

XAi

WATER BOTTLE

HELPS HINDU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECEIVE LIVING WATER

God is at work and His timing is perfect. He has absolutely thrown open the doors to the international community at Eastern Illinois University and it all started with a teal XAi water bottle.

At EIU, we set up a contact table in the student union from time to time, hand out XAi water bottles to international students, and engage them in conversation. One day in mid-January, an international graduate student from India curiously asks about our table.

I let him know we're a campus ministry reconciling students to Jesus Christ and ask him his name. He introduces himself as Veera Venkata Satya Kiran Chowdary Matyala, but says his friends call him Kiran (pronounced key-din).

I tell Kiran my name and give him one of the teal XAi water bottles, saying they are for international students. With excitement, he runs into the food court and brings all of his Indian friends, who completely clean us out of all the water bottles we brought.

Despite being Hindu, Kiran began coming to our men's Life Group on Tuesday nights and started attending church on Sundays. A few months after we met, he tells me, "Mark, my soul is now Christian." Typically, it takes a long time for Hindus to fully leave their faith because it has been in their families for generations.

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Our new XAi Director introduces himself and gives a glimpse of his testimony.

P A G E

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Read about our new Cross-Cultural Missions Director.

P A G E



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& Telethon



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CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

Volume 9 / Issue 1 / Summer 2016

EDITOR

E. Scott Martin

NATIONAL CHI ALPHA

E. Scott Martin, *national director*
Stefanie Chappell, *field director*
Nathan Cole, *operations director*
Harvey Herman, *program director*
Severin Lwali, *XA internationals director*
Bob Marks, *missionary personnel director*
Crystal Martin, *cross-cultural missions director*
Craig Woodham, *expeditions director*

SUPPORT STAFF

Cary Bates, *graphic designer*
Delyn Cole, *coaching and assessment specialist*
Branor Cranor, *communications and marketing manager*
Stephanie Frieze, *accounting specialist*
Samuel Gingerich, *conference and events assistant*
Karissa Jefferson, *administrative coordinator*
Sharon Lemons, *accounting specialist*
Melanie Lynch, *missionary product and resource specialist*
Gary Paschal, *conference and event specialist*
Cherie Venturella, *missionary personnel and records coordinator*
Yisrael Vincent, *department finance specialist*
April Woodham, *operations administrative coordinator*

Chi Alpha Connection is a quarterly publication
of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions
1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802.
417.862.2781 x1425 • FAX 417.865.9947
WEB chialpha.com

Special thanks to BGMCM for funding this project.

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EDITORIAL

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN

We minister to the most strategic mission field in the world! You have heard me pronounce this multiple times, but it is true. But what qualifies the secular university as the most strategic mission field in the world? I suggest that it is the presence of every religion, race, creed and culture represented on this single venue and we as Chi Alpha have the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus with these students. I have realized that as I single out “every religion, race, creed and culture” I am pointing to the nearly one million international students studying on the campuses in the United States of America.

We have an unprecedented number of international students attending our universities, thus we have an unprecedented responsibility to share the Kingdom of God with our foreign student guests. The number of Muslim students coming from restricted access countries is staggering. We must prioritize XAi.

For the past five years Crystal Martin has emphasized making XAi integral to what Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is; at every level of the ministry. The “Is the i in you?” motto has been embedded in our Movement and in every RUI student, shifting the thought of international student ministry as a subsidiary to a primary ministry. Cross-Cultural Missions is one of the four pieces identifying Chi Alpha Campus Ministries as healthy. If as a Chi Alpha group we are not teaching our students to love the nations and reach international students, we as Chi Alpha Campus Ministries are not healthy.

We are at an historic moment in Chi Alpha. Crystal has presciently passed leadership of XAi to Severin Lwali in the role of National Chi Alpha XAi Director, as of today we are the only national campus ministry being led by a former international student to the U.S.A. Severin attended Missouri State University as an international student from Kenya. His life was deeply impacted by the ministry of Chi Alpha through Joe Zickafoose and the Chi Alpha staff at MSU. Severin is a man of deep spiritual convictions and integrity who is committed at all costs to the obedience of Jesus.

As Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, let’s be healthy, reconciling international students to Christ.

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 on 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.

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Through our friendship with Kiran and a local pastor from India, we started connecting with other Indian students and the Lord led us to have an authentic Indian dinner on Good Friday. We weren't sure how many students would show up but by the end of the night, 150 international students came. They all had a good time and asked if we would continue these dinners each month.

It wasn't until after we agreed to hold these monthly dinners that we realized our dilemma: Each dinner would cost \$700 to pull off. But decided we must host these events and connect with these students for the sake of the gospel. We confidently believe God will financially provide for our international student ministry.

God spoke to my wife and I, telling us to co-lead an Expeditions missions team to India. This summer, we will take seven American students to Ongole, India for two weeks. Although we're expectant God will use us in India as we work in an orphanage and host a pastors leadership conference, this trip is as much about learning everything we can about the culture, society, and religions there.

India is 80 percent Hindu, 15 percent Muslim, and only 2.2 percent are evangelical Christian. Our desire is to come back to EIU this fall and minister to students like Kiran in a greater way. There are almost 200 students from the Ongole area at EIU and the second most spoken language here in Charleston, Illinois is Telugu, one of the national languages of India. Walls will be broken down when we share that we've walked down the streets where these Indian international students grew up.

Jenn and I recently began hosting international students at our house for dinner, games, and fellowship. Through that, our influence on campus has expanded to even more countries: Nigeria, Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. The nations of the world are reachable on the college campus!

Two of Kiran's names, Veer and Venkata, were given to him by his parents to honor these two Hindu gods. When Kiran decided to follow Jesus, he gave up his identity—his very name—and has disowned his parents' wishes. But now Kiran has a new identity in Jesus and is growing in his newfound faith.



MARK AND JENN BETTINGER are the directors of Chi Alpha at Eastern Illinois University where they pioneered this past year. They live in Charleston with their three children Mady, Sam and, Hannah.





from *friendship*
to
Leadership:

BECOMING THE XAi DIRECTOR

I vividly remember the sights, sounds, and smells as I stepped off the plane in New York City on June 4, 1996. Coming from Kenya to become an international student in the United States was a dream come true, but I was full of nerves and uncertainty, not knowing what God had in store.

I became a believer in 1992 following many years of prayer by my older sister, Clare, who had radically committed her life to the Lord and was baptized in the Holy Spirit while she was an international student in India. Clare invited me to her church where God, through His Spirit, reminded me of a recurring dream. I was carrying a Bible, experiencing the love and joy of the Lord as I was sharing the Gospel with all the students on my boarding high school campus. I remember waking from this dream knowing that this was not true and that I was headed for hell. That day in church, though, God met me and I fully committed my life to Him. The next school term, I got to see that dream come true! I love that my own faith story involves the prayers and witness of an international student!

As a believer, I was looking for a Spirit-filled community I could be connected with at Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University). I had never heard of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, but on a walk one day I felt nudged by the Holy Spirit to go check it out. I hesitantly went into the Chi Alpha house and met then campus pastor Joe Zickafoose. I promptly interviewed him

and asked him what I had asked four other campus pastors before him: Do you believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit? I came that evening for the summer Chi Alpha meeting and immediately got plugged in.

Southwest Missouri State Chi Alpha was such a godsend to me. This community believed in me and encouraged me to serve and lead through worship team, small groups, speaking at large group meetings, and being president of Missouri State Chi Alpha, coming out to my MSU soccer games to cheer us on to be the first ever undefeated regular season and conference MSU soccer champs. They took major risks on this Kenyan with a heavy accent and modeled what it means to seeing international students move from friendship to leadership!

During my involvement as a Chi Alpha student, God made me aware of the plans He had for my life through experiences, conversations, conferences, and key relationships. Barry Chole, my mentor and former XAi Director, was instrumental in helping me take the next steps in my life.

My wife Kristina and I met in MSU Chi Alpha and married in 2003. We did our internship at Missouri State in 2004. We served on staff there as nationally appointed missionaries from 2005 to 2015 where we saw close to 50 international students saved or rededicate their lives to Christ and many more water baptized. During this time, we



were challenged to always keep in view the big picture of the larger number of international students in the U.S. and not just MSU.

In 2015, as we were planning for the next ten years at MSU and itinerating, the Lord blind-sided Kristina and I by confirming at different times unbeknownst to each other that our time at MSU was over and He was effectively moving us on. It was then that we interviewed and were accepted into the new role as XAi Specialists. Not even a year later, I went through the application and interview process again to become the XAi Director.

God brings to us the leaders of the world, those that will impact their nations with the express purpose of them being exposed to the love of God and to be discipled. What Chi Alpha does works for the international student, albeit with some contextualization. I pray, building on what Crystal Martin and many other great XAi directors before me have done, that we will increase significantly Chi Alpha's reach to the almost one million international students in the United States. I envision Chi Alpha loving and serving, proclaiming the gospel to and making disciples of all nations on every campus we are found on that has international students!

SEVERIN LWALI was recently named Chi Alpha's new XAi Director. He and his wife Kristina have four children: Imani (8), Joshua (7), Severin II (5), and Asali (3).

DISCOVER THE NATIONS



Two years ago I started off the opening session of Discover the Nations Northwest saying, "We see every Chi Alpha ministry loving and serving international students, proclaiming Christ, and discipling the nations."

One of the attendees, a CMIT who came reluctantly because it was mandatory, almost cried when she heard me speak these words. She wanted to be a Chi Alpha missionary, but this wasn't her vision. She was afraid of being disqualified from being sent, or having to constantly battle an expectation that she didn't want to meet.

Thirty-six hours later, she couldn't wait to get back on campus and tell international students about Jesus.

Today, this Chi Alpha missionary is in her second year of pioneering Chi Alpha at the fastest growing campus in Washington. She actively seeks out international students to build relationships with, and the majority of her ministry last year was with international students.

This year, God kept bringing Japanese students into the lives of their staff and students, and they found a way to be missionaries to Japan without leaving their campus! When a Japanese student decided to follow Jesus this year, everyone rejoiced! He was required for his degree to do an internship in a field of his choosing, so he asked his professor, "Can I do an internship with Chi Alpha? I want to work for the Lord!" He'll be getting credit to give 220 hours of volunteer service to Chi Alpha—the people who gave him the gift of a relationship with God.

XAi in the Pacific Northwest has exploded in the past few years. At Discover the Nations, we simply make people aware of international students' needs, declare their potential for the Kingdom of God, and give people the confidence that they can indeed touch the life of an international student. You'd be surprised how fast God can change a person's heart!



JONATHAN LYTLE is on staff at Western Washington University. He and his wife Elizabeth have a two-year-old daughter, Lucy.

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

In the 1914 General Council minutes, Brother L. C. Hall presented the following resolution: "As a Council, we hereby express our gratitude to God for His great blessing upon the movement in the past...we commit ourselves...for the greatest evangelism that the world has ever seen." Chi Alpha takes Christ's Great Commission to be centric in all we do. This commitment of global evangelization is reflected in our mission statement: "Our mission is to reconcile student to Christ,

equipping them through Holy Spirit-filled communities of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship and missions to transform the university the marketplace and the world."

When we use the word "missions," we mean the deliberate expansion of the Kingdom of God through reaching the spiritually lost, planting new Kingdom outposts, training leaders on the campus and throughout the world to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, and touching the poor

and suffering with the compassion of Christ and inviting them to become His followers.

Chi Alpha holds the veritable potential for world transformation. We challenge and call every student to be involved in cross-cultural missions. Equipping for this challenge and call is an integral part of every Chi Alpha group through strategic discipleship and training.

Excerpt taken from paper adopted by *The Guiding Coalition*.



We encourage every student to go, give, pray and welcome both on the university campus and everywhere around the world.





“THE CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR LEADS OUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY TO FORM STUDENTS AND STAFF INTO LIFE-LONG MISSIONAL WITNESSES BY ENGAGING THEM TO CROSS BOUNDARIES OF CULTURE, GEOGRAPHY, LANGUAGE, NATIONALITY, ETHNICITY, AND RACE.”

THE PERFECT FIT FOR A STRATEGIC ROLE

It with great enthusiasm we announce Crystal Martin as the newly appointed national Cross-Cultural Missions Director (CCMD) for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. The CCMD leads our organizational strategy to form students and staff into life-long missional witnesses by engaging them to cross boundaries of culture, geography, language, nationality, ethnicity, and race.

A fundamental conviction supporting the mission of Chi Alpha is when you “change a student, you change the world.” Chi Alpha exists to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission by “making disciples of all nations,” (Matthew 28:19). Chi Alpha accepts Jesus’ mission as both its originating impulse and its organizing principle. Further, we are convinced the most strategic way to accomplish world change is by reconciling university students to Christ. It is not possible to touch the life of a university student without having a global impact, for that is what American universities do—they change the world.

In this new role, Crystal will assess the current and future missiological implementation demands of our missionary staff and student leaders through proven research methods and by evaluating our strengths and weaknesses. She will direct a cross-cultural missions team, and together they will foster a national culture characterized by open-minded thought, cultural

sensitivity, optimism and authenticity, and demonstrate the ability to deal with diversity and complexity.

Key to this role, Crystal will develop strategic relationships between the Chi Alpha cross-cultural missions team and Assemblies of God World Missions leaders and missionaries.

To say Crystal is well prepared to step into this role is a grand understatement.

She with her husband Scott pioneered the student missions program of Chi Alpha some 20 years ago that is today sending thousands of students into missions around the globe.

Together they are the brainchild behind the immensely effective World Missions Summit conferences that are recruiting hundreds of students to “give a year and pray about a lifetime” for national and global missionary service. Then, for the previous five years she served as Chi Alpha’s director for international student ministry (XAI).

Considering Crystal’s background and her vision for student missions, we are convinced national Chi Alpha will play a dramatically increased and strategically positioned role in God’s end time harvest.

“TO SAY CRYSTAL IS WELL PREPARED TO STEP INTO THIS ROLE IS A GRAND UNDERSTATEMENT.”

“IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO TOUCH THE LIFE OF A UNIVERSITY STUDENT WITHOUT HAVING A GLOBAL IMPACT, FOR THAT IS WHAT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES DO—THEY CHANGE THE WORLD.”



DR. HARVEY HERMAN is the Program Director for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. Over the past four decades, he pioneered four Chi Alpha groups, pastored a university church in Seattle and is the author of *Discipleship by Design*. Harv and his wife Sally have two married children and five grandchildren.

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