

50 CHANGES IN 5 YEARS | WHY CHANGE IS HAPPENING



CONNECTION

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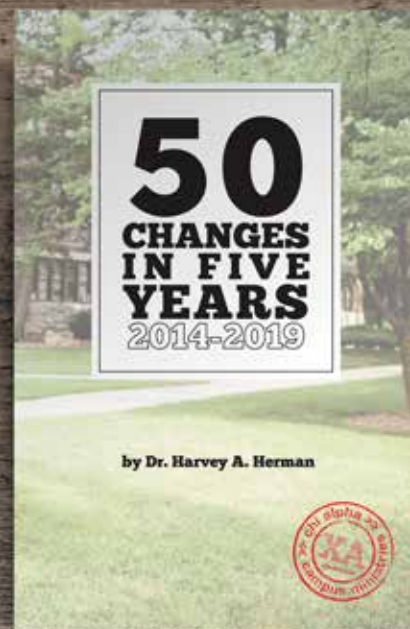


Interested in starting up your alumni association group?
Email info@chialphaalumni.com for more details.



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EDITOR'S LETTER

WHY CHANGE IS HAPPENING

My calling to university ministry began during the late Cretaceous period when velociraptors still roamed the grasslands of the great Midwest. That being said, I am often asked from my perspective that developed over eons of time what has changed the most since the early days of Chi Alpha. Simply put, the biggest change that has occurred is the pace of change.

This past January, the national leaders of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. realized we were quickly coming up on an anniversary. April 1, 2019 marked the fifth anniversary of the tenure of our present senior national director of Chi Alpha, E. Scott Martin. Since Scott assumed his role, time, like the Millennium Falcon, seemed to slip into hyper speed.

Change was immediate. Constant change turned into the new normal. It felt like taking a long drink from a proverbial firehose, and at other times like riding a never-ending rollercoaster.

So, in January we hit the pause button and began to recount every change we could remember that occurred in just those five years. Shockingly, the bulleted list filled two pages.

As the list grew, our voices quavered, because you see, we were not just remembering the latest

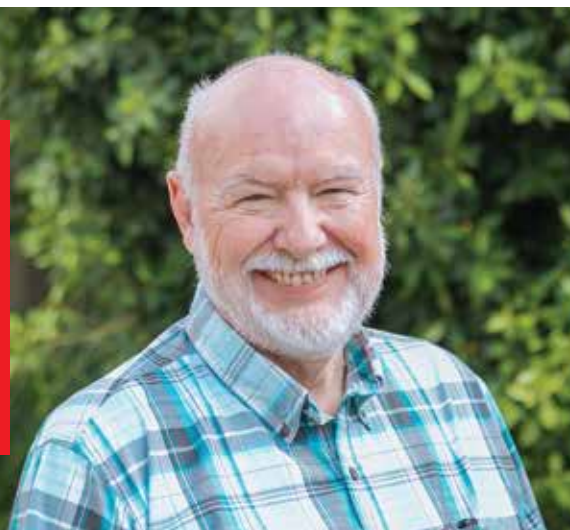
happenings and recent events. We realized we were recounting the unmistakable interventions of God characterized by Spirit-Filled strategy, unsolicited provisions, and the release of Godly creativity. Like in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Aslan was on the loose, and He was shaking everything and everyone up.

Why is observing change important, and why these changes, in particular? We, at the National Chi Alpha Ministry Center, are convinced God is retrofitting and preparing Chi Alpha to steward a coming Great Awakening on the university campus. Like Jesus' parable of the wise virgins, we are doing all we can to be ready.

This issue of *Chi Alpha Connection* is dedicated to retelling for your benefit the story of the pivotal changes occurring over the past five years in national Chi Alpha. We printed it in a booklet titled *50 Changes in Five Years: 2014-2019*. This magazine highlights a few of these changes, but you may freely download the entire booklet from chialpha.com/50changes.

We hope you will agree with us as we agree with the words of the Prophet Samuel when he said, "Only fear the Lord and be faithful to worship Him with all your heart. Think of the great things He has done for you" (1 Samuel 12:24 NLT).

HARVEY HERMAN is the national program director for Chi Alpha. Since 1973 he pioneered/directed five local groups, pastored a university church in Seattle, and acted as area director for the Northeast. He has served in a variety of national roles since 1991. He and his wife's two children along with their spouses are the Chi Alpha directors at Yale University and St. Louis University. They have five delightfully clever grandchildren.



THE SOUND OF CHANGE

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN



A strategic part of leadership is knowing things need to change and the ability to navigate it. Often it is said that the most important characteristic to making change is having the *courage* to make the shifts. But I would suggest *listening* is just as important because it gives you a guide as to what needs to change and when.

I have served in the capacity of senior director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. for just over five years. While serving as a Chi Alpha missionary for 27 years, I had been listening to our missionaries, leaders in Chi Alpha and The General Council, and strategic partners.

Listening gave me a window into how people perceived Chi Alpha at the local and national levels. Most importantly, I listened to the Holy Spirit. I knew I needed to clearly hear from Him to have the guidance in the areas that needed a change in Chi Alpha as a Movement.

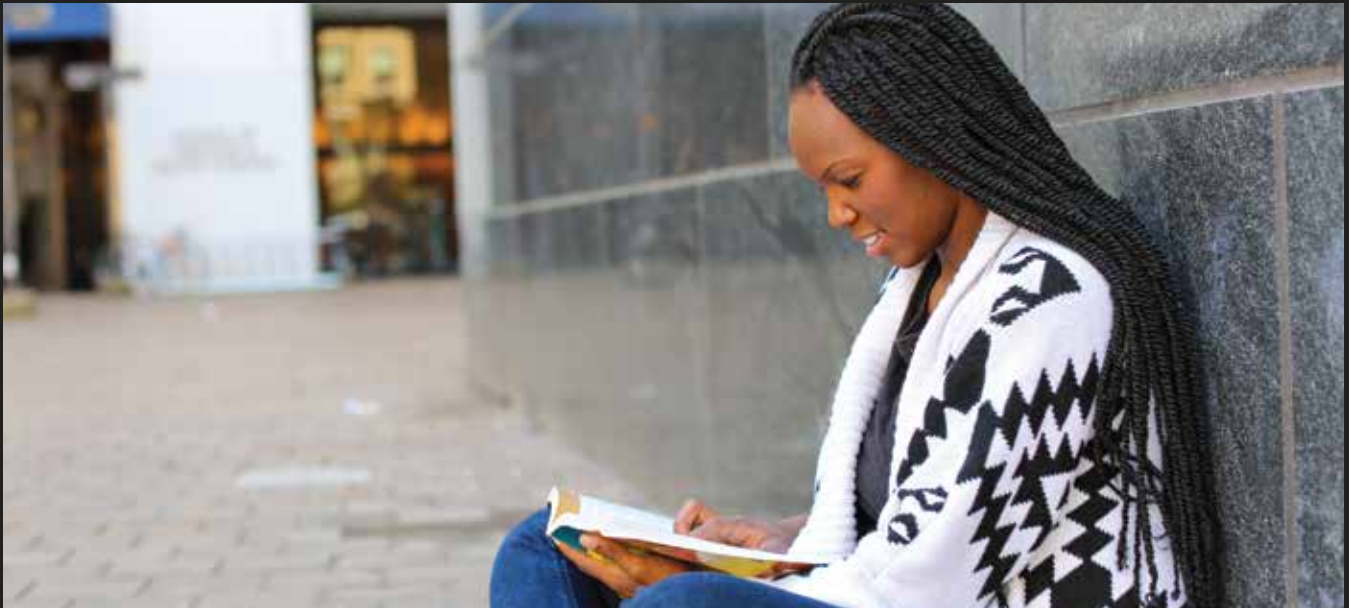
I will highlight two changes I feel have deeply impacted Chi Alpha. Our first significant change made five years ago was a set of new leadership values in which we would process our speech, behavior, and attitude. These new values—honor, respect, unity, and prayer—were consistently and frequently articulated and repeated to our national Chi Alpha Movement. Our desire was that these values would assist us in walking in a godly posture and produce fruit of the Holy Spirit. The change was efficacious.

The second change revolves around religious liberty. In recent years, universities across the nation implemented policies that all registered student organizations could not “discriminate” due to religious belief in selecting their leadership. What this meant for Chi Alpha is that our groups would be forced to permit a non-Christian to serve as a student leader, leading our prayer, Bible studies, and worship.

We would not compromise our position that to lead a Christian organization, you needed to be a Christian. The California State University system disagreed with us and we were swiftly derecognized and kicked off California State University-Stanislaus.

This led us to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to meet with congressmen and in multiple state congressional committee hearings. We were eventually permitted back on campus, and became a leader in protecting other campus groups. We also drafted an official belief document, best practices document, and added national standards and safeguards to our local ministry constitutions.

To request a copy of our booklet, *Fifty Changes in 5 Years: 2014-2019* go to chialpha.com/50changes to get a good read on the miracles and strategic shifts that have taken place. Thank you for partnering with us in these changes!



TESTIMONY: TESTIFYING TO THE TRUTH OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

After over forty years of contribution to California State University-Stanislaus, Chi Alpha was derecognized as a student organization in September 2014. The derecognition was ordered and Chi Alpha was kicked off the campus when they refused to accept a policy that denied the local group the right to choose its leaders based on whether they believed in our mission and were Christian.

This issue quickly became national news and Chi Alpha under the guidance of Becket Law stepped into the forefront of the battle for religious liberty on the secular university. In an environment embedded in the doctrine of tolerance, it took courage to step up and defend Chi Alpha in light of the potential backlash. Bianca Travis, CSU-Stanislaus Chi Alpha's student president, came forth with valor and rallied other Chi Alpha students in defense of the ministry.



Bianca went to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and shared the dilemma of being discriminated against with select congressional leaders. She had the courage to be interviewed live for *Fox and Friends* where she became the face of religious liberty on the secular university. Following her efforts, the California State University System worked with Chi Alpha to enable the local group to be back on campus.



Bianca's willingness to testify to truth in a very challenging time led to significant change that has served Chi Alpha nationally as well as all religious student organizations on the secular university.

INCREASE OF LABORERS IN THE SOUTHEAST

BY MARIO SOLARI



As the Southeast Area Director, it has been humbling and exciting to see the explosion of new missionaries and campus ministries throughout the Southeast over the past five years. The Southeast Area Chi Alpha District Directors have stepped up to the plate and lead their respective districts in developing healthy Chi Alpha ministries.

Before the culture subtly changed over time for these groups, the task seemed

daunting and maybe a bit out of reach. However, with the fervor and faith of our new national leader five years ago, we began to have fervor and faith as well that a new student awakening would indeed happen in our lifetime. We are seeing the effects of this fledgling awakening as groups in the Southeast Area have produced a new crop of student leaders who disciple their peers, a task that does not come easily.

As a result, we also have new interns and intern graduates who are so full of faith and ready to take on the endeavors God has put before them of planting new ministries in the Southeast. New ministries mean more students who will benefit from a healthy leader, and the process starts all over again for His glory.

It has been amazing to realize just how many new missionaries the Southeast has gained. At our recent campus ministers regional retreat, I found myself unfamiliar with some of these newcomers, but I am determined to get to know them.

These past five years have been wonderful, but there also is so much more to be done. We still have to pray for more laborers, but I believe the Lord will answer our prayers again.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

JONATHAN SIXTOS



Chi Alpha alumnus Jonathan Sixtos graduated Cum Laude from Texas State University-San Marcos in 2012 with a Bachelor of English degree and minor in psychology. Following graduation, he began his career in education, becoming an English teacher at Victoria East High School. In 2016, Jonathan earned the distinguished honor of being named a semi-finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year! He shares how Chi Alpha helped prepare him to reach the students in his classroom.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have always loved how the mind embraces knowledge. I felt that my experience in ministry has prepared me for a career in education because I see so many strategies that crossover from the congregation to the classroom. My mother had a hand in inspiring me because I grew up watching her minister the gospel to young children in a way they could understand.

How did Chi Alpha prepare you for teaching?

As a student leader in Chi Alpha, I learned to

work with a variety of personalities and to prepare sermon notes for weekly Bible studies. I also enjoyed seeing how Chi Alpha is structured around a vision to reach young people.

After graduation, I began teaching a mere two days after The World Missions Summit 3. The conversations and experiences I had with missionaries and laymen alike prepared me to reach out to my students in hopes of educating them in curriculum and exemplifying Jesus' love.

What was it like to be named one of the top teachers in Texas?

As a semi-finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year, I was amazed to hear so many excellent teachers' stories and inspired by their dedication. I was humbled by the experience and make it a point to support fellow teachers as we give our students the best possible education.

What has your experience been working with the National Chi Alpha Alumni Association?

Several years ago, I responded to a Facebook

post asking for contributing writers for a new Chi Alpha initiative to involve alumni across the country. As my involvement increased, I had an opportunity to catch the vision of the National Chi Alpha Alumni Association. We seek to continue the family atmosphere of our beloved campus ministry when time comes for students to graduate. When I stepped into the role of Chairman two years ago, I was filled with excitement about the mission before us.

It has been a pleasure to reach out to students at various SALT conferences each winter, and our network of Ambassadors continues to spread to more campuses and metropolitan areas with high concentrations of alumni. It is also fun to see alumni interact on our Facebook group when relocating, looking for everything from roommates to churches to job opportunities.

I can't wait to see what the next five years has in store! Connect with us at xalumni.com.

01. CONNECT

Follow both local and national Chi Alpha on Social Media: [@chialphausa](https://www.instagram.com/chialphausa)

02. PRAY

Pray for God to give wisdom and direction to our leaders in the day to day obstacles and decisions they make.

03. GIVE

To connect with a missionary near you go to: ChiAlpha.com/Locator
Support National Chi Alpha's 20/20 campaign at: ChiAlpha.com/Give.

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