



**LEADING IN
THIS PANDEMIC**

**EQUIPPING LEADERS WITH
RESOURCES IN THESE
UNCERTAIN TIMES**

CONNECTION

CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES | VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1, SUMMER 2020



CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

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CREATORS

- E. Scott Martin** | Senior National Director
- Dr. Harvey Herman** | Programme Director
- Nathan Cole** | Operations Director
- Brandon Cranor** | Communications & Marketing Manager
- Melanie Lynch** | Communications Project Coordinator
- Karissa Jefferson** | Media Network Coordinator
- Lindsey Banke** | Advancement Specialist
- Geno Valloni** | Graphic Designer

PHOTO CREDITS

- Cover** | Ashley Jackson Designs
- Sarah Malcolm** | Yale Chi Alpha

WRITERS

- Dr. Harvey Herman** | Programme Director
- Sarah Malcolm** | Yale Chi Alpha
- Alex Rodriguez** | Training Director
- Severin Lwali** | XAi Director
- Jay Woodward** | Chi Alpha Alumnus

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1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802

Phone 417.567.4710 | Email info@chialpha.com | Web chialpha.com



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EDITOR'S LETTER

EBBS AND FLOWS OF MINISTRY

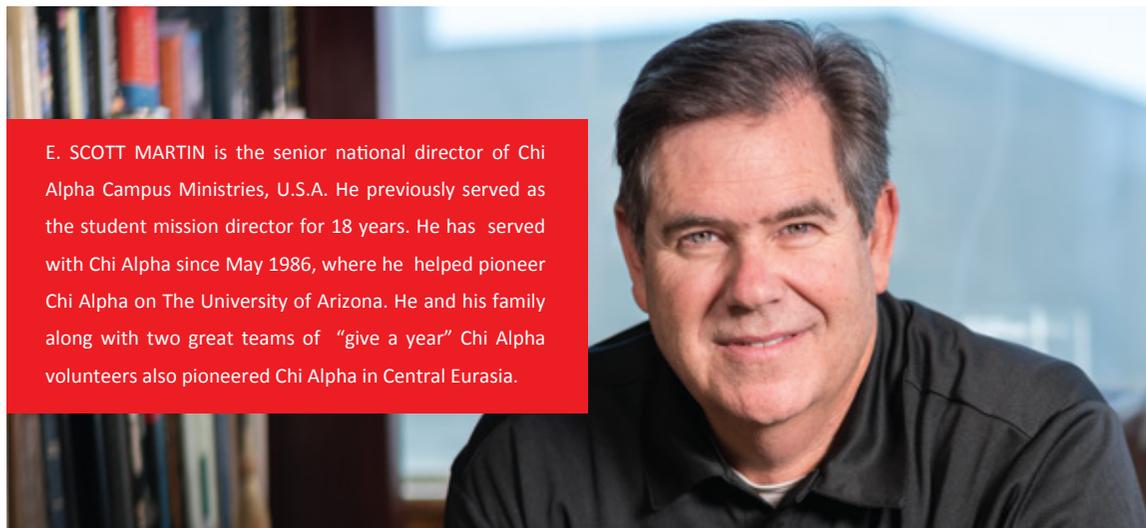
The university is always in flux. As new students enter each year, seniors graduate, sports seasons transition, and beloved teams rise and fall. This continuum of transition results in a culture shift to which Chi Alpha must be responsive. Our message doesn't shift, but the way we package and speak it most certainly does. As we are all acutely aware, on March 11, 2020 a global pandemic was declared due to the COVID-19 global coronavirus outbreak. University and college campuses across the United States took immediate action, extending spring breaks giving time to administrators to assess the challenges. Campuses closed and became ghost towns overnight; teaching moved to an online platform. It was a radical and abrupt end to most seniors' college experience.

For students involved in Chi Alpha, it was not an abrupt end to the school year. Our missionaries on the campuses and our national team immediately responded, nimbly moving one-on-one discipleship, small groups meetings, student leadership training, as well as large group meetings to online platforms. It wasn't optimal for our ministry, but under the circumstances, it was efficacious. Students came to faith in Christ, were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and were disciplined in ministry! Interns nationwide continued to do theology, learn church history, memorize Scripture, disciple students, and preach!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, our culture shifted, demanding a rapid response. We held the first ever National Chi Alpha Day of Prayer and Fasting that was facilitated via online platform, with thousands joining. As all mission trips were cancelled post March 11, our Cross-Cultural Missions Expeditions team brilliantly worked with Assemblies of God Word Missions and developed a virtual mission experience facilitated by missionaries around the world. Our National Training Team produced an on online student leaders training course, and our XAi team expediently engineered a leadership intensive for our international students.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has deeply impacted our culture; it has demanded change. National Chi Alpha continues to respond by addressing the four most likely scenarios of campus openings this fall. We are also addressing the prophetic scenario of what the Lord is saying in all of this. National Chi Alpha Program Director Harvey Herman addresses our plan in this issue.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to disciple university students to fulfill their purpose in God's global plan.



E. SCOTT MARTIN is the senior 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 helped pioneer 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.

LEADING IN A PANDEMIC

BY DR. HARVEY HERMAN

Within a couple days in the middle of the spring semester, the coronavirus pandemic caused the departure of university students from all American colleges. All twenty million of them! As a result, Chi Alpha directors began to ask what ministry will look like in the fall semester.

We immediately polled 150 local Chi Alpha groups to discover their university's plans for reopening this fall. Of the ten potential scenarios posed to them, four emerged as the most likely scenarios.

Using the four most likely scenarios, sixty-five local Chi Alpha directors and their leadership teams, who are known for their creativity and innovation, were nominated to give their perspectives and tell us what they sensed the Lord is saying as it pertains to the likely scenario for their campus.

From those responses we compiled a forty-nine-page guide, "Leading in a Pandemic: Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Teams Share Their Wisdom."

The typical situation our local directors will face in the fall are social distancing guidelines and reduced maximums for meeting size. We

anticipate most colleges will cap a meeting of any kind on campus to thirty people. That being the case, the primary strategy for this fall will be "Be Great at Being Small."

The venues on campus just became smaller. The energy we previously placed into large group gatherings, like setting up sound systems, worship equipment, banners, et al., normally mobilized a small army. Now instead, we will pour all our energy into our discipleship small groups and to informal times of social fellowship. We see this as a welcome challenge.

We have learned that fast growth is often shallow. There are easy ways to attract a crowd of students. But when heat is applied, rapid growth often wilts just as fast as it grew. It is so tempting to seek breadth while neglecting depth. We know Jesus prunes a vine to remove quick growth to promote long-lasting fruitfulness.

So, if our access to students is more limited, we need to be more intentional and purposeful when we meet together. We must not make recreation and re-creation mutually exclusive. When we meet individually with a student, we will aim to make a meaningful and memorable connection. We believe, when you go deep, and you give it time, it will go wide.



COVID-19 AT YALE CHI ALPHA

BY SARAH MALCOLM

When the arrival of COVID-19 resulted in students moving home and courses going online, opportunities for face-to-face ministry ceased to exist. How do you measure the life change you've become accustomed to seeing in person when everyone has become a square in a box on a screen?

Yale Chi Alpha made the same commitment as our brothers and sisters across the nation—to love students regardless of limiting parameters. That resulted in a Tuesday Night Live (TNL) online worship service core groups via Zoom, a six-week devotional through the book of Matthew, and leadership training communicated through podcasts. To encourage student participation, we asked them to send videos of testimonies, ice breaker questions during TNL, and ideas of how they would promote Chi Alpha to incoming students.



MINISTRY TESTIMONY



In the last five weeks of school, our core group attendance was the best it had been all year! Students resurfaced that we hadn't seen in weeks and others joined for the first time. TNL continued to be a place for community, prayer, and teaching. Our leadership podcast showed us students still plan to show up for each other and for God on campus—regardless of whatever limitations we may encounter.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING CLASS

BY ALEX RODRIGUEZ

The hero of Chi Alpha is the local student leader who discipless more student leaders.

When your entire population changes every four years, the discipleship commission of Matthew 28 is not a luxury to consider but a mission to be had. Chi Alpha must have student leaders replicate new student leaders before they graduate, otherwise our movement regresses.

For decades, training new student leaders to reach the campus has taken place on campus and in person. But this year tradition was jeopardized by a global pandemic closing university doors, limiting group size, and making social lives distant. Can Chi Alpha protect its future by training new student leaders to reach the campus while being disconnected from campus? When a

movement is convinced the Great Commission of discipleship is neither circumstantial nor optional, the only answer is yes.

Leadership Training Class GO (LTC GO) was built as a solution to training student leaders in a sheltered world. Through video, audio, and literature formats, students are enabled to learn discipleship convictions and practices. With access to all the material at once, students can learn at their own pace. Staff check the progress of their students and follow up with the material they are learning via questions answered by the students.

LTC GO has become a tremendous tool preparing students to go out and make disciples with training accessible from anywhere at any time.

We truly believe this resource is an innovative idea that will outlast this pandemic, blessing Chi Alpha for decades to come.



XAI LIT

BY CYNTHIA DOBBS

The inaugural XAI Leadership Intensive Training (XAI LIT) launched successfully June 1, 2020. When COVID-19-related social distancing made the historic All Nations international student conference impossible, an online training that would inspire, empower, and train internationals was designed.

This training ran over the course of six weeks with students attending online classes and weekly Bible studies where they

gained experience in leading a Bible study. Each student was assigned a coach to help them navigate through the unique challenges faced by internationals.

The student response was robust with 57 students from over 30 countries currently learning to lead through XAI LIT. These students will be launched as Christ's ambassadors into the university, the marketplace, their own countries, and the world.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

JAMES DAMUDE



Originally from Ontario, Canada, James Damude graduated in 2000 from Northwood University in Michigan with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. James was actively involved as a student leader in the Chi Alpha ministry on campus, and he would serve as campus pastor at his alma mater for nine years. James then served a two year stint as an Assemblies of God World Missionary in India before returning to Michigan to pioneer a Chi Alpha ministry at Saginaw Valley State University.

Eventually, he felt God leading him into a new missions field: the U.S. Armed Forces. In 2016, James was endorsed and commissioned as a U.S. Army Chaplain and is currently with the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Chaplaincy department. Since 2017, he has been stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. James has been married to his wife Sara, who he met through the Northwood Chi Alpha group, since 2002. They have four children: Easton, 13; Sydney, 11; Emily, 8; and Silas, 6. James shares how his time in Chi Alpha helped prepare him for his current position of ministering to soldiers in the army.

Describe the impact Chi Alpha had on you as a student.

Chi Alpha was the part of my Christian walk where I solidified my faith. I had accepted Jesus as Savior right before college, but it wasn't until I got to college that Christ became the Lord of my life. At a fall retreat I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and I started living the Christian life and making disciples. My college years I was mentored and really got challenged to see my campus as a mission field.

How did your time as a campus pastor prepare you for your current ministry role?

It gave me the opportunity to experience life with young adults in the sense that I could walk with people through their struggles and also rejoice with them in their victorious moments. It was like I was living in the Book of Acts (Acts 2:42-47).

What was transitioning from campus ministry to Military Chaplaincy like for you?

It was pretty easy in the sense that I'm doing mostly in the same age group and a lot of these

soldiers are going through the same struggles as college students. They are trying to find their purpose, who God is, figuring out who to marry, and career choices.

What are doors that God has opened for you serving at Fort Bragg?

The biggest door is to be able to walk with people when they go through struggles in life with their kids, faith, and marriage. U.S. Army Chaplains offer 100 percent confidentiality to soldiers, so I get a lot of people coming to me first before their chain of command.

What advice do you have for anyone out there who feels called to Chaplaincy?

Talk with a current chaplain. Military Chaplaincy is not an easy ministry, but it is a very rewarding one. There is a unique identity to being chaplain: you are a pastor and a military staff officer. Doing both well leads to the spiritual health and success of your unit.

01. CONNECT

Follow both local and national Chi Alpha on social media: @chialphausa

02. PRAY

Please pray for more students as they are processing this uncertain time and for our campus pastors who are in process of navigating what ministry will look like this fall on their campus.

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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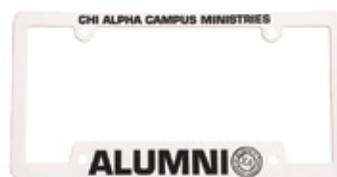
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