

# CONNECTION

CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2, WINTER 2017



CARSON WENTZ

**ACT 1**  
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Photo courtesy of the Philadelphia Eagles



## CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

Volume 9 / Issue 2 / Winter 2017

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...that none perish

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# EDITORIAL

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. is the largest Pentecostal campus mission in America with a presence on 312 campuses with the potential to expand to 1,000 more.

For 63 years, Chi Alpha has been committed to reconciling students to Christ. In the face of unprecedented change on our university campuses, we remain constant. We remain relevant to a new generation of students and we remain unwavering in our mission.

Our legacy is reflected in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students who have been reconciled to Christ in the midst of the immense challenges and hostile environments on campus. Our impact is on display as a light in the darkness as students abandon their old lives and take up a new life with Christ at the center. Our investment in the lives of students has resulted in changed lives around the world.

The secular university is the fulcrum of all global and societal evolution. Future world leaders are coming to our American campuses eager to learn and our campuses are facing some of its greatest challenges yet. The Chi Alpha Foundation 20/20 Vision Campaign is your opportunity to be a part of God's perfect vision for the most strategic mission field, the university campus. Will you join us?

Extending His Kingdom,

E. Scott Martin, National Senior Director

**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.



# THE CHI ALPHA FOUNDATION LAUNCHES IN 2017 WITH THREE BOLD INITIATIVES

1

Leverage our sixty-year investment by profoundly increasing our organizational capacity to facilitate the anticipated growth resulting from the greatest student awakening.

2

Accelerate growth through the pioneering of new campus groups, support the health of our missionaries and ministries, and promote diversity through the mobilization of minority leaders.

3

Invest in the future student generations through the startup of the Chi Alpha Foundation Endowment Fund and the National Chi Alpha Alumni Association.



# CHI ALPHA FOUNDATION

## 20/20 VISION FOUR-YEAR CAMPAIGN

The Chi Alpha Foundation exists to support the efforts of the national movement of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

This four-year initiative focuses on the resources needed for the years to come. Our goal is to raise \$13 million, which will require the prayers and generous support of all those who see the role of Chi Alpha as critical to reconciling students to Christ on our college and university campuses.

The Chi Alpha Advancement Advisory Group approved moving forward with this plan to preserve Chi Alpha and invest in the future. The following giving opportunities are available and we invite you to join us.

### 2017 - 2020 BUDGET

#### INCREASE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY \$10,000,000

\$4,800,000 COMMITTED TO DATE, 48% TO GOAL

Student evangelism and discipleship (40%)	\$4,000,000
Missionary recruitment and training (20%)	\$2,000,000
Missionary professional development (10%)	\$1,000,000
Student missions (10%)	\$1,000,000
Chi Alpha Internationals - XAi (10%)	\$1,000,000
Administrative support (10%)	\$1,000,000

#### ACCELERATE GROWTH & DIVERSITY \$1,500,000

\$80,000 COMMITTED TO DATE, 5% TO GOAL

Pioneering on new campuses	\$1,000,000
Mobilizing minority leaders	\$500,000

#### INVEST IN THE FUTURE \$1,500,000

\$40,000 COMMITTED TO DATE, 4% TO GOAL

Chi Alpha Foundation Endowment Fund	\$1,000,000
National Chi Alpha Alumni Association	\$500,000

#### TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL \$13,000,000







The National Chi Alpha Alumni Association officially launched on January 1, 2016 with 5,000 alumni joining the Facebook group in less than 48 hours! Since then, the Alumni Association has crossed the country to connect with graduating Chi Alpha seniors, alumni and friends. We hosted the Arizona Alumni Reunion in Phoenix (Feb. 20-21), The XA Live Web Show & Telethon in Springfield (June 10), The Maze Alumni Gathering in New Orleans (September 29), Idaho State Chi Alpha Reunion (October 28-30), and the NorCal Alumni & Friends dinner in Cupertino (November 11). Regardless of how many years or distance has come between us, one thing remains...

**ONCE CHI ALPHA, ALWAYS CHI ALPHA!**

As we celebrate our one-year anniversary, we invite YOU, alumni friends, family and affiliates, to join the party! Text "XAALUMNI" to 95577.

The 2017 year brings more alumni events including our Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska gathering in Kansas City on March 4! We will also launch the Campus Alumni Ambassador program in 2017. If you'd like to hear more about becoming an alumni ambassador for your campus or a campus near you, email Mary Valloni at [mary@maryvalloni.com](mailto:mary@maryvalloni.com) or text 417-496-5906.



# CHI ALPHA CARSON WENTZ

BY STEPHEN GLASSER

Like many kids, I dreamed of becoming an NFL quarterback. That dream came to a screeching halt when I didn't meet my city league's minimum weight requirement in fifth grade.

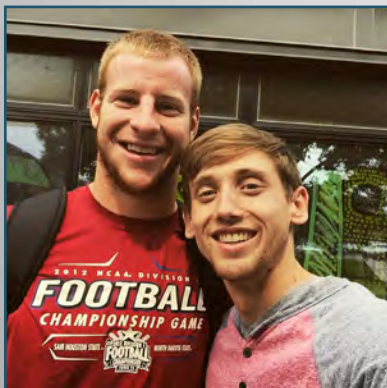
Carson Wentz has a different story. His dream became a reality when he was drafted second overall in the 2016 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles.

Carson and I have different journeys, but our paths crossed at North Dakota State University. I had close friendships with some of Carson's former teammates and would often have them over for supper and games. One day after a game, I was out on the field to congratulate them. When I walked past Carson he asked, "When are you going to invite me over for supper?" And so, our friendship began.

When I met Carson, he already had a solid relationship with Jesus. His Christian teammates had helped him realize there was more to life than football. Over the next couple of years, we met together regularly to talk, read the Bible, and pray. Oh, and eat. We did a lot of eating.



CARSON WENTZ, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY 2016  
CHI ALPHA ALUM AND 2016 NO.2 OVERALL NFL DRAFT PICK



Stephen Glasser and Carson Wentz following dinner in the NDSU student dining center on campus before the start of Carson's senior season.

I began to understand something about Carson. Although he was a rising football star, he was just like every other student I have met. He craved deep and authentic relationship with God and people. He had an unmet need for true friendship in his life. He was surrounded by people, but lacked true Christian community.

**CHI ALPHA BECAME THAT COMMUNITY FOR CARSON. HE BEGAN ATTENDING OUR WEEKLY ON-CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE AS OFTEN AS HE COULD AS WELL AS OUR SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE AT A LOCAL CHURCH IN FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.**

Over those two years, Carson's faith continued to grow. During his senior season, he started to help lead the football team's Bible study. He invited teammates and friends with him to Chi Alpha and to church. He became more bold and courageous in his faith.

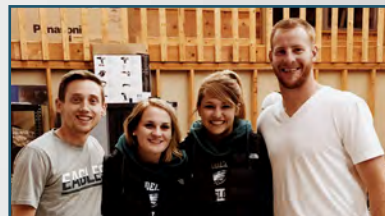
One day, he texted me asking if we could meet. When I arrived at the student union, he was more excited than usual. He began to share with me that a former teammate hit rock bottom and called him the night before. His teammate told him he remembered Carson telling him about Jesus and he wanted to talk more about Carson's faith. That night, Carson led his teammate to the Lord on the couch in his basement.

It was like something clicked. Carson told me that he never felt so alive! God was opening his eyes to a greater purpose and mission for his life. He realized his identity was not in being a football player, but in being a follower of Christ.

Carson doesn't give partial effort to anything he does. He gives his all in everything. Academically, he was a 4.0 college student. Athletically, he practices and prepares as hard as he plays. When it comes to his faith, he is no different. I love that about Carson.

As Carson's faith grew in college, so did the spotlight that constantly followed him. Being a successful quarterback gave him a great amount of influence on campus. People knew he was different and he wasn't shy about telling people that Jesus had transformed his life.

Carson's success gave him a great platform to share Jesus Christ. The way he dealt with setback and adversity is what expanded his influence. Early into his senior season, he suffered an injury that nearly ended his college career. Although he was momentarily discouraged, he responded by worshipping God and pursuing Him more than ever and people noticed.



Stephen and Taylor Glasser spending time with Carson and his girlfriend, Melissa, after the Eagles played the Vikings in Philadelphia in late October.

## HE WAS CONFIDENT GOD HAD A PLAN THROUGH IT ALL.

After over two months of rehabbing, Carson played one more game for NDSU, leading his team to their fifth consecutive FCS National Championship, claiming MVP honors along the way. His accomplishment took the nation by storm, becoming a daily talking point on ESPN.



Carson wearing an "AO1" t-shirt warming up before the Eagles played the Cincinnati Bengals in early December. "AO1" t-shirts are now available.

His rise to the NFL has given him what he sees as a great opportunity and responsibility to share his faith. An opportunity that he doesn't take for granted. An opportunity that helps him remain focused on his true mission: reconciling people to Christ.

On his social media posts, Carson uses the hashtag #AO1, which stands for "Audience of One." The motto serves as a reminder to Carson that everything he does, he is to do it for the glory of God. It reminds him he truly is called to ministry right where he is. He desires to use his influence to make the name of Jesus Christ famous. That is how he lives his life.

That is how we all must live our lives. We all have a platform of influence. It may not be as an NFL athlete, but that doesn't make it any less significant. No matter what it is that you do, your purpose is to reconcile people to Christ. Regardless of your career, you are called to ministry. God has planted you where you are for a purpose. Don't take that opportunity for granted.

As a campus missionary, I have realized my influence far outstretches my campus. My job is to equip students to transform the university, the marketplace, and the world. Every day, I am reminded that God has created each student with infinite potential and I never know what God is going to call him or her to do.

When I met Carson, I never expected things to play out like they have. It is a great joy to be Carson's campus pastor and his friend. It is an honor to have a front row seat to witness all that God is doing through his life.

While all eyes are on Carson, his eyes remain focused on the Lord. He is committed to making the name of Jesus Christ famous. We would all be wise to do the same. We are all called to live our lives for an "Audience of One."

**STEPHEN GLASSER** is a campus missionary and a CMIT director at North Dakota State University. He and his wife, Taylor, live in Fargo, ND with their goldendoodle, Kevin. Stephen graduated from NDSU in 2013 with a degree in Public Relations and Advertising before giving a year as a CMIT and eventually joining Chi Alpha staff at NDSU.



# RECONCILING STUDENTS TO CHRIST

CHI ALPHA HAD MORE THAN

# 2,500

WATER BAPTISMS IN

# 2016



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For more information about supporting the Chi Alpha Foundation and the 20/20 Vision Campaign, contact Mary at: [mary@maryvalloni.com](mailto:mary@maryvalloni.com) or call 417-496-5906.

## TRANSFORMING THE UNIVERSITY, THE MARKPLACE, AND THE WORLD