

CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2 FALL 2014

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PAGE Take a look at a small sample of Instagram photos from #rui14. Search #rui14 on Instagram to find more!

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PAGE The school year is here! This article gives four keys to help students make the transition to college.

TRAINING VS. TRYING: WHY TRAINING CREATES STRONG MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES

BY DR. HARVEY HERMAN

Are you familiar with the classic Abbott and Costello comic routine that goes, “Who’s on first, What’s on second, I Don’t Know is on third...?” (If not, you’ve got to YouTube it). What I have to say about training and trying may sound like doubletalk. But consider this.

What’s the danger in becoming a campus missionary without training? Simply put, you know what you know, and you know what you don’t know, but more seriously, you don’t know what you don’t know. What happens when the gap in what we know and don’t know is gapping? How long will it take for a person to discover what they don’t know? Maybe what you don’t know may just be inconsequential, or on the other hand it could be serious or maybe even dangerous.

Knowing what you know may lead to a false sense of confidence. It is true Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would lead them into all truth, but remember that was after three-and-a-half years of daily discipleship in The Master’s School of Kingdom Ministry. Training matters. It mattered to Jesus, so it should matter to us.

The cardinal biblical passage for Chi Alpha training is 2 Timothy 2:2. This passage unpacks a transgenerational transfer of the sight and sound of Christian service. Then later in this chapter verse 15 tells us to “Study

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >



NATIONAL TRAINING WEEK 2014 STATISTICS

COACHING TRAINING: 20
PIONEERING BOOTCAMP: 7
REACH THE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE: 122
SUPPORT RAISING TRAINING: 9
THERE WERE STUDENTS FROM 45
DIFFERENT CAMPUSES, FOUR DISTRICT
LEADERS, AND THREE FROM ASSEMBLIES
OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS.

Due to a typo in the summer issue of Chi Alpha Connection, previous national director Jerry Sandidge's name was misspelled. We apologize for the error.



CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

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EDITORIAL

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN

Chi Alpha values excellence. An area of Chi Alpha that we have executed with consistency and excellence is in the area of training. Chi Alpha's Reach the University Institute is our seminal training event that since 1976 has been effectively equipping generations of Chi Alpha missionaries. I attended Chi Alpha's Institute Of Campus Ministry in the summer of 1986. The principles instilled in me during those three weeks of training have served as a guidepost for my personal life and ministry as well as my public ministry. It truly equipped me for my life's calling.

The teachings received at RUI are engaging, relevant and biblical. They are imparted by fruitful effective communicators. More than 1,200 students have participated in ICM/RUI since its inception. There have been many directors of RUI throughout its history, yet the vision and purpose of the conference has remained true and has been imparted with the highest quality.

As a movement, we must continue to invest in the next generation of leaders. RUI is designed to be our front load training for future Chi Alpha missionaries. It introduces the students to the leadership of Chi Alpha, U.S. Missions and the National Leadership and Resource Center of the Assemblies of God and exposes them to the culture of each. RUI instills the ministry philosophy of our movement into our upcoming missionaries and gives them a view of Chi Alpha as a broader movement.

At the National Chi Alpha Ministry Center, we are committed to doing all we can to ensure Reach the University Institute continues in world-class training and equipping our missionaries. I believe we will see thousands of new Chi Alpha missionaries pass through the gates of Chi Alpha's RUI in the near future.

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.

TRAINING VS. TRYING:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >

to show yourself approved.” Here, study is understood to occur in a transgenerational context. This underscores the cornerstone of Chi Alpha’s commitment to ministry in community.

What is training? It is a systematic approach to affecting a person’s knowledge, skills and attitudes to improve individual, team and organizational effectiveness. In other words, it is not just about me, but it is about us. Training in Chi Alpha exists to serve our worldwide mission.

I remember sitting in a library with a new intern. The look of panic engulfed her face. I carefully explained point by point what I had just taught in class about how to put a sermon together. About 20 minutes in, I saw the light go on in her eyes and, to my delight, she gained the confidence to tackle the task. She faced her extreme fear of preaching a sermon for the first time, and then the next day she nailed it. Listening to teaching is often not enough. Most people grow through the skilled guidance of a personal mentor.

What are the benefits of undergoing training? There are many proven benefits including networking, community building, teamwork and increased motivation. However, I will focus on the most valuable benefit of training—self-efficacy.

What is self-efficacy? One researcher says self-efficacy is the confidence in one’s capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to manage changing situations. In other words, it is a person’s belief in his or her ability to succeed. Self-efficacy is determined by how you think, behave and feel. There is a direct link between effective training and higher levels of self-efficacy.

Missionaries with strong self-efficacy tend to view challenging tasks as things to be mastered. They develop deeper interest in the things they are involved in. They form stronger commitments to their work, and they recover quicker from setbacks and disappointments.

On the flip side, missionaries with low self-efficacy avoid challenging tasks, believe many tasks are beyond their capabilities, focus on personal failings and negative outcomes and quickly lose confidence.

How are deliberate training and self-efficacy connected? Self-efficacy grows through mastering experiences, modeling, mutual encouragement and talking through the emotional responses to challenging skills. For example, if a person is extremely nervous about personal evangelism, this will weaken self-efficacy in this situation.

Training is designed to raise your performance (e.g., in preaching and teaching), increase the knowledge pertinent to your calling (e.g., your theological foundation), and improving morale through assessment, development and evaluation. Working with a personal mentor will help you grow in knowledge and understand the emotions impacting your life. Submitting to training is a wonderful, and maybe a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be assessed and evaluated in your abilities and motivations. What a terrific jumpstart this gives you as you launch into the complex world of campus ministry.

Undergoing training accelerates your growth in self-efficacy, networking and teamwork. If you opt to try without training, you often on your own and miss the benefits through building a personal relationship with a skilled and caring mentor. Don’t just try to do Chi Alpha. Master it.



DR. HARVEY HERMAN is the Program Development Director for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. Over the past three 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 four grandchildren.



GOODNIGHT FROM
#RUI14
#ANDYSFROZENCUSTARD

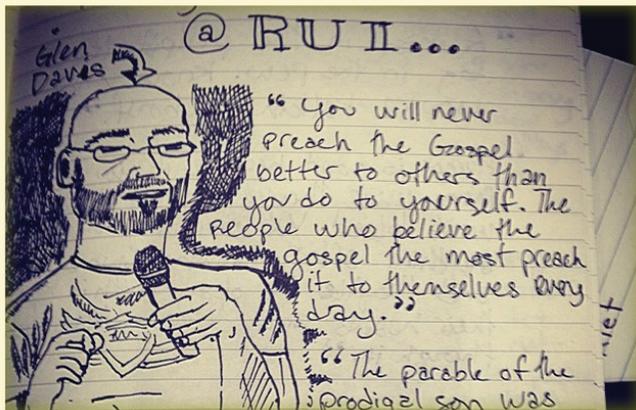


I'M IN THE LAND OF THE
BEARDS #BEARDKINGS
#RUI14 #CREEPERSHOTS

LIFE CHANGING
WEEK. #RUI14
#CHIALPHASUMMER



#TBT TO PAST
RUIS/ICMS IN HONOR
OF #RUI14 GOING ON
NOW. WE HAVE A PAST
TO HONOR AND FUTURE
TO STRIVE FOR.
#CHIALPHA



DAY 2 OF HEARING THIS
GUY TALK!! @XADUDE
#RUI14



SARAH MALCOLM
INSTILLING GREAT
LEADERSHIP WISDOM INTO
THE NEXT GENERATION
#CHIALPHA #RUI14
#CHIALPHASUMMER



SOME OF MY AMAZING NEW FRIENDS
FROM #RUI14! #LACHIALPHA #XALYFE
#XAINTERNSHIP #WORLDCHANGERS
#BUTFIRSTLETMETAKESELFTIE

#RUI14



FINEST BROMANCE
#RUI14 #XABROMANCE
#NEVERALONE



I HAVE EATEN MORE TAPIOCA
TODAY WHILE MAKING AND
DRINKING BUBBLE TEA THAN
ONE PERSON PROBABLY NEEDS :)
#XAINTERNATIONALS #RUI14



LIFE COACHING
CERTIFICATION CLASS
#RUI14 #LOVEMYLIFE
#GODISGOOD #JESUS



MISSOURI STATE CHI
ALPHA REPRESENTING AT
RUI. #RUI14 #RUI14



FIRST VISIT TO A/G
HEADQUARTERS TODAY!
THE FLAGS OF THE
WORLD SKYWALK WAS
WOWING!! #RUI14
#THINKGLOBAL
#DREAMBIG



REPPIN XA TODAY.
#RUI14 @KAITYBELL
@SIFUENT14



AMAZING TIME OF WORSHIP
STANDING NEXT TO GREAT LEADERS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD.
#RUI14 #GROWING #LEADERSHIP
#LEARNING #PASSION



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PLAYING CLUE LIKE
THE GOOD OLD
DAYS IN MISSOURI!
#WEARENCLUELESS
#RUI14

A WONDERFUL
MORNING OF
WORSHIP HERE
AT #RUI14



#RUI14 #XAI
#CHIALPHA
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SURVIVING THE FLOOD:

4 KEYS FOR TRANSITIONING TO THE UNIVERSITY

ABOUT ONCE A MONTH I GET A CALL FROM A CONCERNED PARENT...

"My son moved to your university last month. He's a good Christian, but he is struggling to find a connection on campus. I'm not sure he has a healthy set of friends right now. Could you go invite him to your weekly worship meeting?"

For 17 years, I've diligently looked up these students in order to hang out. Trying my best to say "Your mom/dad/pastor gave me your room number" without saying it directly. To be helpful, I sometimes send an outgoing Christian student instead.

If you're wondering how it goes, let me just say: Those Moments. Are. Awkward.

On my campus, we have 0% success pursuing Christian students on behalf of their parents or pastor. Zero. (You might guess this result was obvious.) Unfortunately, the second option is hardly better:

"I gave a girl in our youth group some information for your campus ministry, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. She'll be getting involved when she moves to town. Look out, world!"

In my own experience, this approach nets about 1 in 4 Christian students who meaningfully connect with any Christian community (not necessarily Chi Alpha) when they arrive. Roughly a quarter.(1)

Just imagine if there were a better way to roll.

I and my fellow campus missionaries spend a lot of time with new college students. We see a picture of their faith from the "other side" of the high school transition.

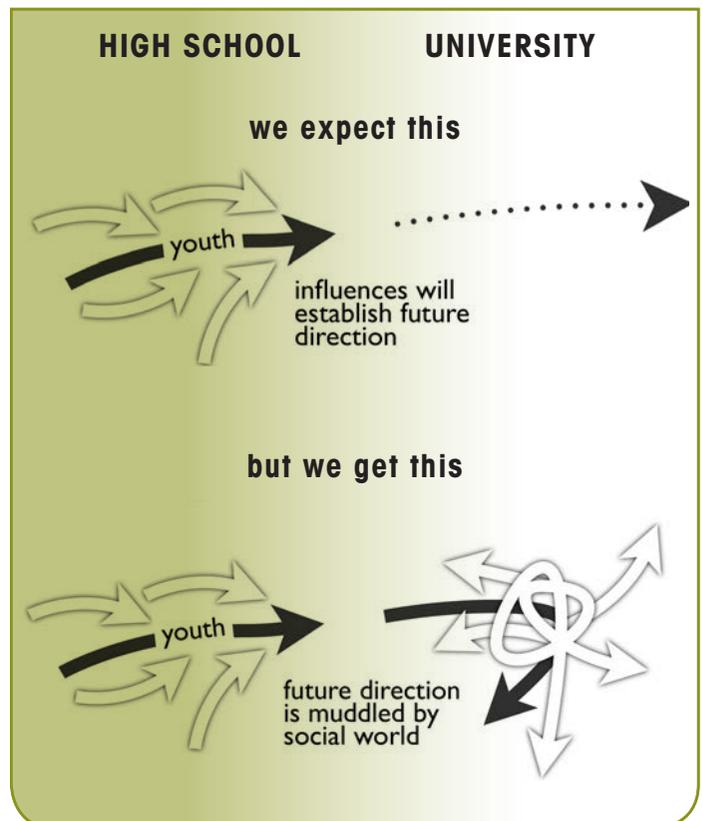
Do you know what our main concern is for an incoming Christian student?

Hint: it's not their theology. You might think that years of Bible teaching and a managed Christian environment produces

young adults with a solid trajectory on campus. But that is not what happens.

Our concern is the social Flood. A student arriving at the university is dumped into a sea of unknown relationships. The friendships that form on Day One—for good or bad—persist for years. Social life shapes a person's daily walk with Jesus, and an 18–22 year-old quickly develops new, faith-numbing habits.

THE PICTURE LOOKS LIKE THIS:



So what is the key? Believe it or not, up to 90% of Christian youth end up in a healthy campus ministry IF they have an

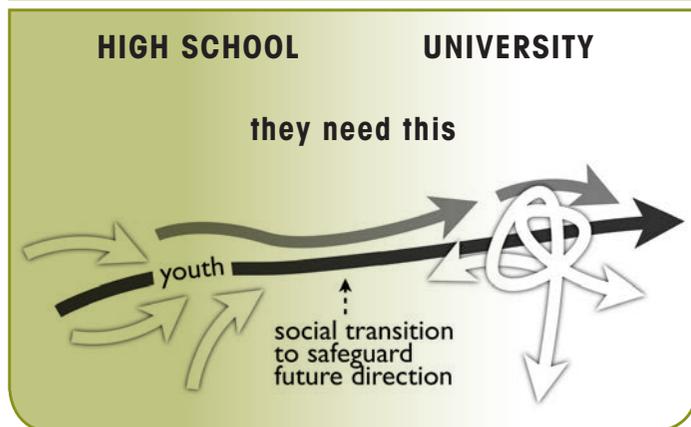


Scan to read this article online.



early “normal” social introduction. That’s been my experience for a long time.

SO HERE IS THE BOTTOM LINE: WE MUST COACH STUDENTS THROUGH THAT TRANSITION. IN WHICH CASE, THE PICTURE SHOULD LOOK MORE LIKE:



The goal is to promote a social handoff—BEFORE the first day on campus. From one trusted world to the next. From your youth program to a healthy campus ministry.

How do we accomplish this? Here are a few suggestions. Between May and August, help your graduating youth to . . .

1 MEET UP WITH SOME CHRISTIAN STUDENTS IN THE CAMPUS MINISTRY. Establish initial friendships that will continue in the first weeks of fall. Coordinate a visit to campus and hang out with Chi Alpha students (who love this, by the way).

2 GET TO KNOW THE CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF. Remember, this is a social transition, not an information download. Your youth needs to see a trust between his/her parents or pastor, and the new campus ministry.

3 CONSIDER VISITING A WEEKLY WORSHIP MEETING OR A STUDENT-LED BIBLE STUDY. Physically walking into a Christian “home” on campus is a powerful association for a student headed into a new living situation. Most Chi Alpha ministries meet on a weeknight on campus.

4 MEET UP WITH CHI ALPHA MINISTRY STAFF OR STUDENTS DURING SUMMER ORIENTATION— a required ritual at all public universities. Consider hanging out at a social event with Christians instead of joining the party atmosphere.

Let’s set up our students for success. We need to be proactive as pastors and parents. Remember: they are establishing a social routine for those crucial first weeks of life on campus!

To contact one of our Chi Alpha ministries, please find us at chialpha.com.



DAN GUENTHER is a lover of college students, hot pizza, off-trail hiking and natural science. He is director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries in the Northwest Ministry Network. He and his wife, Becky, have been missional pastors since before the dawn of the millennium.

FOOTNOTE

(1) Do you notice a similarity to the statistical average in America? 7 out of 10 Christian youth will cease to actively follow Jesus after graduation. In other words, if your youth grad leaves home with a good heart, and the name of a ministry to join, you’re essentially committing them to the world of chance. And the odds are low.

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