 28 Acts 5:12–16
- 29 Acts 28:1–10
- 30 James 5:13–18
- 31 1 Peter 2:19–25



L I V I N G I T

Anti-Spyware for the Soul

On my computer I have an anti-spyware program. It checks for active components that are running behind the scenes, particularly when I'm on the Internet. These hidden programs — often placed by online companies to obtain information about their customers — can tie up valuable system resources and make the computer run much slower.

Anti-spyware looks for fingerprints of these “stowaway” programs. It detects them, and then allows me to quarantine and delete them. Like spyware, the influences of our media, society, reading material, work environments and friends can leave us with unproductive and even dangerous processes running in our minds and hearts. The Word of God helps us to identify and counteract these processes.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, NIV). The Word is the anti-spyware program for our hearts and minds. It can help us to identify and remove unproductive and harmful thought and life patterns.

The Spirit of God can also help us in this. Paul says in Romans 8:26,27: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”

Other tools can help you to identify harmful thinking: Christian fellowship, a solid, Bible-preaching church (a good message coupled with time at an altar can shake you free of a lot of junk) and accountable living. Don’t live an emotionally and relationally isolated life.

God never meant for us to take this journey of faith alone. Let the Word, the Spirit and the ministry of fellow believers reformat your thinking to be constantly Christ-honoring. Keep God’s anti-spyware operating in your soul.

RANDY MANTIKA is lead pastor at CrossPoint AG in Portage, Wis.

For more articles like this, visit pe.ag.org and select Daily Boost.

October: I BELIEVE
IN GOD



www.bgmc.ag.org
www.bgmckids.ag.org

K&S Fire!

Page

Hero to the rescue

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Some even have fur and paws. Take Buddy, for example. An explosion recently injured Buddy's owner and set a workshop near the house on fire. Neighbors saw the fire and called for help. But the home is in a remote area of Alaska, which made it hard for police officers and fire crews to find.

Luckily, Buddy sprang into action. The German shepherd ran through the woods and to the road. A police officer responding to the fire saw the dog and decided to follow him. Buddy led him right to the fire! The police officer was then able to direct fire trucks to the right place.



Firefighters arrived just in time to keep the blaze from spreading to the home.

They were also able to get medical help for Buddy's owner. For his good work, police officers gave Buddy a silver engraved doggie bowl.

When something is on fire, it normally burns up. But the Bible tells an amazing story about a burning bush. Even though it was on fire, the bush didn't burn up. Moses knew only God could perform such a miracle. God spoke to Moses about a special job He wanted him to do. Moses would lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt and into the land God promised.

Moses trusted God and did the things He instructed. Moses became a Bible hero because of his great faith in God.

"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27, NIV).

Maybe you will be a firefighter or police officer someday. But you don't have to wait until you're grown to be a hero. You can be a hero like Moses by making good choices and obeying God's Word.

Try this!

Organize a home fire drill. You should know what to do in case a fire breaks out in your house. Talk to the adults in your family about an escape plan. Try to identify two ways to exit each room. You should also agree on a safe place outside where everyone will meet after you leave the house. Write down your fire plan, and practice it with your family.

JUST FOR laughs

What comes when an insect has an emergency?
The firefly truck.

What do you get if you cross a dog with a bird?
An animal that chases airplanes.



Did you know?

Cabrillo, a dog in San Diego, California, barked one night until his owner woke up and saw that the neighbor's house was on fire. The dog's owner called 911, and the fire was put out. The fire department gave Cabrillo a box of dog treats.

Smoke rises. If you get caught in a smoke-filled building, get down near the floor. That way, you can breathe more easily as you make your way to an exit.

Enter to win!

Climbers use lightweight, metal clips called carabiners to connect ropes to their harnesses or to clip into anchors on rock walls. Add a key chain carabiner flashlight to your collection! (NOTE: Not intended for climbing use.) Enter online by Oct. 9 at pe.ag.org or mail an entry postmarked on or before that date to Carabiner Giveaway, Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802. Include a daytime phone number. You must have a parent's or guardian's permission to enter.



Tradition

“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!” (Mark 7:8,9, NIV)

Fiddler on the Roof has proven to be one of the most popular and enduring musicals in our culture.

The story is set in 1905, Czarist Russia. Tevye, the peasant dairyman, is father to five daughters. He attempts to maintain his family and religious traditions in the face of outside influences. He tries to cope with the edict of the Czar evicting Jews from their villages while also dealing with the challenges from the strong-willed actions of his three oldest daughters.

In one of the most famous songs from the musical, Tevye forcefully defends tradition and ends the song by saying: “Tradition. Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky ... as a fiddler on the roof!”

When Jesus talks about tradition it’s not because He has a problem with tradition. After all, He instituted the tradition of Communion at the Last Supper. His objection comes when tradition sets aside God’s commandments.

I grew up in an atmosphere that mixed warm spirituality with a lot of rules that mostly had the word “don’t” in front of them.

I could never understand, for example, why male ministers preached against women wearing red lipstick while they wore bright red ties. Historically, the reason evidently was that in the early part of the 20th century lipstick was an identifier of an immoral woman. I was a teenager at a camp meeting when the evangelist compared women wearing lipstick to an old barn. He said, “When you farmers

paint that barn red and it later catches on fire, the first thing that begins to crackle and peel is that red paint, and the same with you women when you get on fire for the Lord!”

The key always is learning to distinguish God’s commandments from human traditions.

I think of it this way. Suppose I want to ride my bicycle across town. You come to me and say, “But you cannot do that because riding your bicycle across town is a sin. It’s forbidden in God’s Word.”

I then go to the Bible and read it through and through, and I cannot find such a prohibition anywhere in Scripture. So I get back on my bicycle. You come to me again and say, “But I know it’s wrong for you to do that.”

So I get off my bike and again examine the Bible to see if there is any underlying principle that would prevent my riding my bicycle across town. Finding none, I get back on.

Then you come to me a third time: “But if you ride your bicycle across town people will see you, and some of them will lose their faith because of your bad example.” So I have to get off my bike for the third time and determine whether that is a true or false statement. If I would cause others to lose their faith, then I will forego riding my bike. But if I determine that others just want something to criticize, I’ll get back on my bicycle and happily ride across town.

When I think this way about what I should and should not do, I keep a healthy perspective on commandment and tradition.

GEORGE O. WOOD is general superintendent of the Assemblies of God. Visit OnYourMark.org for a link to On Your Mark video and audio podcasts with Dr. George O. Wood.

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

A prayer of response

Lord Jesus, may I never let observance of a tradition substitute for loving You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength; and loving my neighbor as myself.



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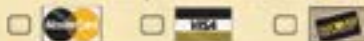
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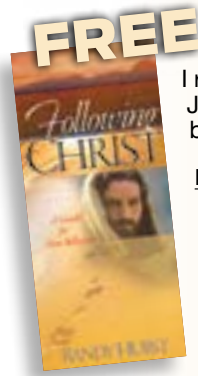
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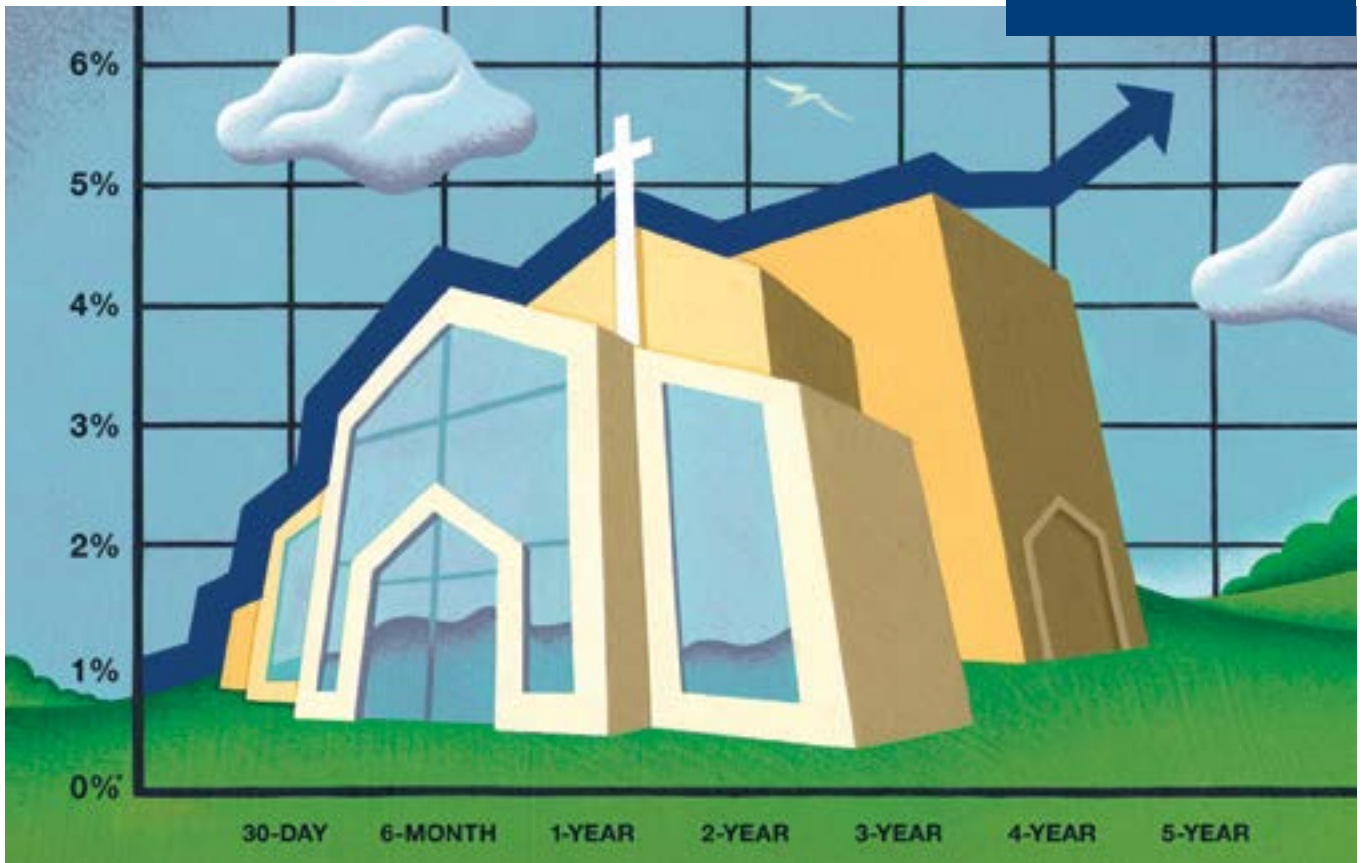
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