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chi alpha

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PENTECOSTAL CAMPUS MINISTRY AND TODAY'S STUDENTS

Does being Assemblies of God, or
more generally Pentecostal, make a
difference in campus ministry?

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A New Resource available at the Chi Alpha Web site for those recently filled with the Holy Spirit: Now That You've Been Baptized in the Holy Spirit. This free online resource is produced by the Spiritual Empowerment Task Force led by Dick Schroeder, Chi Alpha Mentoring and Leadership Resource.

In Dick's warm story-telling approach, he gives you practical pointers on how to use the power of the Holy Spirit every day. Dick has interviewed many people to gain their insights and stories of the power of the Holy Spirit working through their lives. Out of this research, he has produced a year-long free weekly e-mail sequence available at www.yougottheholyspirit.com. Through the stories, he illustrates how to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit on campus, on the job, or in a small group. Your faith will be strengthened, questions will be answered, and you will be propelled forward in the adventure of walking in the Spirit.



DIRECTOR'S DESK

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PENTECOSTAL ON CAMPUS?

We encourage students to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This baptism or anointing of the Spirit empowers them to be witnesses and worshippers.

Being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit reflects Christ's work in our lives, His redemption and His lordship. We have repented and made a commitment to live our lives differently. We seek more than anything else to live a life of obedience to the lordship of Christ.

The Holy Spirit gives us power to live for Jesus and His purposes. Being Pentecostal gives us a hunger for the Word of God as evidenced by a strong commitment to read, study, learn and obey His commands.

We have a deep concern for the lost. We proclaim the Word centered on Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection. Evangelism and missions are integral to our faith.

We are committed to community and relationship marked by servanthood and love. Our love for God makes us dynamic worshippers and our love for people moves us to prayer and intercession.

We value the operation of the gifts of the Spirit and believe in healing and God's miraculous provision. We recognize spiritual strongholds and warfare and we live lives that challenge the culture.

This is what it means to be Pentecostal on campus. Yes, we encourage students to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but being Pentecostal is much larger. We are faith-focused, scripturally-literate, biblically-obedient, and Spirit-led.

A Pentecostal campus ministry, as described here, has the potential of shaking and reaching any campus for God.

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



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EDITOR

Dennis Gaylor

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dennis Gaylor, *national director*

Curtis Cole, *administrative director*

Harv Herman, *staff training and resource director*

Bob Marks, *missionary personnel director*

E. Scott Martin, *student missions director*

SUPPORT STAFF

Cheri Venturella

Kenna Bishop

David Bates, *graphic designer*

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Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802.

417.862.2781 x1425 • FAX 417.865.9947

WEB chialpha.com

Are our distinctives that important as we minister to today's student? As I observe and engage students every day on campus, I believe students are interested in the transcendent and are eager to experience God fully. Should we give greater emphasis and allow the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit to be more dynamic and operative in our campus meetings? Why?

Students are more spiritual than ever. As campus missionaries, we've all seen the statistics: 79% believe in God, 76% are searching for meaning/purpose in life, 80% are interested in spirituality¹, but when I sit down with one of these interested students, I find myself fighting the urge to stay in the spiritual shallow end. When I go deeper, instead of resistance, I find students are fascinated by a God who acts tangibly in our world today. It's usually the first step in them going deeper themselves.

To Pentecostals, the power of God is more than just words on a page—it's an essential part of the discipleship process!

Students are looking for more than words. We live in an information age. There's incredible material on any viewpoint instantly available to anyone with a broadband connection. Students listening to my message on a Thursday night can search for different opinions on their phones while they're listening. Now, don't get me wrong--information is important! When we stand before the people Jesus entrusted to us, we should know our stuff. As Pentecostals, we believe we are empowered with more than just knowledge. When we trust in a God who can do "more than we can ask or imagine"² the miraculous happens. That's hard to explain away.

Students are hungry for authenticity. I'm reading through the Bible this year and I am struck again by how supernatural it is. I've got to wonder if our authenticity-seeking students³ aren't asking why they haven't seen more of this. To Pentecostals, the power of God is more than just words on a page—it's an essential part of the discipleship process! Providing opportunities for our students to experience that power moves the miraculous from a marketing tool to reality.

Students have deep needs. Every year, the counseling center on my campus invites the chaplains for lunch to discuss the needs of the student population. At this year's meeting, we asked what trends the counselors were seeing. One shared that more and more students were arriving on campus with diagnosed psychological illnesses and a history of counseling and medication. The entire counseling staff nodded in agreement. I often need more than my time management skills when a student sits on my couch to talk to me about a problem. Many of them come to me with deep scars or life-controlling problems. They need to be set free from their sin or the consequences of the sinful acts of others. Counseling will always have its place. I'm privileged to have found a trained, Jesus-loving psychologist in the area who I can refer students to, but we believe in a God who can transform our minds. We need to invite them to experience that transformation.

How do we put this into practice? It's simply by providing space for the Holy Spirit. Seek the anointing of the Holy Spirit in your personal times of prayer. Open up space in your worship services for the Holy Spirit to meet needs. And finally, start talking about Him. It's not just a good idea. For student ministry today, it's essential.



Mike Godzwa is in his eleventh year as campus missionary, American University, Washington DC. He is a serious Yankees fan, and roasts his own coffee beans and takes coffee drinking very seriously. He is married to Jennifer, has 3 boys: Samuel, 5; Levi, 2; and Nathaniel, 1; and gets very little sleep.

¹ The Spiritual Life of College Students (<http://spirituality.ucla.edu/>), was conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (<http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/heri.html>)

² Ephesians 3:20

³ Mobile Youth Report, mobileyouth.org



NEW ORLEANS CAMPUSES TARGETED BY CHI ALPHA

BY JANET WALKER

“Today, buildings are repaired and filled, but the souls of students are still empty! Join us for the real re-birth of New Orleans!”

**(Eric Treuil, Director,
Louisiana Chi Alpha)**

Chi Alpha’s 2009 USA National Target is New Orleans university campuses. They include: Loyola University, Tulane University, University of New Orleans, Southern University of New Orleans, Dillard University, Xavier University, LSU Dental and Medical, and Delgado Community College.

New Orleans campuses closed temporarily in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina brought tremendous devastation to the city. Rebuilding their student enrollments has taken time, but this year Tulane, Loyola and Xavier — the city’s three major universities — saw a spike in the number of applications and freshmen enrollment.

“The renewed interest in New Orleans’ universities comes three years after Hurricane Katrina,” says Rick Jervis, *USA Today*. “As the city struggles to repopulate, booming numbers of college students are enrolling.”

“Now is definitely the time to reach these new students by capitalizing on the inroads we’ve already made on some of these campuses,” says Chi Alpha campus minister Matt DeGier. “We need to take the small groups that already exist to the next level. But to do so, we need more workers who will help us invest in mentoring students and expanding the outreach on these campuses and more in this city.”

Matt and his wife, Jen, are campus ministers and nationally-appointed AGUSM missionaries. They have worked on New Orleans campuses for the past five years, establishing small groups at Tulane, Loyola and UNO that range in size from 20 to 50 students.

“What makes the New Orleans campuses strategic is that the events of recent years have brought about some timely opportunities, and it’s important that we take advantage of those now,” says Matt.

Every year since Katrina, Chi Alpha student teams have traveled to the Gulf Coast to help with the relief work, according to Dennis Gaylor, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries USA National Director. At least 30 teams participated in the 2006-2007 academic year and more than 125 Chi Alpha students helped during 2007-2008. They came from several universities, including campuses in Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, New York, Texas and Washington.

During 2008 spring break, Matt Herman took a 10-member team from New York’s Cornell University to New Orleans. Matt and his wife, Tracy, are Chi Alpha directors at Cornell.

“We saw firsthand the destruction still visible in the ninth ward,” says Matt, “and helped several people in need, including a war veteran who needed someone to help paint his house so he could finally begin moving back in. On our trip back to Cornell, students talked about how this mission tested their patience but also challenged them to serve the basic needs of others in the name of Christ and reinforced their commitment to help, even when the task is overwhelming.”

Volunteerism among college students has surged in recent years, according to a recent annual UCLA study. More than two-thirds of the students surveyed believe “it is essential or very important to help others in need.”

New Orleans’ post-Katrina identity — as a place to go for young volunteers — may be the main reason for the increased student enrollment, say some speculators.

To pioneer and expand Chi Alpha ministry groups on the New Orleans campuses, the DeGiers and Eric Treuil need at least 25 volunteers to work with them from August 2009 to May 2010. They are looking for workers who have a servant heart and any of these helpful skills: general ministry, relational, clerical, graphic design, music and more.

“Each volunteer will need monthly support of \$1,400 to \$2,000 for living expenses,” says Matt, “and we will help them locate an apartment in the area.”

If you are a university student or graduate willing to give a year of service to help establish campus ministry in New Orleans, please

contact ET@LaChiAlpha.org for more information or to receive an application.

Janet Walker is a contributing freelance writer for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries USA.

HELP CHI ALPHA LAUNCH NEW GROUPS

You can contribute to targeting and planting new campus ministries each year. Monies given in 2009 will go to our New Orleans National Target.

Make checks payable to **Chi Alpha - New Orleans Natl. Target** and include account **6270755 (63) 700-001**

Chi Alpha
New Orleans
2009 National Chi Alpha Target

“AS THE CITY STRUGGLES TO REPOPULATE AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA, BOOMING NUMBERS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLING.”
USA TODAY, JULY 4, 2008

XAVIER UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
Tulane University
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Delgado COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHI ALPHA

WINTER 2009 **5**



MOMENTUM '09

On January 2, 2009, three hundred eighteen Chi Alpha leaders gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio, for Momentum '09, marking the largest gathering of Chi Alpha leaders in our history.

The day was marked with great food, reunions with old friends, and introductions to new friends. It was a time to pray together and speak into one another's lives. It was also a time to reflect on our past and to vision-cast for our future.

The highlight of Momentum '09 was the opportunity to honor seven long-term Chi Alpha servants, as pictured with their wives from left to right: Harv Herman, Dick Schroeder, Mark Randall, Greg and Madelaine Smith, Barbara and Dennis Gaylor, Brady Bobbink, and Libby and Dave Giles. For their service to Chi Alpha students, each of these men was presented with an honorary award and blessed by the testimony of good friends.

Great Lakes Chi Alpha Area Director Steve Lehmann said, "It really helped me appreciate the years of service and the sacrifices each of these men have made for their campuses."



The World Missions Summit 2

AG MISSIONS AND CHI ALPHA HOST 2ND STUDENT MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Thirty-six hundred college students and missionaries attended The World Missions Summit 2, held December 30, 2008, through January 1, 2009, at the Duke Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

During the event's five plenary sessions, attendees came together in one spirit to worship, hear God's message, and witness the global spiritual need via missionary video reports.

Staff and students from Sam Houston State University, one of Chi Alpha's largest campus ministries, led worship during the Gatherings while international Chi Alpha students from Southern Illinois University, representing fifteen nations and five continents, led worship during the "Prayer for the Nations."

From the sobering challenge to answer the call to the "inconvenient lost" to a challenge to "consecrate, commit and crucify" their lives as they follow God, students heard speakers powerfully reiterate the theme, *It's Up to Me*, throughout the summit.

Attendees were afforded different opportunities to learn about cultures around the world.

"Meals with a Missionary" brought missionaries and college students together for dialogue. As they ate together, the missionaries gave the students insight to their respective mission fields and shared how God called them to reach their target groups.

"Windows on the World" brought a sensory experience to the summit as sights, sounds and smells from the field were recreated in the exhibit hall. Taking students to a virtual mission field, an African village illustrated the interaction between a tribal chief and a missionary while a Eurasian market overflowing with people told the needs of Eurasia's many nations.

Several thousand students connected with missionaries in the large exhibit hall where opportunities for service were seemingly limitless. Each student's worldview was stretched as missionaries shared the extent of the spiritual need in the United States and around the globe.

The Holy Spirit moved students to make significant contributions to the cause of missions during this event. Attendees gave more than \$52,000 for student centers in Kyrgyzstan and New Orleans while eight hundred thirty-eight college students signed cards to "give a year and pray about a lifetime" following the message from E. Scott Martin, Chi Alpha's Global Student Missions Director.

No one left this summit unchanged.



ETERNITY WILL TELL

A Reponse to The World Missions Summit 2

BY H.L. HUSSMANN

I WAS IN THE BACK OF THE ARENA, WEEPING.

IT WASN'T THE POWERFUL MUSIC CAUSING ME TO WEEP, THOUGH IT RIVALED ANY CONFERENCE I'VE ATTENDED. IT WASN'T THE WORLD-CLASS SPEAKERS WHOSE STORIES GAVE ME GOOSE BUMPS. IT WASN'T EVEN THE PASSIONATE PRAYERS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ON THEIR FACES, SEEKING GOD.

I WEPT BECAUSE I SAW A VISION OF THE FUTURE.

Every life has the potential to change the world. Each person impacts others who, in turn, impact others. About two thousand years ago, a handful of people turned the world upside down, and today hundreds of millions follow Jesus. So, when eight hundred thirty-eight college students committed to “give a year and pray about a lifetime” of missions service, I couldn't help but cry.

This wasn't just an event, an altar call, or an emotional stirring. I witnessed hundreds of young people, informed of the cost yet telling God, “I am yours.”

The speakers had made it clear. Missions is a hard road. It's sweat, tears and perseverance. It's dying, dying and dying some more. And yet, students poured forward saying “I will go.”

Devin Shanley (Sam Houston State University) came with a heart for Cambodia and met missionaries to that country. That was the first step toward a lifetime of service.

Nathen Buffington (Louisiana Tech University) was skeptical when he arrived at the summit. After meals with the missionaries, attending encounters that highlighted global needs, and talking with others, he became convinced that God was calling. Now he has committed to one month of service near the Andes Mountains with the potential of serving much longer.

Michelle Tsai (Wright State University) cried throughout the Chinese New Year Encounter and is now headed to Northern Asia to serve at least one year.

Shann Nichols (Murray State University) came to the summit but had no one to direct him in his desire to serve in Romania. The Romanian missionaries he met were happy to help.

Over six hundred missionaries from around the world attended with just one goal in mind: To help students fulfill God's call.

“I don't know any other opportunity in the world where missionaries like myself can connect with so many people hungry to do God's will and willing to make the sacrifices necessary,” said Steve Turley, missionary to an atheist university in Brussels, Belgium.

Yes, I wept in the back of the arena because I know eternity will tell. These students will certainly change the world.



H.L. came to Christ as a student at Murray State University. Today he is a campus minister and evangelist at Murray State University, a videographer, a photographer, and the author of *God's Greatest Passion*. To sign-up for H.L.'s blog, <http://hlhussmann.blogspot.com>, email him at HL@murrayxa.com.





**REACH THE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE 2009
JUNE 14-20, 2009.**

CENTRAL BIBLE COLLEGE* SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

RUI 09 is strategic training for ministry on the secular university campus.

Instructors: Dr. Harv Herman, national staff training and resource director; Gina Archer, U of North Carolina; Curt Harlow, West Coast Area Director; Pete Bullette, U of Virginia; Paul Austin, Big Sky Area Director; E. Scott Martin, Global Student Missions Director; Bob Marks, Missionary Personnel Director; Sevo Lwali, Missouri State U.

Some of the topics to be covered are: Today's Student, What Does a Healthy Campus Ministry Look Like, Leadership Theory, Discipleship-The Jesus Model, Pentecostal Theology and Leadership, The Strategic Ministry, The Creative Communicator, The Healthy Campus Missionary, Creative Outreach, Discipling Student Leaders, Vision Creation,...

*Housing and meals are provided at Central Bible College.

For more information and costs:
www.chialpha.com/events/rui/2009



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CHI ALPHA
Campus Ministries, USA
1445 N. Boonville Ave
Springfield MO 65802