

# CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 01 ISSUE 02 FALL 2008

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Chi Alpha pioneers XA group in Central Eurasian country, and the work continues to flourish.

## 7 SPRING BREAK IN ATLANTA

Virginia Tech XA ministers to the inner-city of Atlanta with the Dream Center.

## 8 UPCOMING EVENTS

Make your own commitment to missions at the second World Missions Summit.

## Every student goes

## Every student goes. Every student gives. Every student prays.

It's the motto for Chi Alpha missions and a reality lived out by thousands of college students every year, both on U.S. soil and around the world.

Chi Alpha students are infused with the charge to go, give and pray as soon as they become a part of a Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship.

For decades, Chi Alpha students have embraced the mission to win their world for Christ — not waiting until they graduate, but becoming missionaries while they are still college students.

“We want to be different,” says Katie Moberg a senior from George Mason University. “We don’t want to be a social club. We want to become real brothers and sisters in Christ, and then we want to go out and minister to our campus and our city and our world.”

In this issue you’ll read stories of students like Katie — students who are going, giving and praying — and changing the world. One student at a time.



## FREE MAGAZINE

Call us and mention Chi Alpha Connections to receive one free copy of Chi Alpha's Expeditions magazine — a comprehensive publication on Chi Alpha missions 417.862.2781 x1425.



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## DIRECTOR'S DESK WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH MY LIFE?



**What group in our culture is the most idealistic, energetic and mobile? Answer: college students.**

Chi Alpha students are not just idealistic, energetic and mobile; they are also enthusiastic, compassionate, receptive and dedicated. Today's students are global and missional in perspective.

College students are engaged in completing the mission of Jesus: "To make disciples of all nations"<sup>1</sup> and "to seek and to save that which is lost."<sup>2</sup> Chi Alpha believes that the mission of Jesus is at the core of what it means to be the people of God.

In addition to the call to proclaim the gospel, we are called to live the gospel. Leonard Sweet, author and futurist, defines missional as "participating in the mission of Jesus in the world, to incarnate the experience of our lives and our communities the good news of God's love for the world."

When Chi Alpha students are given a challenge, they respond. Each year hundreds of our students have served in urban centers, remote areas and places where disasters have occurred in the United States and around the world.

What are your students doing with their lives? Encourage them to ask, "What does God want me to do? What is God doing, and how can I get in on it?"

The theme for the upcoming World Missions Summit is, "It's up to you!" There are many opportunities and genuine needs where students can make a difference. By virtue of age and education they comprise the greatest reservoir of manpower for the cause of Jesus Christ in the world. Use that age, idealism, energy and flexibility to advance the Kingdom.

Check out [xamissions.com](http://xamissions.com), request a copy of Chi Alpha's *Expeditions* magazine and join thousands of students at TWMS2 December 31, 2008 through January 2, 2009 in Cincinnati ([www.twms.org](http://www.twms.org)).

**Dennis Gaylor is national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries USA.**

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 28:19

<sup>2</sup> Luke 19:10



# CHI ALPHA AND THE WORLD

BY L. JOHN BUENO

Passing the torch of missions from one generation to the next is one of our greatest responsibilities and honors. It is vitally important that the mission Jesus gave to the Church — to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation — is carried on.

It encourages me to see students who have not only grasped the tremendous importance of the mission of the Church, but who are carrying it out with even more commitment and enthusiasm than past generations. We have young people saying, “Send us to the hard places; we want to go where the gospel has not been preached and where the challenge is the greatest.”

I’ve always said college students have greater adaptability to cross-cultural communications, because, in a sense, that is what they are used to. The college experience brings about the necessity for flexibility, change and adjustment to the different ideologies and cultures in our world. We can draw from their experience and use their talents and cultural adaptation in the areas of our world that are still unreached. In the last decade we have entered 57 new restricted-access countries. This presents a challenge to all of us responsible for making sure these nations and people groups have an adequate presentation of the gospel.

When you see the message of the gospel as a life-and-death issue, then you recognize the importance of preparing people who will be willing to accept the challenge and to make the necessary commitment to establish beachheads in the various nations of the world.

I have seen in my short time as executive director the influence and impact Chi Alpha students have made both in the United States and overseas. Many of our great missionaries today have come to us from Chi Alpha.

I believe this generation is up to the task. I am greatly encouraged by the commitment, faith and dispositions of students from our campuses who are willing to make a contribution not only here in the United States but around the world.



L. John Bueno is executive director of world missions for the Assemblies of God.

**Many of our great missionaries today have come to us through Chi Alpha.**

## WORLD MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

For hands-on opportunities:  
[www.goag.org](http://www.goag.org).

### Africa

[www.cryafrica.com](http://www.cryafrica.com)  
[www.africaoasisproject.org](http://www.africaoasisproject.org)

### Asia Pacific

[www.apregion.org](http://www.apregion.org)  
[www.asiaslittleones.org](http://www.asiaslittleones.org)  
[www.ccmp.cc](http://www.ccmp.cc)  
[www.apmedia.org](http://www.apmedia.org)  
[www.4youthinasia.org](http://www.4youthinasia.org)

### Eurasia

[www.iamnotatourist.org](http://www.iamnotatourist.org)  
[www.eurasiacommunity.org](http://www.eurasiacommunity.org)  
[www.euroneed.com](http://www.euroneed.com)

### Europe

[www.eyeoneurope.org](http://www.eyeoneurope.org)

### Latin America and Caribbean

[www.lacmin.org](http://www.lacmin.org)  
[www.mexicoag.org](http://www.mexicoag.org)  
[www.engageinmissions.com](http://www.engageinmissions.com)  
[www.pamsplace.wordpress.com](http://www.pamsplace.wordpress.com)

### Teaching English opportunity

[www.sunrisefoundation.com](http://www.sunrisefoundation.com)



# CHI ALPHASTAN

## GIVE A YEAR AND PRAY ABOUT A LIFETIME — LIVING CHI ALPHA'S MESSAGE IN CENTRAL EURASIA

**In 2006, Chi Alpha Global Missions Directors E. Scott and Crystal Martin led a team of 12 students on a 12-month missions trip to Central Eurasia, where they pioneer planted the first ever Chi Alpha in that part of the world. E. Scott wrote the following article from Central Eurasia to share with the national Chi Alpha family about the call that led the Martins to take this bold step of faith.**

We live in Central Eurasia now. Everyone asks us why we are here. With their question they are not asking, "What will we be doing?" but rather "Why?"

Why in the world would we move to Central Eurasia? Why would

we leave the comforts of a nice home, friends and finances in the United States? The people here don't understand it either. In the natural, it makes no sense at all.

We live in Central Eurasia because we are living Chi Alpha's message. My wife, Crystal, coined the phrase, "Give a year and pray about a lifetime," which has been declared to tens of thousands of university students and young adults. We have always endeavored to live our message. We wouldn't ever ask any of our students to do what we ourselves were not willing to do or hadn't already done.

About three years ago, the Lord spoke to Crystal and me that we were to model "give a year" to the Chi Alpha family. At that moment we began to prepare for the mission. We down-scaled our personal possessions, sold our car and raised the budget. We prepared National Chi Alpha for what we were about to do. We finally departed on August 9, 2006 and were a part of history as we were caught up in the London Heathrow terrorist alert.

Chialphastan with students from Central Eurasia's pioneer Chi Alpha group.



We have a team of 12 university student graduates from Chi Alpha and our AG universities who are joining us here in Central Eurasia to serve with us during this initial tenure.

Why are we here? The harvest is so plentiful around the globe; we just don't have enough workers to bring it in. The fruit daily rots on the vine. We all need to be harvesters around the globe to pick the fruit for our Father before it decays.

**We wouldn't  
ever ask any of our  
students to do what  
we ourselves are not  
willing to do or  
haven't done.**



E. Scott, Crystal, Marcus and Mercer Martin.

*The Martins and their team have been back in the United States for more than a year. But the work continues in Central Eurasia, where the Chi Alpha group they planted continues to flourish. E. Scott has returned six times as the Martins and their team stay dedicated to the work. This summer, a team of 28 Chi Alpha students from around Unites States spent two months in Central Eurasia coaching little league baseball and ministering to the children and families (see below).*

chi alpha

# GOD'S GAME

Chi Alpha is using some specialized skills to assist the Church in reaching children and families in Central Eurasia. We just completed our second year of a five-year commitment to facilitate official International Little League Baseball in a Muslim country. Twenty-eight Chi Alpha students gave two months of their summer serving as coaches, grounds keepers, managers and umpires. Their primary goal isn't just to teach the children baseball, although that happens with excellence. They are there gaining credibility for the local Assemblies of God church, making contacts with families and children and opening the doors of the gospel in the lives of nearly 150 kids.

Chi Alpha has secured a former Olympic training center in this post-Soviet Union republic. The field had no grass, no water and no electricity, but with the work of Chi Alpha and the assistance of various A/G churches and the Arizona District Women's Ministries they have now planted grass on two-thirds of the field, put in running water and have installed the first lights on the field in it's long

history. Chi Alpha has also provided all the uniforms and equipment for the league.



**"The Ducks" — the first official Little League team established in this former Soviet-bloc country. Baseball is proving to be God's Game in Central Eurasia, and Chi Alpha is leading the ministry.**

The country has no history of baseball. The children had only heard of or seen very little of the game on TV. But today Chi Alpha has suited out 10 teams of 15 students. Each team has four coaches who meet with the team five days per week. Strong relationships develop between the children and the coaches and God is opening powerful opportunities for our Chi Alpha students to share the gospel and speak into the lives of the

children as well as parents. After two seasons, the kids are playing great ball.

The local A/G church saw an average of more than 20 children from the Little League attend the church throughout the second season. These are kids who come from predominantly Muslim families who would never cross the threshold of a Christian institution without this influence. Chi Alpha has instituted God's Game in Central Eurasia.

— E. Scott Martin

“College students represent the most reachable, recruitable, trainable and sendable category of persons on the planet.”

— Steve Shadrach, founder of Student Mobilization, and author of “The Fuel and the Flame, Ten Keys to Ignite Your College Campus for Jesus Christ”

Chi Alpha's  
**Momentum**  
‘09 ● ● ● ●

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Friday, January 2, 2009  
Millennium Hotel  
Cincinnati, Ohio

A one-day Chi Alpha  
Staff Leadership Gathering  
following The World  
Missions Summit

► Reaching America's inner cities

# VIRGINIA TECH

partners with

# ATLANTA DREAM CENTER

BY ASHLI O'CONNELL

With a desperate passion to help reach America, Virginia Tech Campus Pastor Jon Rice presented a unique and ambitious missions idea to his students in 2007. The idea? Partner with the Atlanta Dream Center and International Church to win the city's streets for Christ.



Jon and Jenny Rice have been campus pastors at Virginia Tech since January 2005.

Rice took his first group of students to the Atlanta Dream Center over Spring Break of 2007. Six students went along. Neither Rice nor his students could have imagined the impact of the trip.

“It affected our students profoundly,” Rice says. “It completely changed their world.” The experience was so good for both Chi Alpha and the Dream Center that by 2008, the size of the team had doubled and VTXA had made a long-term commitment to the ministry. “I’ll never take a Spring Break team anywhere else,” says Rice. “We may go on other missions outreaches at other times, but we are 100 percent committed to the ministry of the Dream Center for our Spring Break trips.”

The Dream Center ministry includes outreaches that touch every segment of society – from the homeless to the affluent shoppers at the Underground Mall. And from prostitutes to cops.

Dream Center Ministry Director Patrick Palmer says the VTXA teams do everything from funding their work, to purchasing supplies, to hitting the streets and putting their faith in action. “We absolutely could not do what we do without ministry teams like Chi Alpha,” he says.



Senior Scott Colston befriends a child during the Metro Kidz outreach.

The students especially enjoyed participating in an outreach called, "Metro Kidz." The Dream Center takes a sound stage into housing projects and does children's services for kids. The ministry includes picking kids up, feeding them and giving them toiletries and clothing.

The Metro Kidz outreach affected the students so profoundly that when they returned home to campus they raised enough money to sponsor 9 children throughout the year. With the money raised, the Dream Center can continue to fund the Metro Kids outreaches — and they also buy each child sponsored a birthday and Christmas gift.

Other outreaches include things like walking the streets of Atlanta at night with hotdogs for homeless people — then talking with and praying for the homeless as they pass out the food.

One of the most effective ministries the students participate in is called "Princess Night." The students buy roses and greeting cards, and then drive around looking for prostitutes to give them to. After handing out the roses and cards, female students visit with the women and pray with them if the women are receptive.

Palmer currently has a member of his staff, Vicky, who was saved through Chi Alpha's Princess Night outreach in 2007. Vicky had been a prostitute for 16 years the night that a group of female students from VTXA met her on the streets.

She later came to the Dream Center as a direct result of her encounter with the Chi Alpha students. She is now clean and sober and off the streets. She is serving Jesus Christ and giving back to the Dream Center by working in their food services department.

Palmer and Rice both say one of the most incredible results of their partnership has been the effect on the Chi Alpha students themselves. "The students have really caught a vision," says Palmer. They've figured out it's not just about them. I've seen them take the ministries they've done in Atlanta and adapt them for ministry on their own campus. It's been incredible."



ASHLI O'CONNELL is managing editor of Chi Alpha Connection.

# THE GOAL OF U.S. MISSIONS



American culture is at war with the principles of living a godly, victorious life. Millions of people across all social, cultural and economic boundaries merely exist without Christ.

Thousands of people have seen the devastating effects of life without Jesus and stepped up to commit themselves to secure our mission to bring the gospel to every corner and hurting heart in America. They understand that we have only one mission: that none perish.



The goal of U.S. Missions is to communicate and connect those who are committed to impact our nation with the only Light that brings salvation, working together to reach America with the Gospel so that none perish.

Three hundred million people live in the United States. We have a mandate to reach them all.

— ZOLLIE L. SMITH, JR.,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF U.S. MISSIONS

See how U.S. Missions is meeting the need and how you can play a part at the following sites:

- [usmissions.ag.org](http://usmissions.ag.org)
- [chialpha.com](http://chialpha.com)
- [chaplains.ag.org](http://chaplains.ag.org)
- [intercultural.ag.org](http://intercultural.ag.org)
- [teenchallengeusa.com](http://teenchallengeusa.com)
- [usmaps.ag.org](http://usmaps.ag.org)

# XA ALUMNI CALLED TO CHILE AND CZECH REPUBLIC

Chi Alpha Connections celebrates with Sam Houston State University, which is watching two alumni couples head to the foreign field as missionaries.



Josh and Mayra Renfro both had their lives transformed while in Chi Alpha at Sam Houston State and are currently completing language school, preparing to pioneer university ministry in the nation of Chile.



Also in the preparation phase are Steven and Jennifer Cuttino,

alumni who heard the call to missions while students at Sam Houston. They will be pioneering university ministry in The Czech Republic.



## THE GREAT COMMISSION by the numbers:

- 6.5 billion: world population
- 2 billion: number of Christians in the world
- 80 percent: Number of non-Christians in the world who have never personally met a Christian.

## XA Missions '08 Report

	# of groups	# participating
U.S. trips	135	994
World trips	114	1,078

\*135 of 237 (57 percent) groups reporting

**52 & 48**  
U.S. destinations countries

THE WORLD MISSIONS SUMMIT2 • December 30, 2008 – January 1, 2009 • Cincinnati, Ohio • [WWW.TWMS.ORG](http://WWW.TWMS.ORG)

