

LEADING IN *THIS PANDEMIC*

**CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES
TEAMS SHARE THEIR WISDOM**

by Dr. Harvey A. Herman



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**Peace and
depth before
breadth!**

- PAUL BURKHART,
UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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INTRODUCTION

I could not have imagined when I left my office on March 12 that I would not be permitted back into it for two months. We all have stories to tell of how our lives changed overnight. Some dealt with stay-at-home orders; a few actually contracted the virus. “Unprecedented,” “uncertainty,” “anxiety,” and “masks” became words we used with regularity. An unseen virus put everyone’s life on edge; and, seemingly within a couple days, students disappeared from every university in America. It was like a selective rapture occurred on our nation’s college campuses. Chi Alpha directors across the country scrambled to figure out how to do campus ministry from a laptop on their kitchen tables. Incredulous, inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable, yet true. Let me mention a few other things that are true.

Firstly, on behalf of everyone at the National Chi Alpha Ministry Center, let me proclaim to every missionary in every chartered Chi Alpha group in the country: we love you, are concerned for you, and want to do everything we can think of to help you during this time of upheaval. We pray daily for you and your families, that you would be safe and healthy as we lead through this pandemic.

Secondly, we know you are praying hard and trying to figure out what campus ministry will look like for you this fall. That is the reason for this guide. We want to do all we can to support your efforts to reconcile students to Christ—to transform the University, the Marketplace, and the World!



Thirdly, we know, because of social distancing and the reduced gathering sizes mandated by colleges, everything will look and feel smaller this fall. Main weekly meetings will be hit the hardest. Small is the new normal. That said, Chi Alpha holds a core value that disciples make disciples who make disciples, which means we are made for this. We are in our wheelhouse. We run on these rails. In short, we got this!

But these questions nag at our minds:

“But is that enough?”

“Will this stunt our growth?”

“Will we suffer loss?”

“Can we survive just being a cluster of smaller gatherings all over campus?”

“Is this just a stopgap measure until a vaccine is found and we can get back to normal?”

“How long can we last like this?”

To put these concerns in perspective, let me remind you of something very important.

Every New Testament epistle was written to a house church or a “household” as the original writers called them. What was a household?

The Roman villa was a common architecture design across the Mediterranean world in the first century that Jesus entered and Paul served. Most were three-story buildings capable of housing between 20 to 50

people. It provided a home for a multi-generational family, along with servants and often slaves. In the front, on the street, their family business served the public. Towards the back of the villa, a partially open courtyard or atrium was built. From the ruins of Pompeii, we discover the typical atrium in 79 A.D. measured 20' x 28'—a common area that could comfortably hold three dozen people. This is where guests were entertained and customers hosted.

So, when Paul sends greetings to the households of Chloe (1 Corinthians 1:11), Nympha (Colossians 4:15), Aquila and Priscilla (Romans 16:5), Gaius (Romans 16:23), and Philemon (Philemon 2), he is sending greetings to the several dozen believers meeting at “the church in her house” (Colossians 4:15). Were these the only believers in the great cities like Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, and Antioch? No. They were a network of households across the city. Did they ever meet all together? Yes, of course. Remember Paul tells the believers in Ephesus, “You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you **publicly** and from **house to house**” [emphasis added] (Acts 20:20).

But did you know this? The first archeological evidence of a building either remodeled or built to serve as a church building does not appear until the time of Constantine. This is three centuries after the Ascension of Jesus. One archaeologist says the first Christians met in private houses, normally in the villas of people of means, where worship generally happened in the central courtyard of the house. This is where the real spiritual devotion, supportive relationship, mutual care, and

discipleship occurred; and this went on continuously with dramatic growth of followers over the first 300 years of Church history.

For me, this changes my perspective on how I interpret the New Testament Scriptures. All of a sudden, the description of what love does and what love does not do in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 now becomes the guideline for a small group meeting. The rules for holy living from Colossians 3:1-17 move from the theoretical and idealistic into the practical, possible, and actual. Church discipline now becomes meaningful. This is why it is so important for an overseer (Titus 1:8) to be hospitable. The members of a household small group feel like a family, they practice “one another” ministry, their worship is participatory, they make decisions by consensus, they serve the poor, they multiply household small groups through life-on-life discipleship, and they celebrate the “Love Feast” (Lord’s Supper) every time they gather because they enjoy common meals whenever they come together. City-wide gatherings of all the households were often clandestine and existed for corporate worship and teaching the truth; but the household was where worship was lived out and the truth applied. And can I say it again? It went on like this for 300 years and the Church expanded to the entire known world!

So, when I say Chi Alpha is built for this, I mean we are hardwired to thrive in this pandemic. We just have to be committed to being great at being small. Pour all your energy into your discipleship small groups and your intimate times of social fellowship. If your small group curriculum is good, make it great. Make your leadership training more invigorating and inspirational. Support your student leaders with intentionality

and authentic love. Celebrate their wins extravagantly. Pull off killer parties. Go all-in on being the best you can be at being small.

This report will probably feel more like a potluck than a fine dining five-course meal. Nathan Cole, Brandon Cranor, Melanie Lynch, Ashley Jackson, and I have worked hard to get it distributed to you as fast as possible. We know time is of the essence for you. You need to make decisions early this summer to prepare for a new normal this fall. Our goal is to give you as much help as we can while you pray and prepare.

So, check out the ideas, quotations, and the ten overarching principles and practices that emerged from those who contributed to this report. Also, other leadership teams here at the Ministry Center have been very busy turning out resources to help you this coming school year. I must admit, I am very impressed by what they are churning out—quite amazing actually! Be sure to check them out, too. You will find much helpful counsel within these pages.

Why am I so confident that you’ve got this? Because at the end of the Great Commission, Jesus declares, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus always has your back!

Chi Alpha missionaries, we love you! Trust God for a Great Awakening in the midst of this pandemic.



Dr. Harvey A. Herman
Program Director

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

HOW THIS GUIDE WAS PRODUCED

In the spring of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic caused the closing of all colleges and universities in the United States. As a result, questions began to be asked about how ministry would continue the following fall. To help solve this problem, 150 local Chi Alpha groups were polled to discover their university's plans for reopening the next academic year. Of the ten scenarios posed to the group, four emerged as the most likely situations.

The “new normal” is not about contexts of gathering, but about the revived personal depth and ownership.

- JEREMY ANDERSON,
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA,
SANTA CRUZ

Using the four narrowed-down scenarios, sixty-five local Chi Alpha directors and their leadership teams were nominated to give their perspectives and tell us what they sensed the Lord saying to us during this crisis. Of the sixty-five, forty-four responded, giving us a nearly 68% participation rate.



It is from those results that we have compiled and summarized this guide, “Leading in This Pandemic: Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Teams Share Their Wisdom.” In it you will find an overview of the four scenarios, a list of the respondents, guiding principles and practices, ideas, resources, and quotes. Finally, at the end you will find comprehensive proposals authored by the staff team from Western Washington University Chi Alpha staff team. They brainstormed how to specifically respond to scenarios one and three. Beyond that, many of the suggestions in “Ideas, Ideas, and More Ideas” can be applied à la carte within all four scenarios.

We asked respondents the following for each of the four likely scenarios we’ve identified:

“With as much detail as possible, what would your team do to implement the following of Chi Alpha’s Values: Healthy Leaders (Staff), Spiritual Empowerment, Disciple-Making Communities, and Cross-Cultural Missions?”

In addition, we presented them with the three most common questions our campus directors are asking.

There is much wisdom to be gained from all the suggestions in this guide, regardless of which scenario your particular campus is facing. Our prayer is that, through the sharing of these ideas, you will be well-equipped for whatever situation in which you find yourself this fall 2020.





The role of the missionary will align more closely with the Ephesians 4 model of equipping the students to do the work of the ministry. I see students rising into roles of greater responsibilities. Missionaries will be the trainers; students will be the doers.

- STEPHEN LEHMANN, WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

LIST OF RESPONDENTS

NUM	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	UNIVERSITY	STATE
1	Christian	Anderson	Oregon State University	Oregon
2	Robbie	Anderson	Georgia Institute of Technology	Georgia
3	Jeremy	Anderson	University of California, Santa Cruz	California
4	Nate	Banke	Colorado State University	Colorado
5	Jason	Bell	Sam Houston State University	Texas
6	Titus	Bergren	Montana Tech of the University of Montana	Montana
7	Ouida	Bradford	University of Georgia	Georgia
8	Derik	Buescher	University of Wyoming	Wyoming
9	Pete	Bullette	University of Virginia	Virginia
10	Paul	Burkhart	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Alaska
11	Matt	Carpenter	University of Central Arkansas	Arkansas
12	Duncan	Chance	University of Northern Colorado	Colorado
13	Glen	Davis	Stanford University	California

NUM	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	UNIVERSITY	STATE
14	Matthew	DeGier	Tulane University	Louisiana
15	Josh	Ellen	University of Alabama	Alabama
16	Heather	Erickson	Wright State University	Ohio
17	Joe	Gavin	University of Vermont	Vermont
18	Mike	Godzwa	Virginia Commonwealth University	Virginia
19	Cassidy	Griffin	Eastern Washington University	Washington
20	Jason	Harshbarger	Illinois State University	Illinois
21	Matt	Herman	Saint Louis University	Missouri
22	Dick	Herman	Texas State University	Texas
23	Nick	Hester	Texas Tech University	Texas
24	Jimmy	Homeier	California State University, Sacramento	California
25	James	Junior	Western Washington University	Washington
26	Brandon	Kertson	San Diego State University	California
27	Stephen	Lehmann	Winston-Salem State University	North Carolina
28	Daran	Lemon	Utah Valley University	Utah
29	Todd	Lucas	University of Illinois at Chicago	Illinois
30	Rob	Malcolm	Yale University	Connecticut
31	Geoff	Mumley	Western Washington University	Washington
32	Haylee	Petrusha	Carroll College	Montana
33	Derek	Quinby	University of Northern Iowa	Iowa

FOUR LIKELY SCENARIOS FOR THE WAY UNIVERSITIES REOPEN THIS FALL



SCENARIO

1

BACK TO “NEW” NORMAL

This scenario intends for the fall term to look like any other, except with the government-mandated social distancing guidelines such as reduced dorm capacity, decreased classroom size, and no gatherings over thirty people in place. Residential students return to dorms and commuting students attend classes on campus. All co-curricular activities pick up again. Life is back to a “new” normal, perhaps with some lessons learned from the upheaval of the spring. A potential variation to this scenario is the campus opens early and completes the semester before Thanksgiving.



SCENARIO

2

A LATE START

This scenario is similar to scenario one except the college will not accept students on campus for the entire semester. It will have the same social distancing guidelines. This scenario may happen in one of two ways: (1) students will start the fall term online and then arrive mid-October or later on campus for classroom instruction, or (2) the fall term will start mid-October and courses will be offered in an intensive curricula format.



A BLENDED MODEL

As it pertains to the delivery of curricula, there are a variety of options with some courses residential and some online, or students may live in residence but learn virtually, or students may have the option to take courses either on campus or online. Students would be able to take advantage of many co-curricular activities that are set up for effective social distancing, but classes, where the density of students sitting for long periods of time in a room is still a relative unknown, would be taught online.



FULL REMOTE

Perhaps the most obvious option for the fall is to continue doing remote learning. Students would continue being taught in a virtual environment from wherever they happen to be. Successes from this spring could be carried over to the fall, and lessons learned could be employed.



THE **TOP TEN** GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

These guiding principles and practices emerged from the polled respondents. These bells were consistently rung by the majority of them. It became apparent these concepts are considered essential to properly respond to our present crisis.

[01.] WHATEVER IT TAKES, SERVE STUDENTS

Pandemics reveal and reorder our priorities. People are thinking more about their devotion to God, their families, the blessings of life, and things simple and meaningful. It has the same effect on a campus ministry. We are reminded that all we do is for the love of students. So, in every decision be sure to ask, “How will this grow the kingdom of God in the lives of our students?” Let’s keep first things first.

[02.] BE GREAT AT BEING SMALL

The venues of our lives just became smaller. The energy we placed into large group gatherings, setting up sound systems, worship equipment, banners, et al., mobilized a small army. Now instead, pour all your energy into your discipleship



small groups and your intimate times of social fellowship. If your small group curriculum is good, make it great. Make your leadership training more invigorating and inspirational. Support your student leaders with intentionality and authentic love. Celebrate their wins extravagantly. Pull off killer parties. Go all-in on being the best you can be at being small.

[03.] GO DEEP TO GO WIDE (MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE CONNECTIONS)

Fast growth is often shallow. But when heat is applied, it wilts just as fast as it grew. It is so tempting to seek breadth while neglecting depth. However, Jesus prunes a vine to remove quick growth to promote long-lasting fruitfulness. If our access to students is more limited, we need to be more intentional and purposeful when we meet together. Let's not make recreation and re-creation mutually exclusive. When doing a one/two-on-one, aim to make a meaningful and memorable connection. When you go deep, and you give it time, it will go wide.

[04.] EFFECTIVELY USING VIDEO CONFERENCING IS THE NEW NORMAL

Some of us speak digital as a first language, while others speak it with a remedial accent. Whatever the case, this pandemic requires us to speak social media fluently. Whatever it takes, work with your leadership team to up your game in video conferencing, video production, and social media. Become digitally savvy. Use media to promote personal interaction and reduce the amount of time as a talking head.

[05.] TIME FOR ABIDING, DEVOTION, AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS

I heard this from several responders. This is a difficult time for staff teams. Planning at a time of uncertainty is very challenging for the risk-averse and can be reckless for the fearless. This causes tension and anxiety. The best way to navigate through days of uncertainty is to daily abide in Christ, renew your devotion to one another, while at the same time engage in respectful yet completely honest conversations. Remove fear by following Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13:5, "[Love] does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." But most of all, don't let anxiety lead to inaction or a resistance to plan and prepare.

[06.] TRAIN STUDENTS IN RELATIONAL EVANGELISM AND BEFRIENDING PEOPLE

The irony for today's students is they can have a thousand followers on Twitter yet feel lonely and friendless. Connection is not the same thing as commitment. Be very deliberate to teach students the process of making a real friend. And then go one step beyond that: teach them how to share their faith in Christ with their new friends. This becomes even more crucial during a time of social distancing.

[07.] BEEF-UP YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

Who knows what the university orientation programs will look like this fall? Will most of it be delivered online? How satisfying will that be? Returning students, new freshmen, and many parents will have scores of questions and serious concerns. Take a fresh look at your online presence. Is it answering their questions? Remember: information is not dynamic until it is specific.

[08.] THE GREAT COMMISSION IS STILL IN EFFECT

During the Cultural Revolution in China, Christians were arrested, imprisoned, and sometimes tortured, yet the Church in China grew from 4 million to 67 million believers. Crisis is often a crucible bringing the lost to salvation. I like what Jamil Stell says regarding the pandemic and the proclamation of the gospel: "This is not a setback, but it is a set up." What a great perspective! Jesus, as He walked through the church of Thyatira admonishes them with these words: "To the one who

is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations..." (Revelation 2:26). Trust in Jesus and walk in His authority on campus this fall.

[09.] LEARN FROM THE SPIDER PLANT

Spider plants are very easy to grow and are best known for the spiderettes they shoot out that establish exact replicas of the mother plant. The secret of their growth is the umbilical cord connection between the mother plant and the spiderettes. Just like spider plants, it is possible for one group of people to foster other groups of people, but the secret is in the umbilical cord. What is an organizational umbilical cord? In a couple words, "great communication." It takes clear, consistent, constant, and compassionate communication for a campus ministry to be healthy, especially one now composed of clusters of smaller communities.

[10.] HONOR UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOOD CITIZENRY

Restrictions imposed by the federal and state governments and/or university administrations during this pandemic serve the public safety concerns of students and university staff. Chi Alpha supports these guidelines and we encourage each chartered group to demonstrate good citizenry by following, to the best of your ability, these guidelines. Let's behave in such a way to "win the respect of outsiders" (1 Thessalonians 4:12, also see Proverbs 13:13 and 1 Peter 2:17).

IDEAS, IDEAS, AND MORE IDEAS

Many people have their own definition of the word idea. Plato called it “an eternally existing pattern of which individual things in any class are imperfect copies,” while Kant defined an idea as “a concept or pure reason, not empirically based in experience.” Chi Alpha, on the other hand, defines an idea as “a thought to swipe, steal, pilfer, appropriate, filch, or otherwise snaffle.”

With that in mind, the respondents’ ideas below describe how they intend to serve students in the fall of 2020. On the far right you will see four columns indicating the scenarios that will accommodate each idea. Think of this chart as an à la carte menu—choose the ones you like and use them as you will.

NUM	IDEA	DESCRIPTION	SC 1	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4
1	Explore Off-Campus Meeting Options	Universities may decide to offer smaller classes so the availability of meeting room space may be reallocated for classroom use. It may be wise to investigate possible off-campus space to use for university-approved gathering sizes.	✓	✓	✓	
2	Food Events	Check with your university for their COVID-19 policy on co-curricular groups cooking and serving food. It may be necessary to only offer pre-packaged food items.	✓	✓	✓	
3	Golf Cart Popsicles	This is a take-off on the "Good Humor Truck" as you give away free popsicles from a golf cart. Could be good for social distancing.	✓	✓	✓	
4	Missional Communities	Create smaller communities of thirty. Delegate leadership responsibilities to different staff members. Select a couple gals and a couple guys small groups and assign a resource leader. The communities of thirty attend a gathering each week with a shorter video sermon to provide consistency of messaging. Offer a monthly outdoors worship gathering to bring everyone together.	✓	✓	✓	
5	Livestream Worship Services	Offer one worship service each week while maintaining the university approved gathering size, and livestream it to the remainder of the Chi Alpha group who view it with their small group members. Rotate the cluster of small groups who may attend the live service.	✓	✓	✓	
6	Smaller Student Leader Training Sessions	Because student leaders will be even more central to university ministry, it may be advisable to double-down on their training. Make it more intentional, direct, and personal. Consider reducing the numbers of students in each training session to make it more dynamic. Consider using LTC GO, recently created by the National Training Team, to augment what you are doing.	✓	✓	✓	✓

NUM	IDEA	DESCRIPTION	SC 1	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4
7	Leverage August/September for Student Leader Training	If your campus chooses scenario two, then you may be able to leverage August, September, and October for more intense student leader training. Even if students have online classes starting in late August, they will have more time available than if on campus.		✓		
8	Take Outreaches to Where Students Live	Traditionally, outreach efforts happen in the primary spaces where students gather or move around campus. Instead, consider taking these events to the apartments or other places students live. This may mean more and smaller events, but they may also be more engaging.			✓	✓
9	Reach Back to 2019-2020	Consider re-contacting students who showed some degree of interest but never fully engaged from the 2019-2020 school year. They may have a higher degree of interest due to COVID-19 anxieties.	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	The Five-Minute Daily Podcast	If it becomes too challenging to offer a main weekly meeting, consider breaking your weekly sermon into five-minute segments offered four to five times per week. Hearing your voice more regularly may prove to be comforting and winsome.	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Adjust Your Approach to Preaching	Broadcast a conversation between you and one to three students around a predetermined topic. This could also be used in small group gatherings. When students have been on Zoom too much, this format may be more appealing.	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Meetings with Attendance Under Thirty	Drop the mic. Simplify the band. Circle the chairs. Add tables. Make it feel more like a dinner party with snacks: fewer songs, shorter message, and close with small conversation groups and prayer for one another. Tailor the meeting to the relational dynamic and encourage greater intimacy.	✓	✓	✓	
13	In-Person or Online Small Groups?	Some of the university scenarios will have students living both on-campus and at home. They will have some classes take place in classrooms while others will be virtual. Some respondents say they will offer in-person small groups separate from online small groups. Others say they will blend in-person with online small group members.			✓	✓
14	Livestream Services	As the COVID-19 outbreak interrupted us all, some Chi Alpha groups effectively used livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube to stay connected with their students. This may be a good option for some scenarios.			✓	✓
15	Invest More in Fewer Things	Challenges this school year will include maximizing your reach and managing attendance. To maximize your reach, consider investing more in fewer things. Avoid the pressure to try to do everything you have done previously. For managing attendance, set up an events package with Planning Center.	✓	✓	✓	
16	Fall Retreats	Respondents are thinking differently about fall retreats this year. Some are planning to offer two to three smaller retreats with no outside speakers—everything will be handled in-house. Others are replacing fall retreats with smaller camping trips, discipleship backpacks, day hikes, etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	What?! We can't sing "Waymaker"?	Believe it or not, some universities may ban singing on campus to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you face this, consider using liturgical elements like responsive reading, student testimonies, serving holy communion more frequently (with pre-packaged elements, of course), and using a playlist during response times.	✓	✓	✓	
18	Produce 90-Second Clips of Your Sermons	When connecting with new students, give them the URL for the clip, tell them what it is, and suggest, "You should check it out."	✓	✓	✓	✓

NUM	IDEA	DESCRIPTION	SC 1	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4
19	Chi Alpha Spotlight Series	Simply, you email a brief student testimony to your contact list. Glen Davis says, "These spotlights are the most engaging advertisements I have ever found."	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	"You've been sniped."	In addition to the typical GroupMe's you probably already have (e.g., small groups, missional community, guys or gals, etc.), create one titled "I see you" or something similar. The goal is for students to take pictures of others in Chi Alpha without them knowing it. They have, thus, been sniped. Then give awards each month to the people who sniped others the most and the person who was sniped the most. Helps students to know who others are.	✓	✓	✓	
21	Office Hours	Post when and where members of your staff team will be on campus. Pick a safe public spot.	✓	✓	✓	
22	Watch Parties	If college football returns, sponsor watch parties and adhere to social distancing. Students need to take a break from video games and be with others.				
23	Small Group Size	It may be wise to start a new small group once it grows over ten students.	✓	✓	✓	
24	Maps Instead of Curriculum	Provide small group leaders with a map rather than a curriculum. Give an outline of the term and provide a buffet of resourced topics for them to draw from.	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Beefy Media Presence	Now is the time to invest in your media presence and beef up your website, Instagram, Zoom features, etc. Students will probably be looking online more than before to find groups like Chi Alpha.	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Find Your Third Space	A third space is a communal place separate from home and work/school. During the Jesus People Movement from 1967-1977, coffeehouses popped up in off-campus homes, garages, church basements, rented storefronts, etc. A third space provides a place to be with no defined agenda other than being with others like yourself and is a great place to bring a friend to meet your community.	✓	✓	✓	
27	Chi Alpha Masks	Make cool Chi Alpha masks for social distancing. Hand them out at the beginning of the year to returning students and to every new person. Encourage students to wear them to class. Maybe a mask can add contrast to your Chi Alpha t-shirt collection.	✓	✓	✓	
28	Stress Relieving Tabling	Add a new feature to your tabling this year. Emphasize anxiety relief by promoting counseling services (consider the mental health options of national Chi Alpha), and/or bring your dog, cat, duck, or llama as a petting zoo.	✓	✓	✓	
29	Pizza in a Box	Dick Herman suggests, "Equip student leaders with a plastic tub containing paper plates, napkins, cups, soft drinks, gift cards to local pizza places, streamers and balloons, rented movie, and Chi Alpha promo info. Instruct the leader to invite students in their hall to free pizza and a movie plus an invite to a Chi Alpha event."	✓	✓	✓	
30	Monthly Family Dinners	Once a month, bring two to four small groups together, preferably co-ed, for a fellowship meal and game night. Tell them to invite their friends.	✓	✓	✓	
31	Two Oz Hand Sanitizer	RELYmedia.com sells 500 2 oz hand sanitizers with a free logo for \$1.95 each. Good for meetings and tabling.	✓	✓	✓	
32	Outdoor Games	Go to the park, go hiking, play disc golf, badminton, croquet, or bocce ball; just avoid tackle football. Play social distancing games to build community.	✓	✓	✓	

NUM	IDEA	DESCRIPTION	SC 1	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4
33	Preview Your Campus	Before school starts, do a walk-through of your campus with your staff and student leaders. There will probably be obvious changes to how crowds will be handled. Get familiar with the new landscape.	✓	✓	✓	
34	"Go the Social Distance"	Sponsor a fun run for missions (think feedONE) and make sure social distancing occurs.	✓	✓	✓	
35	Don't Badmouth Zoom	Several groups are finding Zoom to be more engaging than livestream events. So up your Zoom game.	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Free Food Delivery	Add this feature to add a little pizzazz to your Zoom calls.	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Hello Alumni	Invite some of your alumni to join Zoom calls.	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Social Media for Seekers	Use social media to target potential spiritual seekers coming to your campus.	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Team Up with Another Chi Alpha Group	Do a combined large group online meeting with another Chi Alpha group. In April, the Chi Alpha groups at Stanford and Yale combined their students and Glen and Sarah did a terrific tag-team sermon. Try it. It may become a thing!	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	District/Regional Student Leader Retreats	Consider holding two to three student leader retreats at various locations around your district/region before school begins. No doubt many churches would be open to host you with facilities and food.	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Forty-Five Minute Zoom Service	Matt DeGier suggests a 45-minute Zoom service format: 5-minute welcome and student testimony; 5-minute worship (read a hymn and a Psalm, confess the Apostle's Creed, music if you can make it happen); 10-minute message; 12-14 minutes of breakout groups discussing the message; two to three questions for groups of three to four; 3-minute announcements; 5 minutes back to breakout groups for closing prayers. Zoom provides a breakout room option. (Please Note: Free Zoom accounts allow 40 minute calls so this schedule may need to be adjusted for users of free accounts.)	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Virtual Book Club	Tyler Staton writes, "Our group found great health and fun in doing virtual book clubs by providing our students with the Kindle version of the book. We've read <u>The Master Plan of Evangelism</u> , <u>I Once Was Lost</u> , and <u>Emotionally Healthy Spirituality</u> ." Follow up with online discussions.	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Spiritual Disciplines	This summer is a great time to focus on the spiritual disciplines with your students.	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	The Bible App	Consider developing a group reading plan use the Bible App.	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	#hashtags	Find out the hashtags the university is using, post to them, mention your hashtags, and use them in your promotion of Chi Alpha.	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Healthy Leaders House Drop	Todd Lucas mails a care package of materials to each leader to kick off the school year that includes a good Christian book, games, gift cards, favorite snacks, etc. Good to build morale.	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Mealtime Online Resource Groups	Schedule a resource group during a mealtime. Add in a "What is that?" feature to ask everyone to say what they are eating.	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Serve the Poor	Find out what is happening in your city to serve the poor and mobilize your students to participate.	✓	✓	✓	✓

NUM	IDEA	DESCRIPTION	SC 1	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4
49	Chi Alpha Hits the Road	Take your online weekly service on the road to somewhere in the USA twice per semester. Online students who live close by could join you in person. Pick a location that holds special significance like Gettysburg, the Haystack Prayer Meeting, or the National Civil Rights Museum.			✓	✓
50	Alpha Course	The Alpha Course offers free online video lessons; one version is geared towards teens and another is specifically for university use. Inviting international students to take the Alpha Course with you can be an excellent way to introduce them to the gospel.	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	"Your University" 2024 Instagram	Look for a 2024 Instagram account or hashtag for your university and link your Chi Alpha Instagram to it. Follow up with those who follow you.	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Poll Your Most Recent Freshman Class	One group polled their freshmen from 2019-2020 and asked them to provide names and contact information of people they know who are attending as freshmen this fall. In one afternoon, they came up with over 200 names.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Focus on the kingdom of God as we stay aware of events affecting the kingdoms of men. Don't let your own views on how COVID-19 is handled hinder your ability to display the power of God to those of different opinions. Be reminded of the urgency of the gospel message going out to every tribe and tongue.

- TITUS BERGREN,
MONTANA TECH OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA





RESOURCES



XAI Leadership Intensive Training (XAI LIT)

The XAI Leadership Intensive Training, or XAI LIT for short, which was recently launched, is an online six-week course for international students.

chialpha.com/XAILIT



Leadership Training Course (LTC) GO

The National Chi Alpha Ministry Center has developed an online leadership training class, LTC GO, to prepare future leaders for building small groups.

chialpha.com/ltcgo



Virtual We Live Missions Experience

The Virtual WLM Experience has three components: Abiding, Experiences, and Missionary Engagement to create a virtual experience that fits the capacity, context, and calendar of your ministries.

chialpha.com/virtualWLM



Coaching Training

Chi Alpha defines coaching as partnering with missionaries in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires them to maximize their personal and ministry potential.

chialpha.com/coaching



Diversity Training for Staff & Students

Today, like never before, our country, the campus, and the church needs a Biblical definition of diversity. By living out Biblical community, we believe we can be agents of healing and transformation for our broken world. In June, we're launching a four-week webinar called "Shades of Understanding."

chialpha.com/diversity
drivingdiversity.org



Mental Health Checkup

To resource you for personal growth and healing, Chi Alpha has partnered with MyCounselor.Online to have a Healthy Leaders Checkup. We also offer online courses on topics related to health.

chialpha.com/healthyleaders
mycounselor.online
xa.healthyleaders.online



New Director Training

Chi Alpha's New Director Training (NDT) looks to foster growth opportunities for even more directors to be released in pioneering new Chi Alpha chapters, and others to be prepared to assume leadership of existing chapters in a director transition.

chialpha.com/ndt



Pioneer Boot Camps

Pioneering Boot Camps is the training ground for pioneering missionaries held across the country and strategically walks a pioneer through applying the thirteen skills of the Ridley assessment.

chialpha.com/pioneering



Reach the University Institute (RUI) Online

The purpose of RUI online is to provide interns with training essentials before their RUI conference visit and internship start date. Interns will be informed on how their finances work, as well as discover the history and values of Chi Alpha culture.

chialpha.com/rui-online*

*At the time of publication, this resource is still being developed.

THEY SAY IT BEST— QUOTATIONS FROM THE RESPONDENTS

We just finished the LTC GO this spring,
which was immensely helpful.

- JIMMY HOMEIER, CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

I am thinking of a different means
of preaching where we broadcast a
conversation around a topic between one
to three people that can be pre-recorded
and put together and sent out. If so, then
our small group worship services could act
differently than a small group of students
all silently listening to preaching. So
podcasting, pre-recorded evening services,
afternoon small group gatherings, and
normal small group/one-on-ones are all in
the mix for now.

- MATT HERMAN, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

I would go back to year one to two of
our ministry when we had about thirty
students and our weekly gatherings were
more like dinner parties. Perhaps we

would provide some snacks, set up tables,
have a few songs, a message, and develop
smaller pockets of genuine interactions.

- MATT HERMAN, SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

For scenario three, we will continue to
offer online services for those who are not
on campus, but we're going to focus on
the campus that is in front of us. If there
are only 7,000 students on campus, it will
be my goal to reach a greater percentage
of them than I would reach if the campus
were fully populated. Anyone we reach
online is a bonus.

- GLEN DAVIS, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

The role of the missionary will align more
closely with the Ephesians 4 model of
equipping the students to do the work
of the ministry. I see students rising
into roles of greater responsibilities.
Missionaries will be the trainers; students
will be the doers.

- STEPHEN LEHMANN, WINSTON-
SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

Focus on the kingdom of God as we stay
aware of events affecting the kingdoms
of men. Don't let your own views on how
COVID-19 is handled hinder your ability

to display the power of God to those of different opinions. Be reminded of the urgency of the gospel message going out to every tribe and tongue.

- TITUS BERGREN, MONTANA TECH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

potential disciples instead of relying on large events like weekly worship services to attract potential disciples.

- DUNCAN CHANCE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Peace and depth before breadth! Perhaps it is the experience of living and ministering in a restricted country, but the limitations should not and will not keep us from finding, feeding, and fighting for the lost. Even at the most restricted moments, we still have more freedom than we experienced in Asia. This will likely be a sifting season, which is not bad according to Christ. I believe depth will be created in a few and that the depth of those will create depth and breadth in our communities in Alaska.

- PAUL BURKHART, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

We will offer multiple worship services. We are expecting around one hundred in weekly worship, so we will offer at least two services with coordinating watch parties for joint small groups, alternating the weeks they can attend in person.

- RYAN RIBELIN, NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

We are exploring off campus options for space because on campus reservations may be taken up by class space. We are training young staff to serve as sort of multi-location pastors—kind of like a multi-site location model.

GINA WHITE, NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Most students on college campuses are nonbelievers; therefore, the lost students don't really have a desire to join an on-campus "church service." Our leaders will have to rely on being relational in pursuing

The demands of online learning and the practice of social distancing is emotionally taxing. We want to create fewer regular requirements for leaders in order to have more organic life on life. This will help both our staff team and our student leaders. This means a new structure away

from regular resource team meetings and into more integrated core groups with peer leaders and accountability. Student leaders would lead a core group and attend another core group led by a peer.

- HEATHER ERICKSON, WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

For the summer, we see ourselves utilizing the Virtual We Live Missions Experience trip again (we are piloting it this summer). If we are allowed to do an in-person trip, we are considering doing a virtual trip simultaneously in the same location to allow students who have reservations of family reservations that keep them from traveling.

- HEATHER ERICKSON, WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

God is reminding me how much our work is about surrendering and out of our control. Even though we feel more powerless now, this has actually always been the case. God has called us to a spiritual work, and we

can only experience true godly success if the Spirit leads the way and goes before us.

- CHRISTIAN ANDERSON, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

A major goal would be to have an even stronger focus on reaching freshmen because their experience will be unique as compared to our existing students who have lost their norm. The staff plan to identify potential freshmen leaders quicker and provide a shorter on-ramp to leadership to activate them to create small groups for their freshmen peers.

- OUIDA BRADFORD, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Worship will be one of the hardest elements to address. Staff still feel the need for students to have community expressions of worship, but we're just not sure yet how to approach that. However, we believe cross-cultural missions will be easier as it relates directly to our campus rather than travel focused missions. UGA has retained a large number of international students with whom we

already have relationships and many of them are even more isolated and craving relationships and connection.

- OUIDA BRADFORD, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

groups as we grew and entrust staff and interns to host and facilitate these gatherings.

- JOSH ELLEN, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

If there are students living on campus but doing classes online, that may be to our benefit in a way. I've heard students have had a lot more free time being able to do the work at their own pace, and they will want to get out afterwards. Meeting people around campus who have nothing to do at the moment will likely become easier. We have had success before by planting D-Groups in residential buildings and I think this could be another great way to find those poor souls who have spent all day playing Minecraft and eating Cheeto puffs and bringing them into community.

- JOSH ELLEN, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

I feel like God is saying, "This is not a setback. This is a set up." This year we will see the kingdom of heaven manifest on our campuses in unusual ways that many of us are not use too. While the method may have changed, the mission of the powerful demonstration of the gospel and the making of disciples has not. I believe we are going to see the most fruitful year yet in Chi Alpha as a nation based on how the Lord is recalibrating our hearts in this hour.

- JAMIL STELL, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

This would be a great time to pull back the sound systems and screens and microphones and sit around the table, sharing testimonies, praying, and reading through Scripture together. For us, we would have to have anywhere from six to eight house churches meeting weekly in the beginning. We would create more

Maybe this summer we should all brush up on our vision casting skills in preparation (for the fall).

- CASSIDY GRIFFIN, EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

I always think of 1:1 as the smallest unit of measurement in the kingdom of God. One-on-one discipleship is small seed that most people ignore or pass by, but

one-on-one discipleship, in the context of small group, can produce a large amount of long-lasting fruit. We're not discipling people to be event planners or crowd gatherers; we are discipling them to be Christ's ambassadors. People who do the bidding of their King, whatever he might call them to do.

- CASSIDY GRIFFIN, EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

If our people can gather in thirty or less, it won't affect our individual life groups, because most are eight to fifteen in size. Where they're hosted may have to change, not 100% sure. In the past, we've done them in dorm rooms, but I don't think it would be possible to social distance in dorm rooms. Probably need to be held in bigger rooms or open-air spaces.

- TOM TRASK, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

We will be upping our social media presence. We will be posting videos on Instagram where students answer questions that incoming freshman may have, since orientations will not be happening as normal. We also have started a Facebook group called "2024 UVA Christians" to help us find people who are

Christians coming in. We have done this for several years and it is a helpful way to find people who are interested.

- PETE BULLETTE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

We are taking instruction from 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 at this time, and part of that is "work with your hands." We want to create opportunities in person and via digital means to get students building things, working outside, creating physical visual arts, cooking and more—finding ways to celebrate embodied living and incarnational community, even if it can't be face-to-face.

- MATT DEGIER, TULANE UNIVERSITY

PRAY—there has not been a time in my lifetime where I have been so obviously aware of my inability to make a ministry successful without something supernatural.

- MATT DEGIER, TULANE UNIVERSITY

Communicating authentically and providing students with the ability to engage in the content that is created will be a filter in all we do. For example, if a podcast is done or a video post is made, we want the hero to be the student and not

always the staff. We believe the content they create will be better listened to and shared with their peers if they are the focus. With that said, we do still want to provide content from our staff team like a short pastoral moment on Instagram Live, but we want this content to be less than 20% of what is produced.

- TYLER STATON, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

We created new resources to help Yale students engage in the spiritual disciplines. They were created in spring 2020 and are available free on xayale.com.

- ROB MALCOLM, YALE UNIVERSITY

Dick Foth made the statement, “Leading in crisis shouldn’t involve large structural changes.” With that in mind, we are trying to be very adaptable and flexible while maintaining and expressing our values.

- BLANE YOUNG, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

We will break the trainings into shorter but more consistent times to reduce virtual fatigue. For example, our three-day leadership summit is broken into weekly video or written resources with discussion groups. The student leaders will be broken

into smaller groups for discussion to promote engagement that tends to lessen when a virtual discussion hosts more than eight to ten people.

- JEREMY ANDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

Fortunately, people like Vanessa was filled with the Holy Spirit in her dorm room as a freshman while listening to our online resource. Just a few months ago, I watched a young student lead several Japanese students into receiving the Holy Spirit baptism on TikTok. My new neighbor and I exchanged phone numbers just a few weeks ago, and I saw he had injured his back. I sent him a text that I would pray for him and Jesus healed him! So, our faith is ever increasing in the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit to transcend physical boundaries that we love but ought not consider essential.

- JEREMY ANDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

I’m so hopeful about what God is instilling in us during this time. The “new normal” is not about contexts of gathering, but about

the revived personal depth and ownership
of each person's faith and Kingdom
responsibility.

- JEREMY ANDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

We must be resolved within ourselves that the need on campus still exists, if anything it is actually greater. We must be certain that God has called us to be missionaries to students. If both of those things are true, we have to pre-decide that we will do whatever it takes to find a meaningful connection with new and current students.

We cannot afford to settle into passive contentment. Every leader must own the mission and their calling. They must dream and come up with creative ways to adapt practices while maintaining core principles. An authentic disciple of Jesus will find ways to make disciples in any context, amongst any group of people.

- MATT CARPENTER, UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL ARKANSAS



Overview of Responses



They Say It Best—Quotations from the Respondents

SCENARIO ONE

SCENARIO ONE: BACK TO “NEW” NORMAL

This scenario intends for the fall term to look like any other, except with the government-mandated social distancing guidelines such as reduced dorm capacity, decreased classroom size, and no gatherings over thirty people in place. Residential students return to dorms and commuting students attend classes on campus. All co-curricular activities pick up again. Life is back to a “new” normal, perhaps with some lessons learned from the upheaval of the spring. A potential variation to this scenario is the campus opens early and completes the semester before Thanksgiving.

[01.] HEALTHY LEADERS (STAFF)

WE CULTIVATE THE BODY, MIND, SPIRIT, AND RELATIONSHIPS OF OUR MISSIONARY LEADERS AND THEREBY FOSTER HEALTH IN OUR LEADERS AND CAMPUS GROUPS.

- 01/ Utilize a guide and/or survey to see how staff are doing emotionally and help them navigate ministry during difficult circumstances.
 - » This will help us notice trends sooner.
- 02/ National/Regional staff could host Chi Alpha forums where campus directors have space to share resources, discuss struggles, and have conversations related to ministry during this pandemic.
- 03/ Make sure staff have access to counseling, spiritual directing, coaching, or whatever they might need.
- 04/ Provide easy access points for online resources for ministry leaders.
- 05/ Provide clarity on government-mandated guidelines and how we will abide by them.
- 06/ Help staff find or create new routines to prioritize devotion to God daily.
- 07/ Smaller Chi Alpha staff teams might feel extra isolated in this season. Create opportunity for multiple, nearby Chi Alpha staff teams to connect, pray, and worship (could be a Zoom call with various encouragements, people doing worship/prayer, and breakout groups).

08/ Be sure to regularly call attention to what God is doing—it gives us energy! Celebrate wins.

[02.] SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

We give attention to the Spirit's guidance in our day-to-day ministry and year-to-year planning, so we may fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

***I would add: "We will foster a dependence on and empowerment by the Spirit in our community."*

- 01/ Pre-set days to fast, pray, and ask for God's help.
 - » Student-wide quarterly? Staff more regularly?
- 02/ Quarterly worship and prayer nights with emphasis on and invitation to be filled with the Spirit (Chi Alpha church houses, see below).
 - » Depending on student numbers and guidelines, there may need to be more than one event.
- 03/ Create a devotional guide for your student leaders to use in discussing baptism in the Spirit with their friends/group members (e.g., Dick Schroeder's resources).
- 04/ Teach on baptism in the Spirit regularly.
 - » Resource leaders can open up their homes to have a Q&A about gifts of/baptism in the Spirit and include time to pray for those experiences. Optionally, Zoom can host breakout rooms which could also be used for Q&A and prayer for each other.

[03.] DISCIPLE-MAKING COMMUNITIES

WE EQUIP STUDENTS TO BE DISCIPLE-MAKERS WHO WILL REACH AND DISCIPLE OTHER STUDENTS.

In all these plans, make sure those most vulnerable to health risks in this season, who cannot (or should not) gather, have their needs considered and accommodated.

- 01/ Resource Groups and one/two-on-ones can still happen as usual.
- 02/ Have one/two-on-one plans mapped out for student leaders, freeing up more time and relational energy for finding new people.
- 03/ Where guidelines restrict or forbid, create Chi Alpha house churches instead of large group gatherings. (Be sure to assess the needs of your student community and brainstorm how to implement them in this model.) House churches should be:

» Co-ed.

Even though we feel more powerless now, this has actually always been the case. God called us to a spiritual work.

- CHRISTIAN
ANDERSON, OREGON
STATE UNIVERSITY



- » The same collection of small groups/resource groups throughout the fall/year.
- » Less than thirty people, allowing students to invite others to join throughout the fall/year.
- » Include at least one staff guy/gal as an “on-site” campus pastor.
- » Feature shorter messages.
- » Include worship, whether in-person or over Zoom so all can participate.
- » Be based on how you organize your campus and small groups.

04/ House churches could:

- » Utilize a team of two to three people to write the sermons, leaving campus pastors to edit and make them more personal.
- » Break up the sermon with discussion groups or “turn to your neighbor” moments to increase engagement.
- » Watch a recorded sermon over Zoom then discuss either with the entire community via Zoom or by splitting into house church breakout groups.
 - » Start part-way through the semester to avoid the typical fall start-up inflated attendance, which could potentially push you past safe guidelines.
 - » Use video recordings or Zoom to allow one staff members to teach/preach to all house church groups, regardless of meeting time or location.

05/ Fall Retreat Option 1: Day retreat

- » Stagger meals to maintain social distancing.
- » Separate by house church for all activities.

06/ Fall Retreat Option 2: Separate Venues by House Church

- » House churches choose separate venues and either...
- » Zoom into one central teaching source.
- » Or, have a daily guide of activities including devotionals and lesson outlines for house church leaders to utilize.

07/ Offer as many discipleship content resources as possible with topics relevant to questions students are asking.

Examples include:

- » Resource/small group discussion guides, Bible studies, and one/two-on-one guides.
- » Spiritual disciplines—growing in relationship with Christ.
- » How to lead other students to Christ.
- » Materials that are helpful for new believers.
- » Hearing God’s voice and personal devotions.



[04.] CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

WE ENCOURAGE EVERY STUDENT TO GO, GIVE, PRAY,
AND WELCOME BOTH ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND
EVERYWHERE AROUND THE WORLD.

01/ Adopt countries.

- » Pick a couple of countries or missionaries to pray for regularly. These could be locations that have “Give-A-Year” potential. Talk about them and pray for them regularly.

- » Have missionaries call in to group gathering and share what they do and update prayer requests. Brainstorm creative ways to experience life where they are serving.
- » Give resources and info to students (e.g., [Operation World](#)). Devote a week/month/semester to praying for a country and then rotate to a new focus.
- » Post flags of countries/missionaries’ locations at house churches.

02/ Explore ideas in the Virtual We Live Missions Experience.

03/ Stay connected with international programs. Make the most of any opportunities to support or engage with international program/students.

04/ Encourage students to be intentional with reaching international students in their classes.

05/ For international student events that exceed your local attendance guidelines, consider how you could host a social event via Zoom or other platform.

06/ If your university doesn’t offer it, consider starting a program coordinating virtual conversation partners for international students. Some of our

**This [is] a
great time to
pull back the
sound systems,
screens, and
microphones and
sit around the
table... together.**

- JOSH ELLEN,
UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

overseas missionary friends are actively looking for Americans to host digital conversation groups while they, too, are in lockdown.

- 07/ If The World Missions Summit remains scheduled, be extra purposeful with promotions, remembering that time was lost in the spring.
- 08/ It is crucial at all times, but especially in light of COVID-19, that we as spiritual leaders speak and stand up against xenophobia, the dislike or prejudice against people from other countries.

[05.] CONSIDERING THE RESTRICTIONS OF VIRTUAL, NON-RESIDENTIAL LEARNING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, HOW DO WE EVEN FIND NEW STUDENTS?

- 01/ Encourage and disciple current committed students to create places of connection and relationship with fellow students. Initiating study groups with peers (in-person or over Zoom, etc.) is an easy way to connect with classmates outside the classroom setting.
- 02/ Consider unique opportunities specific to your campus.
 - » Will there still be a club fair?
 - » Opening week activities?
 - » Residential life programs?
 - » Tabling during a time when others aren't tabling?
 - » Spirit weeks with dress up options or themes?
- 03/ Outreach at social hubs on campus.
 - » Sit with a sign saying, "Don't isolate yourself. Want a friend?"
 - » Do outdoor games and activities more often; make sure to have sign-ups for more info.
 - » Play frisbee, volleyball or foursquare; do crafts such as rock painting.
 - » Listening prayer.
 - » Conversational evangelism.
- 04/ Use social media well.
 - » Instagram, TikTok, etc.
 - » Maximize social media options for interactive posts such as fill in the blanks, polls, etc.



- » Make regular posts that create conversations with a broader audience.
- » Hang posters on campus inviting students to follow on social media or connect with a small group.
- » Host a contest that gives incentives to interact with social media.

05/ Help Chi Alpha house churches think through how they can host outreaches in the areas of campus where their members live, work, and/or study.

06/ Host relatable forums where people can gather and talk. Possible topics include:

- » COVID-19 support groups.
- » “The End of Quarantine 2020.”
- » Challenges of distance-learning.

[06.] HOW WILL A CHI ALPHA GROUP FUNCTION OR STRUCTURE ITSELF IF WE ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THIRTY STUDENTS GATHERING TOGETHER AT ONE TIME?

01/ Where guidelines restrict or forbid, create Chi Alpha house churches instead of large group gatherings. (Be sure to assess the needs of your student community and brainstorm how to implement them in this model.) House churches should:

- » Be co-ed.
- » Consist of the same collection of small groups/resource groups throughout the fall/year.
- » Be less than thirty people, allowing students to invite others to join throughout the fall/year.
- » Include at least one staff guy/gal as an “on-site” campus pastor.
- » Feature shorter messages.
- » Include worship, whether in-person or over Zoom so all can participate.
- » Be based on how you organize your campus and small groups.

02/ House churches could:

- » Utilize a team of two to three people to write sermons, leaving campus pastors to edit and make them more personal.
- » Break up the sermon with discussion groups or “turn to your neighbor” moments to increase engagement.

- » Watch a recorded sermon over Zoom then discuss either with the entire community via Zoom or by splitting into house church breakout groups.
- » Start part-way through the semester to avoid the typical fall start-up inflated attendance, which could potentially push you past safe guidelines.
- » Use videos or Zoom to allow one staff member to teach/preach to all house church groups, regardless of meeting time or location.

[07.] WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU AS YOU PRAY
CONCERNING THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR?

- 01/ God is not quarantined. Bring students into your creative praying and preparation. Do not be afraid to fail.
- 02/ Whenever you feel resistance or fear, stop. Remember, it's, "not by might, not by power..." Pray, "Send your Spirit, God."
- 03/ "Take my yoke upon you—for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Really follow the guidance of the Spirit and where he brings peace (e.g., don't overdo it)!
- 04/ "My light will shine on you and I will guide you. "
- 05/ "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame" (Psalm 34:4-5).
- 06/ We will be totally fine if we seek the Lord in all of it, seek to see Him and His presence...that light will shine on us and we will shine to the students and our faces (and ideas) will be radiant with the Holy Spirit and His ways!
- 07/ Lessons from Gideon—sometimes God slims down the numbers in order to get the army He really can use. Don't panic if numbers are down—God may be using less to accomplish more. Sometimes God prunes down things to the essential so that He might make us more fruitful.

SCENARIO THREE

SCENARIO THREE: A “BLENDED” MODEL

As it pertains to the delivery of curricula, there are a variety of options with some courses residential and some online, or students may live in residence but learn virtually, or students may have the option to take courses either on campus or online. Students would be able to take advantage of many co-curricular activities that are set up for effective social distancing, but classes, where the density of students sitting for long periods of time in a room is still a relative unknown, would be taught online.

[01.] HEALTHY LEADERS (STAFF)

We cultivate the body, mind, spirit, and relationships of our missionary leaders and thereby foster health in our leaders and campus groups.

- 01/ In light of the complexity of extra stress reducing our productivity and efficiency as well as limited access to campus, set realistic and healthy work expectations.
- 02/ Focus on the basics. Don't try to do too much in the fall. Do the most important things well. (Don't just try to do everything you've always done!)
- 03/ Emphasize the importance of abiding in Jesus as the real means for fruitfulness.
- 04/ For staff, regular personal support from the director and the rest of the team (groups and one/two-on-ones).
- 05/ For student leaders, regular personal support from staff (groups and one/two-on-ones).
- 06/ Think through conversations to have that are unique to this season (for example, stress, rest, grief, etc.)
- 07/ Be sure to regularly call attention to what God is doing—it gives us energy! Celebrate wins.
- 08/ Strongly encourage Sabbath, especially when life rhythms are different/chaotic.
- 09/ Make resources available doing digital and socially-distanced ministry well.
- 10/ Organize and centralize communication—instructions, guidelines, expectations, etc.—to reduce confusion for staff trying to figure out so many new things.

[02.] SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

We give attention to the Spirit's guidance in our day-to-day ministry and year-to-year planning, so we may fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

***I would add: "We will foster a dependence on and empowerment by the Spirit in our community."*

- 01/ Regularly teach on and cast vision for our need to be filled with the Spirit and dependent upon the Spirit for all ministry (more than ever in uncertain times!).
- 02/ Offer regular opportunities to pray to be filled with the Spirit (online and in person).
- 03/ Make sure to think through the different dynamics of doing this digitally and use resources from ministries who are doing this well.
- 04/ Make space at weekly service to testify about the Holy Spirit's work in people's lives.
- 05/ Encourage students to independently learn about the Holy Spirit. Give them resources such as the You Got the Holy Spirit podcast, study through Acts, etc.
- 06/ Create a devotional guide for your student leaders to use in discussing baptism in the Spirit with their friends/group members (e.g., Dick Schroeder's resources).

[03.] DISCIPLE-MAKING COMMUNITIES

We equip students to be disciple-makers who will reach and disciple other students.

- 01/ This first step is crucial: it's important to get good information about whether students are choosing to come to campus or go to class remotely. Other decisions will flow from this information. But for now, make plans for multiple realities: most students are local, most students aren't, etc.
- 02/ Watch your assumptions. Your best disciple-makers may not be doing well, and your flakier students may be stepping up. Be sure to pay personal attention to students.
- 03/ Offer in-person small groups with safe social distancing. Also offer separate, online small groups exclusively for those who are not taking in-person classes. If possible, the leaders for each group (in person or online) should also be in the same situation (taking classes in person or online) as the group they're leading.
- 04/ In a hybrid model, our meetings (Leadership Training, worship services, etc.) would also be hybrid: In-person and online. In-person is better, so we want everyone to be there physically if possible. But we want to include distance students, so offer things online as well.
- 05/ Be in regular, open communication with the university about plans so that everything is approved (campus access, etc.)

- 06/ Consider off-campus locations that are very accessible to on-campus students if there are restrictions on non-residents being on campus.
- 07/ Keep same structures of personal discipleship. (This is our greatest strength and we can still do it!) Not just events, but one/two-on-ones, small groups, etc.
- 08/ Come up with a fall retreat hybrid alternative—something in person, and something for students online—that meets the goals of fall retreat (early community connection, small group bonding, spiritual enrichment) while taking into consideration expectations around social distancing.
- 09/ Offer resources for independent student learning—podcasts, audio classes from past ministry events, book recommendations, etc.
- 10/ Offer as many discipleship content resources as possible—small group discussion guides, one/two-on-one discipleship guides—so small group leaders can spend most of their time on connection and early community-building.
- 11/ Train students on how to be virtual disciple-makers disciples—there are new skills and best practices to learn for that.

[04.] CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

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

- 01/ Be in regular, open communication with the international office to figure out status of international students, and offer support.
- 02/ Find out what your university's international programs office is doing to welcome and care for international students, and get your students to join in.
- 03/ If your university doesn't offer it, consider starting a program coordinating virtual conversation partners for international students through our missionary partners overseas.
- 04/ Make decisions on whether to send spring break mission trips no later than mid-fall. Make decisions about sending summer mission trips no later than mid-January.
- 05/ Start collecting ideas of local cross-cultural missions opportunities that might work if travel is restricted but your local area is doing well.
- 06/ Utilize national resources to keep cross-cultural missions in front of our students.
- 07/ If The World Missions Summit remains scheduled, be extra purposeful with promotions, remembering that time was lost in the spring.

08/ It is crucial at all times, but especially in light of COVID-19, that we as spiritual leaders speak and stand up against xenophobia, the dislike or prejudice against people from other countries.

09/ Adopt countries.

- » Pick a couple of countries or missionaries to pray for regularly. These could be locations that have “Give-A-Year” potential. Talk about them and pray for them regularly.
- » Have missionaries call in to group gathering and share what they do and update prayer requests. Brainstorm creative ways to experience life where they are serving.
- » Give resources and info to students (e.g., Operation World). Devote a week/month/semester to praying for a country and then rotate to a new focus.
- » Post flags of countries/missionaries’ locations at house churches.

[05.] CONSIDERING THE RESTRICTIONS OF VIRTUAL, NON-RESIDENTIAL LEARNING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, HOW DO WE EVEN FIND NEW STUDENTS?

- 01/ Find out what’s already happening on campus and find a role in which to serve and send students to be part of it. (Be in contact with the office that governs student organizations, international programs, on-campus programs, etc.)
- 02/ Stay on your university’s email list for campus programs.
- 03/ Your ministry website should have easy-to-access information about what your Chi Alpha is doing and how to get connected.
- 04/ Get students to engage on social media in a way that includes Chi Alpha and related university departments/ programs to spread the word digitally about what Chi Alpha is up to.
- 05/ There should be dedicated staff time given to Chi Alpha social media presence and website and weekly emails with updates.
- 06/ Research your university’s portal for sharing club events and information and how to get Chi Alpha info on there.
- 07/ Train students on how to be a virtual evangelist to classmates—there are new skills to learn for that.
- 08/ Promote to local area churches that your Chi Alpha is active on the campus and invite graduating seniors from those churches.

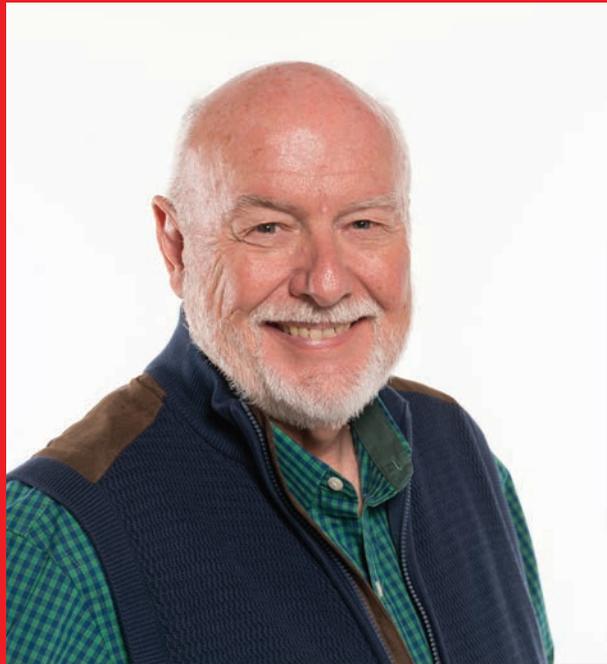
[06.] HOW WILL A CHI ALPHA GROUP FUNCTION OR STRUCTURE ITSELF IF WE ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THIRTY STUDENTS GATHERING TOGETHER AT ONE TIME?

- 01/ Instead of large group meetings, combine twenty to thirty students (depending on total number of students involved) with at least one staff member. For groups with more than one of these groups, you can rotate the groups between meeting in-person and via Zoom. Each week, host one group live while the others join via Zoom. Then rotate through all your groups until everyone has met in-person before starting over again.
- » As rooms reach capacity of thirty, make sure to have available overflow rooms with staff/student leaders ready to pastor and host.
 - » Distance-learning students will participate via the online option. There should be a staff member designated to host the online viewers.
- 02/ Whether you use an online, in-person, or blended model, remember to be purposeful about welcoming visitors.

[07.] WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU AS YOU PRAY CONCERNING THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR?

- 01/ It's important to ask God for His plans and ideas.
- 02/ We need to refuse to be intimidated by the daunting circumstances.
- 03/ Good is coming out of this situation even if we can't see it.
- 04/ Be ready to change.
- 05/ "Seek Me and My Kingdom and all else will be added."
- 06/ Evangelism will be hard but fruitful.
- 07/ Seek to serve the "least of these."
- 08/ The work we are doing for fall is not just for fall. We are trying new things that we will actually keep doing, and we wouldn't have tried them if not forced to think creatively.
- 09/ "Nothing like this has stopped My Kingdom before."
- 10/ "The Lord confides in those who fear him" (Psalm 25:14 NIV). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Have a high view of God.
- 11/ "I am as committed to reaching lost students as I ever was. Don't doubt My zeal."





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