

CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4 SPRING 2015

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P A G E

WHY I BELIEVE IN SALTS AND WINTER CONFERENCES

BY STEVE LEHMANN

THE FIRST TIME I ATTENDED A CHI ALPHA WORSHIP SERVICE, MY CAMPUS PASTOR, JOE ZICKAFOOSE, ENCOURAGED US TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE CALLED SALT. I WAS A STUDENT STARTING MY FALL SEMESTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE IN 1986. THIS WAS MY FIRST CHI ALPHA WORSHIP SERVICE AND I HAD NEVER HEARD OF SALT BEFORE. I HAD VERY LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH CHI ALPHA IN GENERAL; HOWEVER, I WAS INTRIGUED AS JOE SPOKE ABOUT THE FOUR-DAY EVENT.

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SALT AND WINTER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE TOTALS

big sky SALT

- north—204
- south—92

great lakes SALT—650

great plains SALT

- north—640
- south—310

south central SALT—1,578

southeast SALT—365

northeast winter retreat—664

northwest winter camp—447

west coast SALT—342

Total: 5,292 (Students & Staff)



EDITORIAL

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN

I attended my first SALT conference in the summer of 1983. It was the inaugural West Coast SALT, and it would serve as the initial template for my understanding of Chi Alpha beyond our student-led group at The University of Arizona. Dick Foth and Brady Bobbink were keynote speakers at the conference, and I was completely enamored by their authenticity, Kingdom knowledge and their relatability. I had never encountered anything like this in my church experience. As I departed the SALT conference, I remember processing the impact it had on me and saying, “I want to be like them.”

I left there all in for Jesus and all in for Chi Alpha. SALT gave me a broader portrait of the movement of Chi Alpha. Prior to that experience, my image of Chi Alpha was the struggling group of hungry students at The University of Arizona. I received a revelation of what Chi Alpha could be and what we were called to be at The University of Arizona.

This same encounter has been replicated thousands of times over in Chi Alpha students throughout the years.

SALT provides a significant opportunity for students to see the Movement of Chi Alpha, the exchange of ministry ideas and implementation, Kingdom examples of worship and responses to godly challenges, as well as a powerful Kingdom environment. Things can be accomplished at SALT that may be more challenging on local a campus setting.

Chi Alpha is indebted to dozens of leaders down through the years who have invested themselves in our SALTs as coordinators/directors. These friends have sacrificially invested in making SALT an annual reality. Leaders like Steve Lehmann, our Great Lakes Area Director (author of this issue’s lead article), share in the salvations, Spirit-baptisms, and spiritual development in thousands of students’ lives.

Since my introduction to SALT in 1983, I have only missed attending SALT twice, and I was living in Central Asia both of those times! I trust each of you will encourage all of the students in your circle of influence to be a part of the broader Movement of Chi Alpha and attend SALT this year.

Oh, and I still aspire to be like Brady Bobbink.

E. SCOTT MARTIN is the seventh national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. He previously served as the Student Mission Director for 18 years. He has served with Chi Alpha since May 1986, where he pioneered Chi Alpha at The University of Arizona. He and his family, along with two great teams of “give a year” Chi Alpha volunteers, also pioneered Chi Alpha in Central Eurasia.



CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

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...that none perish



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SALTs and winter conferences occur throughout the country during Christmas break. Back then, as also happens at SALTs and winter conferences across the country today, hundreds of students, missionaries and workers would spend that time specifically seeking and hearing from God in a very focused way. Various breakout sessions, directed prayer times and small group interactions made for deep and lasting times with God, as well as lasting and genuine friendships.

Later that week, Joe and his wife Jayne met with me and asked if I was going to attend SALT. Joe wanted to know how he could help me attend. He encouraged me to set aside time and finances to go, and he also let me know that he would make available a partial financial scholarship to make sure I got there. Even though I was a bit unsure and didn't really know these people very well, I consented to go. I am forever glad I did.

Four months later, I sat in a room with college students and missionary staff from many different campuses as we waited for the SALT conference to begin. There was a vibe in the room that was palatable even before the meeting started. When the worship session began, I looked around amazed as I saw students crying out to God with holy passion and authenticity. The preaching of the Word brought scores of us to the altar. It was powerful.

Over the next few days, our little fellowship was impacted in a number of ways.

First, we met God in a way that probably would not have been possible in a regular main meeting or a retreat. There was something special about going on a pilgrimage with God and being in a place where the distractions of everyday life were lessened. Joe encouraged us to be prayerfully prepared for SALT and come with specific things we wanted God to speak to us about. We were not disappointed. God was there, and He met us powerfully.

Second, SALT bound us together as a family. Not only did we as a fellowship grow together, but I also met students and staff from other campuses and states who challenged me to grow. We became life-long friends. SALT made us aware that Chi Alpha was much bigger than our local ministry.

By being around people from other campuses and being exposed to other campus missionaries' teachings, there was a process of cross-pollination that took place. We came away from SALT that year with fresh ideas, concepts and visions to reach our campus as we heard how other people were reaching theirs. We were reinvigorated to reach our university for Christ together as changed individuals and a closer body of believers.

SALT 1986 was a long time ago, but the things that happened then are still happening today at SALTs and winter conferences all over the country. Over my 29-year involvement in Chi Alpha as a university student, local university missionary, state director and area director, I have come to see the value of SALT in ever-increasing measure. As you read the stories in this issue, it is my hope that God will stir your heart with this thought: What could happen if this year, thousands of university students across the nation who have never attended a SALT or winter conference were to attend? Just think of how their eternal destinies, as well as the destinies of our nation and other nations, would be forever changed as students meet God at SALT.

Steve and his wife Belkis have two children, Sofia and Gabriel.



He is a reader of history, a musician, a fair-to-average hunter, a church planter and a trainer of leaders. He has been involved in full time ministry since 1985 with 25 of those years in university missions.

SALT & WINTER
Conferences



*Big Sky
North*



*Northwest
WINTER
Camp*



*Great
PLAINS SOUTH*

BIG SKY
South



NORTHEAST *Winter* RETREAT





GREAT *Lakes*



GREAT *Plains* NORTH



southeast



West COAST

'SOUTH *Central*



The feedONE challenge

FAITH = ACTION

Many people spend part of New Year's Eve getting ready for parties and get-togethers and thinking about their New Year's resolutions. But students attending the Southeast SALT conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, instead spent part of their New Year's Eve helping strangers in a city they were only visiting for a few days.

One group of students came across an elderly woman using a walker in downtown Chattanooga. They noticed she didn't look well. The students were instructed to ask passersby, "If going into the New Year, you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?" She replied, "Honey, my body aches all over from sleeping on the floor for over a year, and if I could just find a bed, I know I'd be so much better."

After praying for her, the students skipped dinner, giving them two more hours to find and deliver a bed to this hurting woman. This group of students understood what it meant to put faith into action—to know God's will and carry it out with sacrifice and a servant's heart.

I sat at my desk the week before Great Plains South SALT previewing a video feedONE Vice President Jeff Roman just sent me to use during his presentation. As I watched it, I absolutely knew we made the right decision to take up an offering for this ministry at our first Great Plains South SALT conference. FeedONE is a ministry of Convoy of Hope that feeds hungry children all over the world. Donating ten dollars to feedONE feeds one child for a month.

To say the least, the video, simply titled "Kate's Story," is a moving and compelling story. It is one story out of 147,000 already written by this incredible ministry. I knew when everyone at the conference saw this video and learned more about what our partner organization was doing around the world, we had an opportunity to help write many more stories.

"If you can't feed a hundred, then just feed one."

—Mother Theresa

I was hoping for a \$6,000 offering, but was quickly called out by my peers for my lack of faith. My goal was just that—*my* goal. I knew we could raise that much, considering the history of giving at previous Great Plains SALT conferences. However, after a brief discussion with my incredible team, we stated our goal as \$9,000, confident we could challenge the students to feed 75 kids for a year.

After issuing the challenge, we raised more than \$12,900, which will help feed more than 100 kids for a year! I'm so proud of the hearts of the college students. With just more than 300 in attendance, every student gave more than \$40 on average. They sacrificed greatly.

As exciting and important as this was, the bigger win for us wasn't just the addition of feeding

more than 100 children around the world—we were going for multiplication and wanted a ripple effect to start in the Great Plains.

With the ripple effect in mind, we challenged our students to share this opportunity on social media so others could join in. Also, we knew if we could get each of the 18 or so groups at the conference to commit to this ministry throughout the year, we would be successful. We wanted each Chi Alpha ministry to feed hundreds of children.

We couldn't have done it without the help of some of the Chi Alpha pastors who had their hands involved and hearts invested in feedONE. These pastors and others expressed their excitement even after SALT, and they are encouraging their students to continue to give to feedONE. The ripple effect is happening!

What about you personally, your local Chi Alpha group or your local church? Will you join in on this multiplying movement to not only see hundreds, but also thousands of children around the world impacted by Chi Alpha and feedONE? Your community is just as ready as the students at our SALT were to give to something that truly matters and makes a huge difference.



Brad Novosad is the district Chi Alpha director in Nebraska and SALT director for the southern Great Plains Area. He is also the National Assessment Team Leader for the Church Multiplication

Network. After dragging his family around the country to work with Chi Alpha in Missouri, North Carolina and Colorado, they've settled back home in Huskerland. He has a beautiful wife of 21 years, Shelley, and four amazing kids.

THE WAITING LIST FILM PROJECT

Chi Alpha and feedONE are partnering together to produce an episodic documentary about the journey of how students are helping to eradicate the waiting list of hungry children.

Visit thewaitinglistfilm.com for more details regarding this exciting project.

For more information about feedONE, visit feedone.com.



YOU CAN HELP

Donate to Chi Alpha SALTs and Winter Conferences so you can give students—some for the first time—a God-experience like never before.

Give online at chialpha.com/SALTgiving.

CHI ALPHA IN THE NEWS

The Chi Alpha chapter at California State University, Stanislaus has been making headlines lately. The reason? The group was kicked off campus for “religious discrimination,” requiring its leaders to share certain Christian beliefs. For the most up-to-date information on this case, please visit www.beckeffund.org/chi-alpha-v-cal-state.



SAUDI STUDENT SALT STORY

Stepping foot on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, I knew that God had big things planned for the new Chi Alpha plant. However, I never expected to see Him move as swiftly as He did. Halfway through the fall semester at UALR, I met a Saudi Arabian student. He came to one of our Thursday night services by invitation of a student who regularly attended. At that service, he was able to meet and see the family of believers at Chi Alpha that God was assembling together. He had never seen or experienced anything like it. Intrigued, he continued to come week after week. Being a foreign exchange student from Saudi Arabia in his senior year at UALR, he professed a faith in Islam and devotion to Allah. But being around Chi Alpha students and seeing the love they had for Jesus sparked a curiosity that needed to be filled.

I began meeting with him in one-on-one settings where we talked about his life in Saudi Arabia and the many questions he had about Jesus. I remember the day he received a parallel Bible that had Arabic and English translations so he could better understand Scripture. He was so excited. He didn't want to put it down. In his words he said, “I just want to know everything it says in here.”

With our upcoming South Central SALT conference approaching, some of the involved students invited him to attend with our group. Without hesitation, he accepted and had expectations set on learning more about Jesus. Little did he know, Jesus would become more real to him than he ever expected. We packed our bags and headed to Dallas for a week to spend with students from all over the South Central Chi Alpha region. One night in the evening service at SALT changed his life. He had attended several breakout sessions, and heard many people teaching and preaching about Jesus and the Christian faith. But he still had reservations and still needed to know Jesus was real.

He explains what happened at the altar that night, “There was a man standing at a distance dressed in

all white. He held a scepter in his hand. I wanted to speak to him but I wasn't sure I was allowed to. But in that moment, I knew it was Jesus because I had just asked him to show himself to me.” With so much excitement afterwards, he accepted Jesus. He rushed to share this with me and the other staff members. He had so many questions and still does to this day. But now he knows and trusts in Jesus above all.

Knowing that he once was Muslim and a very devout one, things would not be easy for him. In accepting Jesus, he knew his life was about to change drastically. His family, who still lives in Saudi Arabia, would probably not understand. But as he would say, “It's ok. I have to go back home and share this with everyone there: My family, my friends, whoever will listen.” When asked about the potential harm and threats that could come due to his profession of Christianity, he would say, “I'm not afraid, because I know that Jesus is with me. He never leaves me.”

Meeting with him and seeing him walk out his ever-increasing life with Jesus is so challenging. I'm amazed daily at how Jesus is revealing himself to him and continuing to show him his character and goodness. He is at Chi Alpha every week and walks in a boldness to share Christ with whoever may cross his path. With his Bible with him wherever he goes, he is growing into a devout follower of Jesus and his words.

PRAY FOR THIS STUDENT AND HIS JOURNEY. HE GRADUATES FROM UALR IN MAY AND PLANS TO RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA TO SHARE JESUS WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS HE CAN.



CODY GRIGGS is the campus pastor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has been involved with Chi Alpha for more than six years now. He is very excited about what God is doing in university students in Little Rock.

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