

the IVY LEAGUE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER



CRITIC'S VOICE

With his Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry, Ted Baehr, Dartmouth '69, seeks to inspire change in Hollywood. Special Media & Ministry section pages 18-22

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Brown ■ Columbia ■ Cornell ■ Dartmouth
Harvard ■ Penn ■ Princeton ■ Yale



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send us your feedback regarding events and topics described in this magazine at the e-mail or regular mail address listed above.



By God's power and with the help of other ministries, the mission of Christian Union is to change the world by developing Christian leaders and networking them together to make an impact for Christ in the larger culture. Matt Bennett (Cornell BS '88, MBA '89) founded the ministry in 2002 in Princeton, New Jersey. To learn more about Christian Union, please visit www.Christian-Union.org.

The purpose of The Ivy League Christian Observer (this free quarterly magazine) is to inform Christian alumni, students, parents, staff, faculty, and friends about the spiritual activity at eight of the country's most influential colleges, including Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton and Yale. Our desire is that you would be encouraged to pray for these universities, give financially to Christian initiatives on the campuses, and use your influence for the cause of Christ.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

Influencing the Influencers



It was an honor to give the benediction at *Movieguide's* 19th Annual Faith and Values Awards Gala in Hollywood this winter.

In addition to recognizing redemptive, family-friendly films such as *Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* and *Secretariat*, *Movieguide* founder Ted Baehr, Dartmouth '69, presented his annual report to Hollywood executives. As you will read in our cover story, Baehr is having an impact on decision makers in the entertainment industry. At the gala, he presented data that revealed a preference for movies about faith and values; he also noted how these movies generally do better at the box office than those with questionable, objectionable content.

As you know, influencing the influencers is something that is dear to my heart as well. Like *Movieguide*, Christian Union is a ministry that focuses on a narrow, unreached segment that has a disproportionate influence on the culture. We are seeking to develop Christian leaders to transform culture at Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale. Our research indicates that approximately 50 percent of the nation's most influential leaders in business, media, medicine and politics come from these eight universities. If students can graduate with a seeking God lifestyle and a biblical perspective, then we can surely expect our culture to radically change.

Some of these gifted students are already making a difference. In *Reaching Out*, read about how some leaders spent spring break, not relaxing or partying, but serving the poor and reaching out with the Gospel—from the poverty-stricken neighborhoods of Providence, Rhode Island to the sandy shores of Panama City, Florida.

Winter breaks also proved to be a fruitful time as many Ivy League students attended powerful conferences and retreats. In *About Ministry*, see how The Impact Movement, led by Charles Glimer (Penn '81), rallied and empowered one thousand African-American college students at "The Comeback," and how Collegiate Impact's first-ever "Ignite Ivy Conference" encouraged and exhorted young people who are hungry for revival.

It's our pleasure to publish this magazine each quarter and keep you informed about what the Lord is doing in the Ivy League and through alumni who are agents of change in all sectors of society.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew W. Bennett

Founder and President, Cornell '88, MBA '89

P.S. *The Ivy League Christian Observer* reports on the programs and initiatives of Christian Union and those of various other Christian organizations. While it is our desire to foster unity, encouragement, and awareness among campus ministries, the Christian Union is not an umbrella organization.

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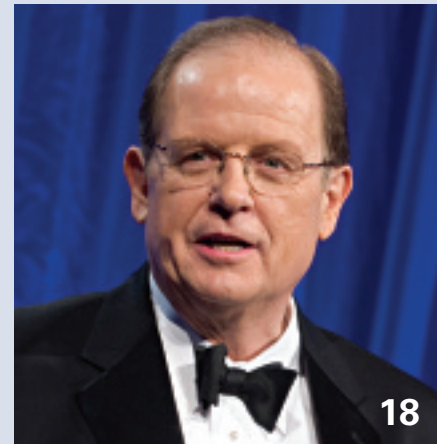


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FAITH FRIENDLY

Princeton Achieves No. 3 Ranking from Magazine Survey

P Princeton University received a commendation for its religious atmosphere. *First Things* magazine ranked Princeton at the top of its “least unfriendly to faith” listing among secular colleges in a survey.

In November, the New York-based magazine featured the results of a two-year examination of a chunk of the nation’s secular and religious schools. While it gathered data and input on hundreds of colleges, it ultimately focused on 105 in its effort to highlight the best options to secure an academically robust education in an environment that offers reasonable social and religious compatibility for students of faith.

“Princeton did very well,” said Joseph Bottum, a veteran journalist who directed much of the research.

As a whole, Ivy League universities received low marks for their religious environment, but Princeton garnered the reasonable appraisals for its tolerance to faith. “There are better places to go if you want a pure religious quality,” said Bottum, who recently left his position as editor of *First Things* to concentrate on book opportunities.

Columbia University ranked sixth on the same scale, which only listed the top seven secular schools designated as “least unfriendly to faith.”

Overall, Princeton finished third in *First Things*’ listing of the 25 top schools in the United States.

As a whole, Ivy League universities received low marks for their religious environment, but Princeton garnered the reasonable appraisals for its tolerance to faith.

First Things noted, “Princeton came in so high academically that all it needed were scores on the lower end of middling, in religious atmosphere and friendliness to religious belief, to achieve its final ranking. Telling, it was one of the few pro-

mier universities to clear even those low bars.”

First Things ranked Wheaton College and Thomas Aquinas College as its best schools for the goal of reaching the best overall mix of academic, social, and religious considerations.

“The evangelical Wheaton and the Catholic Thomas Aquinas couldn’t reach Princeton’s level of pure academic possibilities, but Wheaton’s social and religious atmosphere, and Thomas Aquinas’ intellectual seriousness, pushed them, in the end, to the top,” according to *First Things*. Ultimately, students must choose what they want from their college education, whether it is a solid emphasis on scholarly matters or faith considerations.

At Princeton, faculty members and campus ministers welcomed the news that their university received a top score for its religious atmosphere. Robert George, director of Princeton’s James Madison Program in American Ideals and

Institutions, credited the support of a handful of vocal faculty members, as well as a unified chaplaincy for some of the religious respect on campus.

Princeton is home to a small, but staunch number of faculty members who

“very explicitly support students of faith. That makes a difference. There are very strong evangelical groups that help create an environment friendly to faith,” George said. “The chaplaincy work very well together.”

George noted that the university’s Catholic community is robust and “some of the very top students are very publicly Catholic.” George serves on the editorial and advisory council of *First Things*, which is published by The Institute on Religion and Public Life.

Father Thomas Mullely, director of the Aquinas Institute, echoed those comments. “I’m very positive about the tenor of faith at Princeton University. The president of the university is respectful of the ministries on campus,” he said. “There is no doubt that someone can be as active in his or her faith at Princeton as at Notre Dame.”

Jane Kim, Princeton ’04, a senior staffer with Manna Christian Fellowship, said her ministry has received tangible support from Princeton’s administration. “The university does a wonderful job of trying to promote religious tolerance and dialogue between people of different faiths.”

While the atmosphere may be welcoming to faith, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of all Princeton students are exposed to the Christian faith on a regular basis.

Christian Union Teaching Fellow Chuck Hetzler said he has found most Princeton students to be open to religious discussions. Princeton Faith and Action, Christian Union’s leadership development ministry, is the largest student organization on campus.

However, Hetzler cautioned that some students report encounters with professors who make derogatory comments



First Things recently ranked Princeton least unfriendly to faith among secular colleges.

about Christianity. “Based on students’ stories, profs don’t make light of other religions, but for whatever reasons they feel the liberty to take jabs at Christianity,” he said.

John Londregan, a political science professor, noted that religious rankings among secular schools are relative to the competition.

“I would say that the biggest challenges to everyone’s moral background, religious or otherwise, here at Princeton, are, first, the pressures to achieve at a world-class university, and, secondly, a heavy drinking culture centered on the eating clubs that dominate the social life of our undergraduates,” Londregan said.

Nonetheless, the editor of *First Things*

pointed out that a school’s status as secular does not have to be a deal-killer for Christian students. “A few professors can make a secular school a reasonably hospitable place,” said R.R. Reno. “It’s helpful to have some guidance as to which secular schools are the most faith-friendly and which purportedly Christian schools are less faith-friendly.” ■

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

Annual MLK Event Promotes Unity

Y On January 17, Christian ministries at Yale united for the annual “Let Us Break Bread Together” pan-Christian celebration of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The celebration, which included music and food, was held at Saint Thomas More Golden Center and sponsored by the Black Church at Yale, Yale Christian Fellowship, OneBody, Yale Gospel Choir, the University Church, Yale Students for Christ, Athletes in Action, Saint Thomas More, and the Luther House.

“[This] is one of the few events on campus where we as Christians at Yale and in New Haven step outside our own programming and partner together on such a large scale,” said Ivy Onyeador ’11, a member of the Black Church at Yale.

Onyeador started the celebration with opening remarks; Pastor Dexter B. Upshaw, Jr. of the Black Church at Yale, led a prayer; and Presbyterian Chaplain Rev. Ian Oliver made a short presentation on the importance of pan-Christian unity. Musical performances were given by the Yale Gospel Choir and Living Water, an a capella group. Kevin Olusola ’11 performed a musical arrangement on the cello and alumnus Rodney “J Prophet” Reynolds ’10 ministered through “holy hip-hop.” Ben Robbins ’12 closed the event in prayer.

A highlight of the event was a performance by the men’s choir of Pivot Ministries, a Christ-centered substance abuse recovery program based in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

“They were a true blessing to all in attendance,” said Onyeador.

Chris Matthews, Christian Union’s ministry director at Yale, enjoyed the MLK celebration.

“As a new member of the Yale community, I was thrilled for the opportunity to meet more Christians studying and serving here. It was a delight to experience such diverse and gifted expressions of the worship of Jesus Christ. I hope there will be many more events like this at Yale that bring together Christians to pray, to fellowship, and worship the Lord together,” he said.

Onyeador says “Breaking Bread” is her favorite annual event at Yale.

“It facilitates the continued unity and collaborations of different ministries,” she said. “The following Sunday, members of Athletes in Action joined us (the Black Church at Yale) at our 10:30 a.m. service and that truly blessed me. One person has continued to attend and that means a lot to me personally.”

According to Onyeador, the celebration was inspired by a quote by Dr. King stat-

ing, “It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o’clock on Sunday morning.”

Onyeador believes Christians must



Christian Ministries at Yale united for the annual pan-Christian celebration in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Dexter B. Upshaw, Jr., of the Black Church at Yale, led the opening prayer.

stand united against injustice and oppression.

“In my opinion, if we come together to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we must decide whether we are going to continue working toward his vision in the fight against oppression and injustice. I think that must be a major goal of all Christian ministries and the

“If we come together to celebrate the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we must decide whether we are going to continue working toward his vision in the fight against oppression and injustice.”

—Ivy Onyeador, Yale '11

hope is that events like these remind us of our progress, but also spur us on to action,” she said.

And as a college student today,

Onyeador recognizes that the action or apathy of today will be recorded by history tomorrow.

“It is important that we voice our discon-

tent with injustice and oppression in our country and world today, not tomorrow, or after graduation, but right now. If we remain silent, history will remember.” ■

By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer

THE BRANCH AND THE VINES

New Brown Ministry Is Welcomed by Underclassmen

B Gabe Brotzman faced a crossroads when he entered Brown as a freshman: “Either get a lot closer to Christ or fall away.”

Fortunately for Brotzman '13 his parents and friends encouraged him to stay the course. Now, he is growing in his faith as a member of one of Brown's newer Christian campus ministries, The Branch.

The Branch, which is affiliated with the

national Chi Alpha ministries, started at Brown roughly three years ago and now has 30 student members. The ministry conducts a weekly worship service called The Gathering, which consists of a message from Ministry Director John Michaelson or a guest speaker. The growing ministry—which recently added staff members Adam and Elynn Koelsch—also offers small group Bible studies, one of

which is geared toward international students.

Junior Sarah Gassel said she “shopped around” for a ministry when she was a freshman at Brown but couldn't envision herself being part of one until she learned about the Branch while attending services at Renaissance Church. Only the third Brown student to become involved in the fledgling ministry, Gassel said she appreciated the intimacy of the organization.

“I think I felt socially awkward and overlooked at the other groups' meetings,” she said.

“The Branch was the only group that reached out to *me* rather than ‘interested freshmen,’” she said, “and that's precisely what I needed. It was like it was Jesus reaching out to me, telling me I was not really alone, despite the fact that it was the loneliest I had ever felt in my entire life.”

Although Gassel was a Christian since age 7, she said the Branch helped her learn more about Jesus. “More than anything,” she said, “the Branch community has inspired more personal time with God. I have known the right things for a long time, but I needed an extra push to really seek to grow closer to God in a more consistent way.”

Brotzman also described an immediate connection to the ministry.

“I knew I wanted to be involved in



Although relatively new to the campus, the Branch at Brown is impacting students, including junior Sarah Gassel.

some sort of Christian community, but I was immediately drawn to the Branch. Other than being drawn by the Holy Spirit, I'm not sure how else to describe what attracted me to them," he said.

Although he was involved with other activities on campus, Brotzman decided to put his efforts into the Branch because he felt he was really growing there.

"I have learned so much by reading scriptures and I'm starting to form a better understanding of what I'm getting into each day, and a lot of that is the nurturing that the Branch community offers," He said.

Broetzman and Gassel are unique among Brown students in that while they were not necessarily mature in their faith when they came to Brown, they had knowledge of Christ and the truth of the Gospel. According to Michaelson, roughly 80% of students surveyed by the ministry during contact evangelism reported never having thought about faith. Others, he

said, admit to having heard of Jesus Christ and may even believe he lived, but they know nothing of the Cross and the resurrection.

But through reaching out to the Brown campus in humility, love, and respect for their peers, the staff and students with

In the meantime, the fruits of the ministry's labors are apparent in students like Gassel and Broetzman.

"I really feel like I have gotten a lot from being a part of the Branch," said Broetzman. "It has allowed me to mature in my faith and become more serious

"It was like it was Jesus reaching out to me, telling me I was not really alone, despite the fact that it was the loneliest I had ever felt in my entire life."

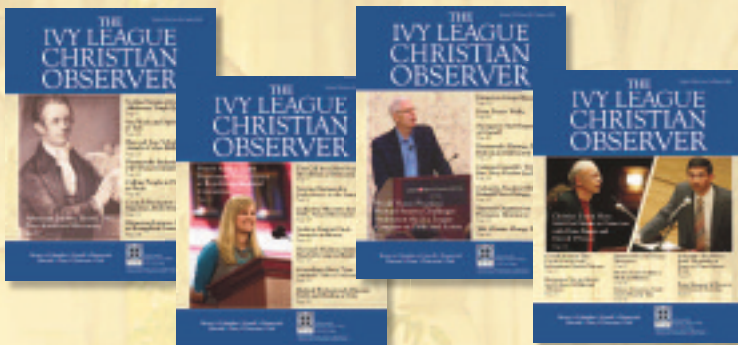
—Sarah Gassel, Brown '12

the Branch prayerfully work alongside the other campus Christian ministries to share the truth with more of the Brown community so it doesn't remain in spiritual ignorance.

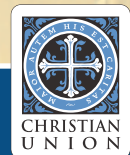
about following Christ. I have learned so much more about prayer, community, sacrifice, humility, and other things in just a couple of years." But he admits, "I have so so much more to learn." ■

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'YOU ARE NOT ALONE'

Meeting Reminds Ministries to Work Together

C Thirty-five student leaders, four staff members, and six local Ithacans recently met at St. Luke's Lutheran Church for a time of corporate encouragement.

Set up by Campus On A Hill, the gathering served as a time for Christian leaders to catch up and strategize. Ministries represented included: Campus Crusade for Christ, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, Chinese Bible Study, Chinese

of the student body of about 13,000 undergraduates. Yet, just a few years ago, there were at most five outspoken Christians in the Greek system. During the last academic year, a few Christians in the Greek life started to meet in order to establish accountability. Last October, there was enough momentum for five Christians from Cornell to attend the Northeast Regional Greek InterVarsity Conference. They were filled with the vision of creat-

year. Inspired by the purchase of the Chesterton House, 13 women have decided to affiliate with the Chesterton House to live in Christian community together.

The meeting also included a discussion of two big conferences in the spring semester. Light '11, held in March, was a missions' event at Cornell; Christian Union's Ivy League Congress on Faith and Action was held April 1-3 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Approximately 400 students sought God together and learned how to serve him faithfully and wisely in their various callings and vocations.

Also at the meeting, Charles Fick, a staffer at InterVarsity, shared the vision of having a Veritas Forum on campus in the near future. The Veritas Forum (www.veritas.org) was founded in Harvard in 1992 with the mission to "engage students and faculty in discussions about life's hardest questions and the relevance of Jesus Christ to all of life." Renowned speakers are invited and follow-up discussion groups help students find answers to



Leaders from several ministries at Cornell came together for a strategic meeting this winter.

Christian Fellowship, Coptic Orthodox Fellowship, Cornell Christian Fellowship, Graduate Christian Fellowship, Greek InterVarsity Fellowship, Hong Kong Christian Fellowship, Korean Church of Cornell, Navigators, and Souldiers.

After brunch, Paul Bennetch '12 of Campus On A Hill talked about how God has given the leaders different roles and positions, and how they are called to be salt and light in their respective contexts as one body. Later, various leaders shared testimonies about their ministries.

For example, Abigail Needles '12 shared about the newly formed Greek Christian Fellowship. Fraternities and sororities at Cornell comprise 30 percent

ing a Bible study in every single Greek house at Cornell.

Justin McGear, a current student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, shared about his ministry, Chesterton House—which was founded in 2000 with the goal to "facilitate discovery of the intellectual riches of the historic Christian faith, thereby empowering more faithful Christian living." After providing intellectual food for nine years, an actual house was obtained for the first time this past fall, and 16 men are now living there in intentional Christian community. Danielle Lertola '13 then spoke about an upcoming women's house that is scheduled to open next

life's hardest questions.

"If the goal of the Chesterton House is to help Christians think Christianly," said Fick, "the goal of the Veritas Forum is to help non-Christians think Christianly."

The meeting concluded with small group prayer.

Stan Matusz, who obtained a B.S. in Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell in 1993 and a J.D. from Penn Law School in 1996, is one of many locals in the area longing to see Cornell transformed by God. After the meeting he said, "The Lord is raising up individual students to pioneer things like small group gatherings, Bible studies, community living arrangements, and apologetics forums in frater-



Paul Bennetch '12, a member of Campus on a Hill's leadership team, helped facilitate the Fellowship Leader's Brunch at Cornell.

nities, sororities, program houses, and elsewhere around the campus. It was a reminder that while God certainly uses ministries, organizations, and churches to

God glorified in this secular school.

“At Cornell, the easiest thing in the world is to get sucked into your own little tunnel of duties and responsibilities,

There are dozens, if not hundreds, of students who want to see God glorified in this secular school.

spearhead such initiatives; it usually starts with an obedient ‘army of one’ who receives a vision from the Lord. Their enthusiasm is contagious.”

This meeting helped Christian leaders at Cornell to know and realize that they are not alone. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of students who want to see

and forget not only that we are called to be Christ to this campus through more than academics, but also that we’re part of a Body here,” said Bennetch. “Nothing about the Church works properly if all the parts are busy being hermits—whether as individuals or as ministries.” ■

Chesterton House

“daring to discuss the important and the amusing”

For Any & All Christian Alumni & Relatives including those involved with:

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Chi Alpha

Chinese Bible Study
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Navigators
Veterinary Christian Fellowship



Cornell Reunion Breakfast Reception

9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11

Chesterton House 115 The Knoll



Join us for breakfast, fellowship, & updates on campus ministry activity.

POLL: EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF FRESHMEN IS DECLINING

Students Have Higher Levels of Stress, Uncertainty about Future

Dartmouth Economic strains, academic expectations, and the pressure to succeed all seem to be taking their emotional toll on students entering college, according to a recent survey entitled “The American Freshman: National Norms Fall 2010.”

Responses of more than 200,000 full-time first-year students at 279 U.S. colleges and universities were gathered for the survey, which concluded that self-

health means, ‘Am I happy most of the time, and do I feel good about myself’ so it probably correlates with mental health.”

“I don’t think students have an accurate sense of other people’s mental health,” he added. “There’s a lot of pressure to put on a perfect face, and people often think they’re the only ones having trouble.”

In *The Dartmouth* newspaper, Assistant Dean of First-Year Students John Pfister, a psychological and brain sciences professor who has taught at Dartmouth College for almost 20 years, said he has gradually seen an increasing number of first-year students express concern regarding their academic careers, their futures, and how they will pay for their education.

“If you look at first-year students 10 years ago versus now, I do think we’re encountering people who are more stressed,” Pfister said. “We’re also seeing more students much earlier talk about the big ticket items in terms of planning...”

“When we bring people to Dartmouth, we bring really high-achievers here. When high-achievers get together, they continue to hope to achieve higher levels, so the conversations I have with first-year stu-

dents about double majors or doing three [Language Study Abroad programs] are a consequence of inviting some high-end, high-achieving students here.”

Deans and undergraduate advisors have referred an increasing number of students to Counseling and Human Development Services, Pfister said.

According to the survey, students who perceived themselves to have lower mental health were also more likely to report being frequently depressed in high school

and were less likely to anticipate being satisfied with college. Additionally, over 29% of students reported being frequently overwhelmed by all they had to do as high school seniors.

Despite this, many students still reported high expectations of participating in campus activities and volunteer opportunities. Therefore, perhaps not surprising, is the increase to nearly 1-in-10 students who anticipate seeking professional counseling in college.

Reyad Allie ’11, an undergraduate advisor, told *The Dartmouth* that he talks to students on his floor about available campus resources, including the Health Services Department and the Academic Skills Center. He also said basic ways to solve academic stress — including joining a study group, consulting a friend or talking with a professor — are also helpful.

“Freshmen are asking, ‘Where am I going to be in four years?’ and ‘Am I going to be able to find a job?’” Allie said. “And that’s stressing them out because they think that they have to plan their entire four years here with a goal in mind, and if their planning is incomplete, they might not reach their goal.”

But the counseling department is not the only resource for students seeking to improve their emotional wellness. In an interview last year regarding suicide and mental wellness, Dr. Harold Koplewicz, MD, president of the Child Mind Institute in New York City, said that campus ministries are a valuable resource. Three of Koplewicz’s children have attended or are attending Ivy League schools.

While not a substitute for professional medical and psychological treatment, caring for and reaching out in love to fellow students is the cornerstone of Christian campus ministries, which are rooted in building relationships that can last lifetimes.

“Faith-based ministries provide a sense of community, whether someone belongs to a church or only participates in a faith-based volunteer program,” said Koplewicz. “It’s the fact that they have a sense of belonging to a group of people who care about them.” ■



Emotional health among college freshmen is at its lowest point in a quarter-century, according to a recent study.

rated emotional health for incoming freshmen is the lowest it’s been in a quarter century. According to the survey, 52 percent of students said their emotional health was above average; in 1985, that number was 64 percent.

Dr. Mark Reed, Dartmouth’s Director of Counseling Services, was quoted in a January *New York Times* article regarding the poll. Commenting on the self-rated nature of the survey, Reed said, “Most people probably think emotional

TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Harvard Freshmen Memorize 2nd Timothy

H *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. – 2 Timothy 3:14-15*

In his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul exhorts his protégé to be disciplined like a good soldier, avoid youthful lusts, cherish and revere the Word of God, and teach others to do the same.

This fall, two young men in a Christian Union Bible course took seriously the charge to “correctly handle the word of truth” and memorized the entire book of 2nd Timothy, all 83 verses. At the Harvard College Faith and Action Christmas party, freshmen roommates James Sun and Kent Toland celebrated the season and the end of the semester in a unique way when they recited the entire book from memory.

Harvard College Faith and Action (HCFA) is a Christian leadership development ministry supported and resourced by Christian Union.

“We committed to memorizing the letter because we thought it would be awesome to carry the Word of God in our hearts and minds wherever we go,” said Kent. “For example, I constantly refer to chapter 1, verse 8: ‘So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.’”

James agrees. “I find myself referring to

“Their dedication and commitment was an inspiration to everyone involved in the ministry,” he said. “Not coincidentally, Kent and James were two of the guys in whom I saw the most tangible spiritual growth and maturity in my Bible Courses. They have been reaching out with great enthusiasm to many of their friends and classmates to get involved in HCFA.”

Inspired by the depth of study in the HCFA Bible course, the two made a pact to memorize 2 Timothy early in the semester.

“We made a commitment and held each other accountable,” Kent said. “We had each other’s back through the semester, and that showed when we recited the book.”

James said having his roommate as a partner in the endeavor helped to make it all the more possible.

“I would not have been able to do it without Kent,” he said. “Having someone there to remind me to work on memorization through the week was crucial. Whenever I fell behind, Kent helped me stay motivated and held me accountable to the pact we made.”

The desire to understand God’s Word better is what originally inspired both Sun and Toland to participate in HCFA and the Bible course.

“What attracted me to HCFA and its Bible course was how seriously the ministry took the study of God’s Word,” said Sun. “Flipping through the course manual and hearing Nick talk about how we

were going to cover just four chapters in an entire semester signaled to me that this course would help me appreciate the Bible like never before. The Bible course did amazing things for my faith.”

Additionally, the book of 2 Timothy has also demonstrated the importance of



Harvard Freshmen Kent Toland (left) and James Sun memorized the entire book of 2nd Timothy in the fall semester.

memorizing scripture for the students. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work,” said Sun, citing 2 Tim 3:16. “Reading and studying scripture is really important for those reasons, but knowing it so well that you can mentally refer to it does that much more for your faith.”

This semester, Toland and Sun, along with fellow HCFA member Dolo Noso, have committed to fasting twice a week as they study the Book of Acts in their Bible course.

“In our Bible course, we talked about postmodern society’s devaluation of endurance as a virtue and the dangers associated with immediate gratification,” said Sun. “We hope that fasting will guard us from weakness and train us to endure for Christ.”

To see a YouTube video of Kent and James reciting 2 Timothy, visit: www.Christian-Union.org/HCFA2ndTimothy. ■

“We committed to memorizing the letter because we thought it would be awesome to carry the Word of God in our hearts and minds wherever we go.”

it a lot now, without even thinking about it,” he said. “If I need encouragement, 2 Timothy 1:7 and 4:7 are there for me.”

Nick Nowalk, a Christian Union ministry fellow at Harvard who directs the Bible course attended by Kent and James, noticed a correlation between the memorization of scripture and the roommates’ emergence as leaders.

PASSIONATE ABOUT PURITY

New Christian Union Bible Course Tells the Truth about Sexuality



Most college students find themselves immersed in a campus culture that bombards them with rampant messages of promiscuity. Even believers can enter universities ignorant of biblical perspectives on sexuality and exhibit behaviors that remarkably resemble those of their secular peers.

As such, students need to understand biblical principles for sexuality. They need to be equipped with tools to help them navigate the minefields of dating on campus.

“College students are spectacularly sexually active,” said Nick Nowalk, a Christian Union ministry fellow at Harvard University. “They are not just abstractly considering these issues. There is no way you can survive unless you have a deep grounding.”

Just as important, “college is the time of life when people come to the deepest convictions that are going to last the rest of their lives,” said Nowalk, who teaches Bible courses for Harvard College Faith and Action, Christian Union’s leadership development ministry on campus.

To equip students with the tools they need to make godly decisions, the Christian Union has introduced a new “Sex and Spirituality” Bible course this spring to highlight principles for interpersonal relationships, dating, marriage, sexual activity, and purity. Nowalk has penned extensive, scholarly material for the course.

The new course material is being used

in Christian Union’s Bible courses at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale universities. The Bible courses, taught by academically-credentialed professionals who have real life experience, are capped off at 10 students to insure maximum participation and accountability.

The Bible course could also be well-received given a trend towards abstinence among young people. World News Services cited a recent study by the National



Harvard College Faith and Action is conducting a new Bible course this spring that focuses on biblical principles for interpersonal relationships and sexuality. The course was written by Nick Nowalk, a Christian Union ministry fellow at Harvard.

Center for Health Statistics that indicates a decrease in sexual activity among teens and young adults. The largest and most in-depth federal report to date on sexual behavior, sexual attraction, and sexual identity in the U.S. covered 2006-08 and included 5,082 participants in the 15- to 24-year-old group. According to a *USA Today* analysis of the report, 12% of women and 13% of men in the 20-24 age bracket said they have never had sexual contact, compared with 8% for both sexes in 2002.

Nowalk developed much of the Bible course of sexuality over the last three years when Harvard College Faith and Action offered seminars on the topic.

Material on sexuality and relationships is “always widely, successfully received.” Likewise, such topics capture considerable interest for students from both Christian and secular backgrounds.

“Once you ‘get’ the campuses and start interacting with the students, it’s such a front-and-center issue,” said Nowalk. “It’s also a common ground

with unbelievers.”

The material is especially relevant as college students increasingly are postponing marriage but still need a framework for approaching dating and courtship.

Much of the coursework – drafted within a rigorous academic framework – centers on God’s ideal plan for sexual relationships within the context of marriage.

“It’s been a great way to reach out to unbelievers and show them how coherent and beautiful is the [biblical] vision for human sexuality,” Nowalk said. “Within the proper context, it is to be enjoyed, to express love.”

Ultimately, marriage reflects the love of Christ for His church. Nowalk said extramarital sex violates the mystery of that exclusive relationship.

“The Apostle Paul is saying that the human dimension of marriage is based on a prior design in the heart of God – namely His pursuit of a group of human beings who would uniquely become His people, and, to whom, He would give Himself without reserve as their God,” Nowalk noted in course materials.

“The worth and meaning of sexuality and marriage are bound up in the eternal purpose of God who makes Himself available to us in Christ with self-abandoning affection and unwavering commitment.”

Other topics in the Bible course include singleness, premarital sex, adultery, pornography, sexual purity, homosexuality, and redemption for past behavior.

At its heart, all sexual sin is ultimately a worship and idolatry problem, noted Nowalk. As a result, young people are often left to suffer the emotional, social, and physical consequences of wrongful sexual practices.

Conversely, biblically-grounded dating relationships can lay the foundation for fulfilling, healthy marriages.

The biblical framework for sexual activity is “intimately connected to God’s character. It’s for our good as well as His glory,” Nowalk said. ■

SPIRITUAL CAPITAL IN THE MARKETPLACE

Grant Funds Study of Companies with Faith-Based Virtues

Y According to researchers at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, true wealth and flourishing come from more than financial capital; it is the result of a higher commodity known as spiritual capital. With a \$1.875 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation, Miroslav Volf and Theodore Roosevelt Malloch are leading a new initiative that will take a closer look at spiritual capital and its impact on the marketplace.

Volf is the Director of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture and the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School.

Malloch, Research Professor for the Spiritual Capital Initiative and the author of *Spiritual Enterprise: Doing Virtuous Business*, defines spiritual capital as

“the fund of beliefs, examples, and commitments that are transmitted from generation to generation through a religious tradition, and which attach people to the transcendental source of human happiness.”

More than simply impacting individual happiness, Malloch contends that spiritual capital overflows into the workplace and ultimately impacts whole economies.

“Human beings, guided by faith and hope, add value to nature and transform it in powerfully positive ways,” said Malloch. “This happened in Europe and North America since the 17th century and gave rise to modern capitalism.”

Today, explained Malloch, the world sees the impact of spiritual capital in regions such as Indonesia, in off-shore Chinese communities, the now-burgeoning economy of India, and in Latin American evangelical communities that are creating

islands of free commerce despite what he described as “strict and often corrupt state control.”

The Spiritual Capital Initiative at Yale will publish 24 case studies that profile companies and the faith-based virtues that they embody. Additionally, in cooperation with PBS, the initiative will produce a documentary on “Doing Virtuous Business,” which will highlight 12 companies that have been identified as exemplifying “virtues today’s companies and economies need to thrive.”

The initiative will publish additional online and print resources on spiritual capital and best practices

and will work in cooperation with the European Academy of Business in Society to host a series of conferences on world religions’ traditions of practical

study explores the significance of the company’s commitment to keeping the Lord’s Day holy.

According to the company’s Corporate Purpose, Chick-Fil-A exists “to glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us [and] to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-Fil-A.”

Additionally, Chick-Fil-A’s Closed-on-Sunday policy states, “Since Truett Cathy, founder and CEO of Chick-Fil-A, opened his first restaurant in 1946, he has made his Closed-on-Sunday policy as much a part of the Chick-Fil-A brand as the original Chick-Fil-A Chicken Sandwich... Cathy’s practice of closing his restaurants on Sunday is unique to the restaurant business and a testament to his faith in God.”

The policy says two important things to people, according to the company: “One, that there must be something special about the way Chick-Fil-A people view their spiritual life; and, two, that there must be something special about how Chick-Fil-A feels about its people.”

Despite suspicions of what being closed on Sunday would do to the company’s bottom line, the company has experienced sales gains for 41 consecutive years. Cathy stated that “blessings from the Lord” are the reason for the company’s success, and he called the closed-on-Sunday policy, “the best decision I’ve ever made.”



Theodore Malloch is the Research Professor of the Spiritual Capital Initiative at Yale.

More than simply impacting individual happiness, Theodore Malloch contends that spiritual capital overflows into the workplace and ultimately impacts whole economies.

wisdom and their implications for business.

The first case study conducted by researchers was done on the fast-food chain, Chick-Fil-A. Entitled “Chick-Fil-A: Adding Value by Closing on Sunday?” the

And this, according to Malloch, is indicative of the influence of spiritual capital. In his book, Malloch wrote, “Far from restricting business success, faith dramatically amplifies our economic potential and enables the free market to create

wealth for us all, benefiting everyone.” He also said, “Virtuous enterprise accomplishes two enormously important things: it makes the world in which we live a better place, and it makes our business far more successful, more profitable than they otherwise would be.”

Other companies highlighted by the initiative include Ser-



Miroslav Volf, the Director of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture, will co-lead the school's new Spiritual Capital Initiative.

viceMaster, Ascension Health, and Tyson Foods, among others.

Despite the impact virtue has had upon businesses thus far, Malloch said that spiritual capital is less developed as a component of scholarly research and marketplace growth.

“The notion of ‘spiritual capital’ is just beginning to pass the so-what

test,” said Malloch. “Many scholars are now trying to more fully demonstrate the relevance, validity, and potential of the notion that spiritual mores and underpinnings demonstrably affect development and economic behavior from consumer habits to firm organization to following ethical practices and standards.”

Thus, the cultivation of spiritual vitality within students and young business professionals has the potential to impact the culture in profound ways.

As Malloch put it, “The creation of wealth requires capital investment, and the most essential part of that investment is the spiritual capital with which enterprise begins, then flowers and bears fruit.” ■

By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer

‘A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION’

Attorney Discusses Implications of Hastings Decision



At its heart, the right to the freedom of speech is closely tied to – and largely dependent upon –

another key U.S. Constitutional provision, the right to freedom of assembly.

That was one of the messages from Michael McConnell when the former U.S. Court of Appeals judge spoke at Dartmouth College about his role in a controversial case involving a clash between religious freedom and antidiscrimination principles.

McConnell, a leading authority on freedom of speech and religion, recently appeared at the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy, where he discussed his representation in a recent U.S. Supreme Court case involving a religious student organization at a public university.

McConnell, the director of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center at Stanford University, also received recognition within legal circles when his name was floated as a potential nominee to the Supreme Court during the administration of President George W. Bush, Yale ’68 and Harvard Business School ’75.

Though his recent client, a student chapter of the Christian Legal Society, lost its case against the University of California’s Hastings College of Law, McConnell paused to highlight some of the potential

implications of the court’s ruling.

“It will come as no surprise to a sophisticated audience like this, as losing counsel of the case, I’m inclined to be critical of the court’s decision,” McConnell told Dartmouth students.

In June 2010, the high court ruled that the law school did not violate the First Amendment by withdrawing recognition of the Christian student organization because it excluded gay students as voting members and leaders.

The San Francisco-based college applied an “all-comers” policy; student organizations were entitled to financial assistance, use of meeting space, and other resources as long as they permitted all students to participate in their activities, according to news reports.

The local chapter of the Christian Legal Society forbid students from becoming voting members or assuming leadership positions unless they affirmed orthodox Christian beliefs and disavowed sexual immorality. The association disapproved of “sexual conduct outside of marriage between a man and a woman.”

At the heart of its case, the Christian Legal Society argued the school’s policy



Attorney Michael McConnell spoke to Dartmouth students about a Supreme Court decision that affects freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

violated its First Amendment rights to free association and religious freedom.

Nonetheless, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Cornell '54 and Columbia Law '59, said it was constitutionally permissible for public universities to require official student organizations to accept all students. Such a policy was sufficient to overcome First Amendment concerns, especially in the interest of bringing together individuals of diverse views, news reports said.

At Dartmouth, McConnell countered that freedom of speech, especially for an organization, is dependent upon the ability to “gather with other likeminded people... We cannot communicate as a group unless we can gather as a group.”

McConnell warned that a wide variety of organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jews for Jesus, and the Democratic National Committee, need to be able to meet with likeminded members.

“The freedom of association necessary includes the freedom to limit your association to people who share your values and beliefs. Were it not so, outsiders and even adversaries could have the power to alter or distort your message,” he said.

“The NAACP is not discriminating when it refuses to allow a racist skinhead to sit in on its planning meetings.”

However, as viewed on its California

campus, the Christian Legal Society’s sexual-purity policy “ran afoul of Hasting’s nondiscrimination policy,” McConnell told Dartmouth students.

“Hastings said that their actual policy was that all groups were required to accept all students – and even let them vote and participate in leadership – even if

the content of their speech by excluding those who do not share their central purposes and beliefs from voting and leadership roles.”

McConnell told Dartmouth students that freedom of association should not be simply “collapsed” into freedom of speech.

“The freedom of association necessary includes the freedom to limit your association to people who share your values and beliefs. Were it not so, outsiders and even adversaries could have the power to alter or distort your message.”

—Michael McConnell

they did not share and even if they openly opposed the purposes and beliefs of the group. If actually enforced, this would mean that groups of all sorts would lose control over their identity.”

In response, the Christian Legal Society contended that the “all-comers” policy was a “frontal assault on the freedom of association for every student group.”

In a legal filing, the organization said, “All noncommercial, expressive associations, regardless of their beliefs, have a constitutionally protected right to control

“Diversity of opinion is spread through diversity of groups,” he said.

Likewise, McConnell warned that the debate over homosexual marriage could extend beyond cultural issues and into matters of civil liberties.

Ultimately, “all Americans, even those who dissent from the currently prevailing majority, have a right to speak, form groups, and conduct their lives in accordance with their own beliefs without forfeiting their rights to share in the benefits of public life.” ■

By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Ivy League Alumni Give Imperative Definition



A paper that defines marriage clearly and unapologetically as the union of one man and one woman was published in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* this winter.

Princeton Professor Robert George (Harvard '81), Notre Dame Ph.D. Candidate Ryan Anderson (Princeton '04), and Princeton Ph.D. Candidate Sherif Girgis (Princeton '08) co-wrote the paper, entitled “What is Marriage?”

The writers address common issues

about marriage such as what physically constitutes a marriage; what impact infertility has on the marital union; how civil “marriage” would impact society; and why marriage isn’t just whatever we say it is.

“Marriage is distinguished from every other form of friendship inasmuch as it is comprehensive. It involves a sharing of lives and resources, and a union of minds and wills,” according to the paper.

Additionally, the writers contend that real marriage requires an organic bodily

union, which is achieved “when a man and woman coordinate to perform an act of the kind that causes conception.”

The Ivy League alumni explain that “any union of two people that did not involve organic bodily union would not be comprehensive—it would leave out an important part of each person’s being.”

Bearing and rearing children together is also a component of a marriage and is based upon the biological ability to physically consummate the marriage and procreate, according to the paper. However,

the writers also point out that childless couples, by the very nature of their ability

“In other words, a mistaken marriage policy tends to distort people’s under-

claring war” on same-sex marriages, the paper is also “demeaning to opposite sex couples that do not produce their own offspring.”

On the contrary, George and his collaborators clearly state: “To form a real marriage, a couple needs to establish and live out the kind of union that would be complete by, and be apt for, procreation and child-rearing...Any act of organic bodily union can seal a marriage, whether or not it causes conception.”

To further bring home their point, the three writers respond to Yoshino’s rebuttal in the *Public Discourse*, and address his claim that their paper “declares war” on same-sex marriage.

“Then has Yoshino ‘declared war’ on the (according to *Newsweek*) 500,000 polyamorous U.S. households, by failing to support a policy that would ratify their romantic commitments as civil marriages? By this standard, no policy that proposed standards for which arrangements could be legally recognized as marriages—in other words, no marriage policy, period—would pass muster,” they write.

Further, they said, “Professor Yoshino’s rhetoric is thus, to all appearances, designed to exploit caricatures of conservatives as mean-spirited bigots out to thwart those not like themselves.”

In February, the marriage paper was listed on the Social Science Research Network’s Top Ten download list for jour-



(L-R) Sherif Girgis (Princeton ’08), Princeton Professor Robert George (Harvard ’81), and Ryan Anderson (Princeton ’04) co-wrote the paper entitled, “What is Marriage?”

to consummate the marriage, also share a marital bond, even though they may be infertile.

For those married couples who do bear children together, the benefits to the offspring are great.

“According to the best available sociological evidence, children fare best on virtually every indicator of well-being when reared by their wedded biological parents,” they write.

Beyond the family unit, the authors contend that redefining marriage would have a negative impact upon society: “In redefining marriage, the law would teach that marriage is fundamentally about adults’ emotional unions, not bodily union or children, with which marital norms are tightly intertwined. Since emotions can be inconstant, viewing marriage essentially as an emotional union would tend to increase marital instability....”

standing of the kind of relationship that spouses are to form and sustain.”

Not surprisingly, the article received criticism from those advocating same-sex “marriage.”

In a *New York Times* editorial, gay

“Marriage is distinguished from every other form of friendship inasmuch as it is comprehensive. It involves a sharing of lives and resources, and a union of minds and wills.”

rights legal scholar and former Yale Professor Kenji Yoshino, Harvard ’91 and Yale Law ’96, takes issue with the authors’ contentions.

Yoshino claims that in addition to “de-

nals. It’s apparent that many people remain interested in pondering the question “What is marriage?” Thankfully, it’s a question men like George, Anderson, and Girgis remain ready to answer. ■

DECIPHERING A NOT-SO-COMMON DENOMINATOR

New Book Examines Changing Role of Religion in American Culture

I A new book by two Ivy League authors chronicles the trends in religion in the United States during the past five decades. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, by Robert D. Putnam, Yale Ph.D. '70, and David E. Campbell, Harvard Ph.D. '02, is an epic volume chock full of insights about the state of religion in the United States.

The book reveals the religious impact of the tumultuous 1960s and the resulting “aftershocks.” The authors also discuss the ebb and flow of religious affiliation among Americans and the influence, or lack thereof, of secularism. Like the title, the book highlights apparent contradictions in the American religious experience and attempts to answer the question of why such a pluralistic religious field does not breed contempt.

American Grace has received critical attention and acclaim for its depth, breadth, and relevancy. In the New York Times, Robert Wright stated that the book is “urgently relevant to the recent surge in interfaith tension” and “intellectually powerful.” Further, Martin E. Marty of The Christian Post calls *American Grace* “the religion and culture blockbuster book of the season.”

Based upon the extensive Faith Matters surveys, as well as several other studies and surveys, including Gallup Polls and the Pew Religion and Public Life reports, the book gives credible insight into the religious lives of Americans. Putnam and Campbell’s conclusions go beyond the superficial reporting of data, delving into the substance—and, at times, contradictions—intertwined with the data.

For example, the authors note, “Today, America remains, on average, a highly religious nation, but that average obscures a growing secular swath of the population.” Yet, they don’t anticipate the secularization of America to equal that of Europe any time soon.

“While recognizing the slow generational decline in American religiosity over the last half century, we are skeptical about bold assertions of secularization in America,” they write.

Additionally, the authors say, while Americans “overwhelmingly” identify with a religion, they don’t necessarily act upon it. “Not all who identify with a religion frequently attend religious services or engage in religious behavior,” they observe.

There is also a striking difference between the way evangelicals and non-evangelicals view what is good and evil, the authors say. According to their 2006 *Faith Matters* survey, “three-quarters of evangelicals said that ‘there are absolutely clear guidelines as to what is good and evil,’ while a majority of non-evangelicals said instead ‘there can never be absolutely clear guidelines as to what is good and evil.’”

However, while Christians can’t always agree on what is good or evil, there does appear to be one common influence upon how Americans, particularly young adults, choose to worship – politics.

“A growing number of Americans, especially young people, have come to disavow religion. For many, their aversion to religion is rooted in unease with the association between religion and conservative politics,” the authors state.

Specifically, they report the period from 1991 to 2008 showed an increasing objection to the influence of religious leaders in political matters. One cited survey indicates that young Americans came to view religion as “judgmental, homophobic, hypocritical, and too political.”

“In the mid-1980’s, evangelicals had outnumbered ‘nones’ (those without religious affiliation) among American twentysomethings by more than 2:1; but by 2008 those proportions were almost completely overturned, as young nones outnumbered young evangelicals by better than 1.5:1.”

Further, the authors point to research showing “the rise of the new nones closely corresponds to the visibility of the Religious Right in the public media, suggesting that the rise of the nones might be some sort of backlash against religious conservatism.”

Their research reveals that while political conservatives who were raised evangelicals retained that faith, political liberals who were raised evangelical changed their religious affiliation. Political liberals raised in other faith traditions changed their affiliation to none.

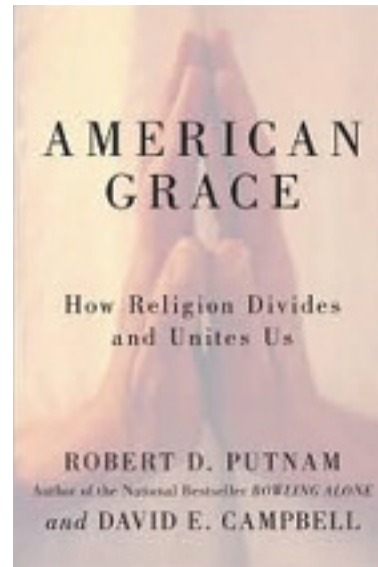
“Somewhat surprisingly, this pattern of switching suggests that people whose religious and political affiliations are ‘inconsistent’ as judged by today’s partisan alignments—that is, liberal churchgoers and un-churched conservatives—are more likely to resolve the inconsistency by changing their religion than by changing their politics,” the authors conclude. “It seemed implausible that people would hazard the fate of their

eternal soul over mundane political controversies.”

But while Americans have trouble tolerating politics in their religious experience, they apparently are accepting of others with differing religious beliefs. According to the authors, Americans cultivate many relationships with nonbelievers and members of other religions.

And it is through those relationships, the authors say, Americans have “solved the puzzle of religious pluralism.” It’s been done, they write, “by creating a web of interlocking personal relationships among people of many different faiths.”


And that, they conclude, is “America’s grace.” ■



Robert D. Putnam, Yale Ph.D. '70, and David E. Campbell, Harvard Ph.D. '02, have authored the comprehensive book, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*.

REDEEMING HOLLYWOOD

Dartmouth Alumnus Directs Movieguide



In Hollywood, where swans are black, vampires are romantic, and wives are desperate, celebrating faith and values might appear to be in vain. However, for the last 19 years, Ted Baehr, Dartmouth '69, has bestowed awards on positive, redemptive films, and released industry facts that contradict popular opinion as to what moviegoers really want to see.

Baehr is the founder and publisher of *Movieguide* and chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission ministry. *Movieguide* is "a family guide to movies and entertainment" that rates new releases according to standards beyond PG, PG-13, and R.

During the annual Faith and Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry, Baehr presents awards to the films, actors, and television shows that are most family-friendly. He also presents a bevy of research that shows that faith and values do play in Hollywood. Simply put, "Movies with faith and moral values do better at the box office," said Baehr.

In February, more than 450 top Hollywood executives attended the 19th Annual Movieguide Awards at the Universal Hilton in Hollywood. The event targets the upper echelon of executives because they are the ones who drive the industry.

Harvard alumnus and author Dr. William Jeynes '92 began the evening with an opening prayer, and Christian Union Founder and President Matt Bennett (Cornell '88, MBA '89) gave the benediction.

"As the philosopher Peter Kreeft once said, in terms of influencing culture, 'it comes down to Harvard and Hollywood,'" Bennett said, pointing out that there is an affinity between Christian Union and Movieguide. "We are both ministries that focus on a narrow, unreached segment that has a disproportionate influence on the culture."

The winners of Movieguide's 2010 Awards were *Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (Most Inspiring Movie), *Toy Story 3* (Best Movie for Families), and *Secretariat* (Best Movie for Mature Audiences).

Baehr presented research analyses of 270 movies from 2010. His report revealed that despite popular belief, the good, the true, and the beautiful are quantifiably preferred over the bad, the vile, and the ugly—by a significant majority of moviegoers. According to Baehr, "people want to see their religious faith respected and celebrated."

Baehr also noted that since the inception of the Movieguide Awards and Report to the Entertainment Industry, "the number of movies with positive Christian content and moral, biblical values has more than quadrupled."

However, despite the consistent positive increase, Baehr cautions that the minority of gratuitous, and morally perverse films targeted toward young people are still being touted by some critics and are having a negative impact on viewers.

"Our children and grandchildren, therefore, remain at risk from the filth and toxic ideas emanating from some people in the movie and television industry," Baehr wrote in his summary let-

"Our children and grandchildren, therefore, remain at risk from the filth and toxic ideas emanating from some people in the movie and television industry."

—Ted Baehr

ter to the entertainment industry. Young people spend roughly 75% more time interacting with media than they do with their parents or churches, studies show.

Therefore, it's Baehr's mission to show Hollywood executives that there is an audience for quality movies void of the promiscuity and gratuitousness, and that faith and values fiscally pay off at the box office.

However, William Jeynes, who works with Baehr on several research projects, cautions that the danger from Hollywood comes not just from immoral content, but from audience manipulation and distorted truth.



Photo courtesy of Movieguide

Actor Kevin Sorbo, his wife Sam Sorbo, and Ted Baehr, Dartmouth '69, at the Movieguide Awards.

"It's about an agenda," Jeynes said, explaining why he believes Hollywood continues to produce films with liberal worldviews, despite the more conservative preferences of audiences.

"If you can't make movies to suit the audience, then change the audience. If you blast people with a liberal worldview, people will be changed," he said.

Baehr is not alone in his mission. He says despite contrary opinion, there are Christian actors, producers, and executives who care about the industry and about honoring God.

In an interview with the *Christian Post*, actor Kevin Sorbo (*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*), the host of the 19th Annual Movieguide Awards, said he has turned down roles that were contrary to his values. Sorbo won Movieguide's Grace Award for his performance in *What If*.

In the recently-released *Soul Surfer*, the inspiring true story of a teen (Bethany Hamilton) who survives a shark-attack, Sorbo joins Dennis Quaid, Helen Hunt, and other A-list actors in a film that unashamedly glorifies God.

However, like Jeynes, Sorbo is concerned that the Hollywood agenda often circumvents what is true.

"Hollywood likes to put out their own message...If you keep saying two plus two equals five over and over again, then that is what people are going to think. Maybe it does equal five if we keep changing the definition of what's normal and what's right and what's wrong."

Therefore, said Jeynes, standing for the truth amidst the lies is vital in changing the moral course of the culture. "If we're to see this nation turned around for Christ, we need to identify the aspects of society that mold our country the most and intervene for the sake of the gospel," he said.

Through *Movieguide* and its report to the entertainment industry, that's exactly what Baehr and other Christians in Hollywood are striving to do.

To read *Movieguide* online, visit www.movieguide.org. The 19th Annual Movieguide Awards Gala will be aired on the Hallmark Channel on May 16. ■

'CULTURE MAKERS'

Ivy League Alumni Influence Tinseltown



David Alan Johnson, a writer and producer for television and film, estimates that at least half of the gatekeepers in Hollywood are Ivy League alumni.

An entertainment media veteran who has worked with companies such as Disney, Sony, Warner Brothers, and DreamWorks, Johnson was the co-creator of the television series *DOC* and *Sue Thomas F. B. Eye*. His analysis of Hollywood gatekeepers is right in line with a Christian Union white paper that shows how a disproportionate percentage of our nation's most influential leaders



Director David Alan Johnson (right) on the set of *Sue Thomas F.B. Eye*

in business, media, medicine and politics come from just eight leading universities. That number can be as high as 50% in some fields.

According to the white paper, "an Ivy League alumnus is 173 times more likely to hold a position of leadership such as media company CEO, or editor of a large newspaper or magazine."

"There's definitely a pipeline from the Ivy League to the halls of positions of power in Hollywood," said Johnson, an alumnus of Arizona State University. Executives in Hollywood value the

Ivy League education and pedigree, he explained; those who are Ivy alumni have a great affinity for others coming into the industry from those schools.

Johnson said many Hollywood insiders see themselves as "culture makers."

"People come to Hollywood because of ideology, not just to make money. They come with a strong sense of their perception of what should go on. Many of them think it's a higher calling," he said.

Sadly, however, Johnson says his opinion of the so-called gatekeepers, is that "almost none have a Christian worldview," he said.

John Seel, Ph.D., president of nCore Media in Los Angeles, also sees the tremendous potential for impact that Christians can have on the media and subsequently the culture.

"The academy, media, and entertainment (sectors) are collectively the culture industry, creating the taken-for-granted assumptions of reality for most people," said Seel. "Whoever shapes the imagination of a society establishes the frames through which all other facts are filtered. Consequently, there is no arena more important for kingdom influence."

However, having that influence as a Christian can be difficult in an industry where openly discussing faith is uncommon and expressing that faith is usually frowned upon.

Executives don't want their names associated with Christianity, Johnson said. "People keep it quiet." The main consideration seems to be the reaction of response by one's peers in an industry that is pro-same sex union, pro-abortion, etc.

However, Johnson said he does believe that those who are Christian and who have Ivy degrees are more accepted into the Hollywood fold.

"If you come in with an Ivy League credential you are absolutely more welcome and less scrutinized than someone else," Johnson said. "When a Christian [alumnus] does come in he's going to be less scrutinized and more accepted instantly because of that; which is great because you can have impact."

Thus, after years of working in Hollywood and in the entertainment industry, Johnson sees his work, and that of other Christians who choose to work in Hollywood, as not just being creators of media but also as being missionaries in a field that is ripe for sharing the gospel and for impacting the culture for Christ. ■

"People come to Hollywood because of ideology, not just to make money. They come with a strong sense of their perception of what should go on. Many of them think it's a higher calling."

—David Alan Johnson

FOX SPORTS: JOHN 3:16 AD IS NOT SUPER

Fixed Point Foundation Commercial Rejected for Television's Biggest Stage

COLUMBIA A baby crashes into a glass window. A woman physically assaults her husband. A scantily-clad septuagenarian is shameless. This content was just a sample of the television ads Fox Sports deemed acceptable during Super Bowl XLV. But when it came to a spot that featured a man looking up John 3:16 on his phone, the network said the commercial was an illegal procedure.

John 3:16 has been seen on the sidelines, in the end zones, and in the eye black of football players like Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow for years, but Fox rejected the ad for its Super Bowl lineup because it contained “religious doctrine.”

The ad was produced by Fixed Point Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the mission to “promote a confident Christianity in the public square by fortifying the minds of Christians and challenging the faith of skeptics.”

Fixed Point Associate Director Bill Wortman, Columbia MA '95, said he wasn't surprised the ad, which contained no reference to Fixed Point or even Christianity, was not aired. In today's society, he believes, public discussion of Christianity is treated like a bad habit.

“Christianity in the public sphere is treated like smoking,” he said. “People are annoyed that you do it. However, if you insist on doing it, there are places to do that in private.”

But Wortman and Fixed Point Foundation don't believe in keeping faith private. Fixed Point openly challenges critics like atheists Christopher Hitchens and Peter Singer by sponsoring public debates where the truth of the Gospel can be examined. Two years ago, Fixed Point joined Christian Union in hosting a debate between Peter Singer and Dinesh D'Souza, Dartmouth '83, at Princeton University.

Realizing that John 3:16 was already present in the football arena, Fixed Point President Larry Taunton set out to create an ad to help people understand what it means.

“Fox treated us very well,” Wortman said. But, when they submitted the storyboard to the network, it was rejected.

That put John 3:16 in the same “rejected” category as commercials submitted by such provocative organizations as Ashley Madison, which is an online dating service catering to adulterous affairs.

Ironically, the Fixed Point ad may have garnered more media attention by being rejected than if it had aired during the football game. Perplexed by Fox's decision, media outlets like the *New York Times* and *Huffington Post* questioned whether Fox might have been out of bounds.

“The network's rejection of a 30-second spot centered on John 3:16 is just one example of an advertising culture that can be allergic to expressions of faith,” wrote Mark Oppenheimer, religion columnist for the *New York Times*. “Sports are infused with religion,” noting that “fans hold signs, coaches lead prayers, and the players kneel or cross themselves after touchdowns.”

Additionally, *Big Hollywood.com* called Fox out for its policy of not promoting specific agendas. The ad was linked on the *Big Hollywood.com* Web site as well as other media sites, enabling readers to view the ad while reading about it.

Ultimately, the John 3:16 commercial served to bring attention to God's Word, but it also prompted discussion and debate within the culture and among skeptics, which is what Fixed Point is all about.

As a former atheist, Wortman knows something about skepticism. While a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Wortman was known as “the guy who picked on Christians.” He saw Christianity as a commercial venue people used to make money. “I didn't see much intellectual gravitas in it. I didn't take it seriously.”

But his Christian roommate did take it seriously, and challenged Wortman to look at the evidence of Christianity. In accepting that challenge, Wortman found the truth and became a Christian in 1988.

Wortman left the Air Force Academy and finished studying at the University of Minnesota, where he majored in the classical languages. He went on to work in the translations department of



Bill Wortman, Columbia MA '95, is the associate director of the Fixed Point Foundation.

“Christianity in the public sphere is treated like smoking,” he said. “People are annoyed that you do it. However, if you insist on doing it, there are places to do that in private.”

—Bill Wortman

the International Bible Society and also taught Latin and Greek. Subsequently, he joined Taunton at Fixed Point.

Through debates and other initiatives, Fixed Point strives to create forums where the relevancy of Christianity is brought to light, even if it isn't accepted by everyone.

The John 3:16 ad is one example. The organization's attempt to reach a worldwide audience with the Gospel message illuminated a bias in the media and also brought into the public square a discussion about the relevance of Christianity. ■

NO LONGER A 'SPECTATOR'

English Major Enjoys Challenging Editorial Position

Columbia Rebekah Mays, BC '12, only partially knew what she was getting into when she signed on as the new co-editor of *The Columbia Spectator's* editorial page. She felt strongly that God had called her to be part of the organization, and that as a consequence, her spring semester would be much busier and full of late nights. Looking back, Mays, an English major and a member of Intervarsity (www.columbia.edu/cu/ivcf), said although the semester was indeed busy, she wouldn't trade her time at Columbia's newspaper for anything.

The Columbia Daily Spectator is an independent, student-run newspaper that publishes five days a week and features articles on the greater Morningside area of New York City as well as student news and issues. As Mays describes it, the paper is a massive operation that incorporates the hard work of over two hundred students. For many, the task is almost a full-time job.

Mays' responsibilities are numerous, from final reads of opinion page pieces, to coordinating with columnists, op-ed writers, and writing staff editorials. As co-editor of the

opinion page, she manages the work of seven columnists, as well as cartoon and comic artists. The junior also helps run a twice-weekly meeting of the editorial board, and directs all the opinion content on *Spectrum*, *The Spectator's* online blog.

Mays said that when she accepted the position, she thought of it as "kingdom work."

"I knew that I wouldn't be able to spend as much time with my Christian friends in Intervarsity, and I thought that it was going to be difficult being in a new environment with people who disagreed with me on some pretty fundamental things," said Mays, who was eager to be a strong witness for Christ and impact the culture of *The Spectator*.

Working on the editorial page for a semester, however, has irrevocably changed her view of non-Christian and even Christian work environments and community. Prior to her work with *The Spectator*, Mays had few close, non-Christian friends, and lived primarily in what she calls a "Christian bubble." At *The Spectator*, she experienced the exact opposite—she had few, if any, interactions with other believers, while simultaneously spending large chunks of time at the office with her fellow editors.

But instead of feeling weighed down by a lack of community with believers, Mays found herself welcomed and included into a caring, supportive, tight-knit group of friends—a family. "One of the things I've assumed is that outside of Christian circles, strong community doesn't really exist," she said. "Even though at Columbia a community like *The Spectator* is really rare, it's opened my eyes to the need to have deep non-Christian friendships and relationships."

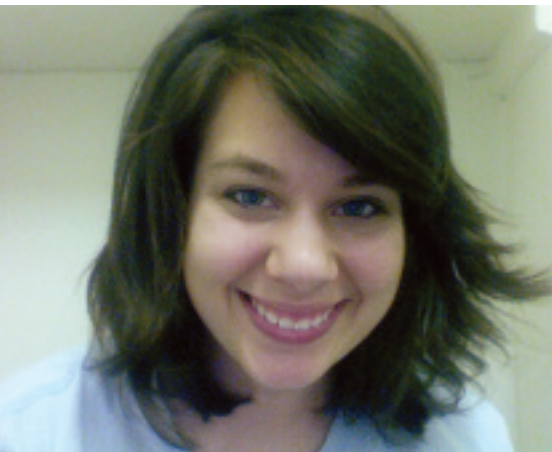
One example of this community in action is the level of support she received when her grandmother passed away earlier this year. "My editors said, 'Don't even worry about *The Spectator* right now, you need to go home and be with your family,'" she said.

Of course, Mays has also experienced challenges. Despite making a number of non-Christian friends and doing work that she feels is her calling, she has found it difficult to negotiate the intense party scene that exists at *The Spectator*. "I've had to make decisions and think really hard about them," she said. "Being so close with non-Christians has made me examine my faith in a way that I haven't before."

The result, Mays said, is that the "kingdom work" she was expecting God to accomplish in the people around her has actually been going on in her own heart. Mays said she has "come to grips with a lot of her shortcomings and places where she is afraid, and has been able to 're-approach scripture' in a fresh way."

Mays said it has also been exciting to be part of a general rise of the Christian presence in the media. "I've been talking with someone who used to work for *The New York Times* who has been praying for years for Christians in the media," she said, "and I get to be a part of answering that prayer."

But it is the transformation of her own faith, and her ideas of what Christian community is and could be that Mays will always remember: "It's interesting, because I thought that I would go in [to *The Spectator*] and change peoples' lives. I don't think that's impossible, and I think God is doing amazing things there, but I realized that from what I can see, God is using this opportunity to change me." ■



Rebekah Mays, BC '12 and a member of InterVarsity at Columbia, is the co-editor of *The Columbia Spectator's* editorial page.





THE BLACKSTONE DIFFERENCE

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THE HEART OF A WARRIOR

Former Harvard Basketball Star Overcomes the Odds to Make NBA



Editor's note: The following story is reprinted with permission from WORLD Magazine (www.worldmag.com).

Jeremy Lin, Harvard '10, is no blue chip. College basketball programs overlooked him out of high school. And NBA scouts overlooked him out of college.



Former Harvard basketball standout Jeremy Lin '10 is a member of the Golden State Warriors.

Nevertheless, when the Bay Area native came off the bench for the first time in a Golden State Warrior jersey this past fall, the crowd inside Oracle Arena erupted.

The cheers haven't stopped since. With every catch of a pass, every made basket, every dribble drive, NBA crowds across the country bulge in volume. It's as though Lin's very presence represents something bigger than basketball. And it does. As the first Asian-American in the league since 1947, Lin embodies hope for

tens of thousands of Asian-American youngsters.

That hope took a hit two months after Lin's debut, as the Warriors demoted him to the NBA Development League for more work on his game. For Lin, 22, the move amounted to just one more challenge in a trying basketball journey that has encountered doubts from coaches at every level.

Lacking the explosive athleticism of many players at the guard position, Lin is often underestimated—typically to the detriment of opposing defenses. At Palo Alto High School, he filled up stat sheets en route to a state championship. Receiving no Division I scholarship offers, he

ance. In a summer league game, with dozens of scouts looking on, Lin outplayed No. 1 overall pick John Wall and put the NBA world on notice. Suddenly teams such as the Mavericks, Lakers, and Warriors were interested in the Harvard grad.

"So many times I went through a tough situation and God turned it into a miracle," Lin said. "He took a bad thing and turned it into a good thing."

Lin credits his Christian faith for providing balance amid vocational uncertainty. With over 30 NBA games now under his belt and a Golden State coaching staff convinced of his talent, Lin appears headed for an extended profes-

"Every time a tough situation comes around, I don't need to question if God is with me, but I do need to see how I can best glorify Him and if there's anything I need to grow in. Everything happens through His perfect plan—so much of my life has confirmed it."

shipped out to Harvard and promptly shattered school records as the first Ivy League player ever to record 1,450 points, 450 rebounds, 400 assists, and 200 steals. Such numbers made him one of 11 finalists for the Bob Cousy Award, given to the nation's top collegiate point guard. But the accolades did not translate to an NBA draft selection, as Lin was overlooked again.

The frustration taught him nothing if not perspective: "Every time a tough situation comes around, I don't need to question if God is with me, but I do need to see how I can best glorify Him and if there's anything I need to grow in," Lin said. "Everything happens through His perfect plan—so much of my life has confirmed it."

In the post-draft malaise of self-doubt, Lin's divine confirmation came by way of one explosive and unexpected perform-

sional basketball career. He is conscious of the mantle his ethnicity brings and increasingly comfortable in carrying it. But his ultimate hope is to leverage the attendant public platform and financial affluence of an NBA stint to effect urban renewal.

Lin plans to create a nonprofit foundation that helps children in inner-city communities get their high-school diplomas, while also introducing them to Jesus. After basketball, he has entertained the idea of attending seminary and becoming a pastor.

In the meantime, he says that no matter how much his career may mean to Asian-Americans, he is learning to resist making sport ultimate and "to have the humility to admit that nothing I do on the basketball court will make God love me more." ■

PRINCETON ALUMNUS GUIDES APOLOGETICS PROGRAM AT OXFORD

Center Mixes Evangelism and Academic Grounding in Scripture

P A Princeton alumnus is playing a key role in shaping an emerging Christian training program affiliated with Oxford University.

Vince Vitale, Princeton '04, is serving as a key scholar at The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, a partnership between Ravi Zacharias International Ministries and Wycliffe Hall, an independent theology program within the University of Oxford.

Vitale, who is completing a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford this spring, is the first full-time academician at the apologetics center to also hold a full-time post within Wycliffe. In September 2009, Vitale started in a newly created position designed, in part, to help apologetics students to earn an Oxford-accredited certificate.

To receive accreditation, the apologetics center needed a scholar with credentials within one of the university's established academic divisions, in part, to help guarantee the assessment and quality of student writing assignments.

Vitale, who completed a master of theology degree from Oxford in 2006, spent the 2006-2007 year lecturing part-time in Princeton's philosophy and religion departments.

Through his new role, Vitale serves as an academic tutor at the apologetics center and as a tutor in evangelism and apologetics at Wycliffe, in addition to serving as a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministry (RZIM). Within the British university system, a tutor is an academic who teaches and advises a group of students.

The apologetics center began in the 2004-2005 academic year with the goal of offering in-depth evangelism training in an academically rigorous environment.

It has a "full and equal commitment to academic excellence, to the spiritual formation of its students, and to sharing the Christian faith with conviction, compassion, and cultural relevance," said Vitale, who grew up in Central New Jersey.

Currently, there are 19 students from nine countries, including one Princeton alumna, enrolled in the apologetics center's one-year program. RZIM runs the program, which is accredited via Wycliffe.

Wycliffe is a "permanent private hall" at Oxford, meaning it is one of six, independent seminaries within the university.

In all, Oxford consists of 38 self-governing colleges and six halls that relate to the university in a federal-type system. Separate denominations founded each hall, one of which dates back to 1221.

The goal of the apologetics center is to offer Christians both solid academic grounding in Scriptures and vibrant evangelistic tools. Officials seek to "train Christians so that they not only have a strong academic grounding of Scripture, but they also are passionate to share their faith," said David Lloyd, vice president of international development with RZIM.

"One of the big problems we identify in the West is that many academics are very learned but don't have the passion to share their faith – and some evangelists are enthusiastic, but not able to argue their faith with a deep understanding of the credibility of the Gospel."

To accommodate a variety of scheduling needs, the apologetics center offers single-day sessions, one-week courses, eight-week courses, and one-year courses.

The one-year course targets individuals with a bachelor's degree and offers a certificate. Rebekah McCallum, Princeton '10, is among this year's class.

"I really felt compelled by God to apply for the program. The certificate is practical in so many ways," said McCallum, an



Vince Vitale, Princeton '04, is a key academician at The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.

anthropology major from Maryland.

It also may provide a framework for a potential legal career specializing in human rights. "I'm looking at how humans are given certain inalienable rights through our creator," she said. "We can base the understanding of human rights through our God."

Likewise, former Christian Union intern Adrian Mullings, Princeton '04, completed the eight-week course in 2008.

"We're looking both for people who have a very strong academic background and a passion for apologetics and evangelism," Vitale said.

On a personal level, Vitale plans to remain in England for the foreseeable future as his wife, Jo, who is English, is pursuing a doctorate at Oxford in theology.

played in his decision to pursue theology.

“I played varsity soccer at Princeton and was first exposed to a living, dynamic Christian faith through the ministry of

I had committed to living life with Jesus Christ and to sharing the life He makes possible with others.”

Ultimately, center leaders “want to equip bridge builders – individuals with

“One of the big problems we identify in the West is that many academics are very learned but don’t have the passion to share their faith – and some evangelists are enthusiastic, but not able to argue their faith with a deep understanding of the credibility of the Gospel.”

—David Lloyd

“Our excitement about the potential of [the apologetics center] will be a strong pull to keep us here longer,” Vitale said.

Nonetheless, Vitale looks back with fondness on his undergraduate days at Princeton – and the role they ultimately

Athletes in Action,” he said. “There I was challenged to consider the central claims of Christianity. I did, and over time, I found myself increasingly impressed with how intellectually robust Christian faith could be. By the end of my freshman year,

one foot deep in the Bible and the other foot in the culture of the day and who know how to engage people,” Lloyd said. “What we’re trying to do is produce proper evangelists who can give good reasons for their faith.” ■

Christian Union’s Activities at Princeton Reunions 2011

SATURDAY, May 28

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. – Alumni Panel Discussion *McCosh 28*
“How I am Living Out My Christian Faith Today”

Panelists: Paul Birkeland ’66, Brook Hazelton ’96,
 Dr. Stacy (Thurber) Whitelock ’96

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Annual Brunch

Celebrating Christian Life at Princeton
NEW Location: Frist Campus Center,
 Multipurpose Room B-level

SUNDAY, May 29

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Worship Service featuring
Major Class Reunion testimonies

Nassau Christian Center (corner of Nassau and
Chambers Streets across from Holder Hall)

Speakers: Thomas Donnelly, Jr. ’61, Abigail Bach ’81,
 Stephen Edwards ’01



For more information contact Kimberly.Schoelen@Christian-Union.org or visit www.Christian-Union.org/reunions

LOVING PROVIDENCE

Brown Students Spend Spring Break Serving the Poor

B A group of Brown University students received a close-up view of the complexities of poverty during spring break.

Nearly a dozen students from Campus Crusade for Christ's ministries at the university spent their spring break working with organizations that serve the homeless community in Providence, Rhode Island.

"Our state, and particularly Providence, has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country," said Lorena Ellis, an intern with Crusade at Brown. "It has a sizeable and growing homeless population."

The students and staffers from College Hill for Christ and Athletes in Action participated in the spring-break venture, which was dubbed "Love Providence."

Ellis organized the local outreach, which was sponsored by a Christian Union grant, to give students key insights into the complex issues of homelessness and poverty in Providence. As part of that effort, Ellis arranged for students exclusively to use public transportation during their spring-break activities. Students spent time praying for troubled sections of Providence during their bus journeys.

"Brown University is located in the most affluent section of Providence, and even our regular experience of the public transportation system reflects that," said Ellis, Brown '09. "To get off 'the hill' and ride the buses with regular folks, while praying for the spiritual and physical needs of the city, is eye-opening and fruitful."

Likewise, Ellis planned many of the week's activities with the goal of illuminating opportunities for future service. "I wanted the students to learn how we can jump on board and offer a long-term commitment to service," she said.

Among the highlights of the week, the Brown students spent a day serving with the Friendship Café, a restaurant operated by a leading social-services provider in Providence. Amos House operates three businesses, including the café, to support its massive soup kitchen and

other outreaches. The soup kitchen feeds as many as 800 guests per day, making it one of the largest in Rhode Island. Amos offers permanent and transitional housing, job-training programs, literacy classes and other social services.

The students also fixed a special luncheon for 100 or so guests at the Providence Rescue Mission and prepared several hundred dinners for the organization's soup kitchen as well as another area soup kitchen.

In addition, the students spent a day performing odd jobs at Crossroads Rhode Island, which offers a variety of services including emergency shelter and transitional housing.

On Sunday morning, the team from Brown worshipped at Faith and Hope Baptist Church, an inner-city church that serves Providence's impoverished residents. The students returned three days later to help work in the church's community garden and to assist with setting up a classroom for students who want after-school tutoring.

The students spent one day relaxing on a visit to nearby Newport, where they studied one of Christ's seaside sermons. Also during the week, the students paused for some bonding activities, including bowling and worship at the Judson House, the Christian Union's ministry house in Providence.

"We really wanted to emphasize the team aspect of getting to know one another," Ellis said.

Overall, students said they were blessed by their time of labor, fellowship, and interaction.

In particular, Jen Kao said she was amazed by how much she learned about poverty and appreciated the opportunity to serve in Providence's troubled inner core.

"It was amazing to chat with people



Students with Campus Crusade for Christ at Brown spent their spring break serving the local homeless community in nearby Providence, RI.

everywhere and hear their life stories. While understanding their situations better make the issues seem so much harder to 'fix,' it makes it easier for me understand how to help the individual in the immediate," she said.

Likewise, "I didn't want to be in Providence for four years and stay on my college campus not seeing the hardships people in the inner city go through," she said. "I wanted to understand the way the poorer class of Providence lives and learn how to better serve them." ■

SPRING BREAK ROAD TRIP

Students Share the Gospel on the Beach in Panama City

P Like thousands of college students across the country, undergraduates from Penn Students for Christ recently road-tripped to the spring-break mecca of Panama City Beach, Florida.

However, the nine students and seven staffers did not trek 19 hours one-way for a week of frolicking on the sun-drenched sands. Rather, their mission was to share

bustling, neon-glowing strips.

During Big Break, students lodged in the Edgewater Beach Resort, where they received evangelistic training and participated in worship and Bible studies. In the afternoon, they engaged vacationers in spiritual conversations and offered God's plan of salvation.

The experience was challenging but fulfilling for the students from Crusade's

him," said Austin Malach '13. "Also, worshipping twice a day really got me hooked."

Other Penn students also expressed gratitude for the practical training tips they received in evangelism. "The talks helped dispel some of the lies that tend to prevent me from evangelism," said Wesley Skold '13. "Overall, I was encouraged to be much more proactive in witnessing – making the most of every opportunity."

The students said they had to rely upon the Holy Spirit for guidance on how to handle a few challenging situations, including interaction with intoxicated spring breakers.

"During Big Break, God really gave me a peace and compassion for these people, and it was amazing to see God working in those conversations," said Elizabeth Schopfer '13.

Overall, about 3,000 students participated in Crusade's Big Break. They initiated approximately 10,000 spiritual conversations and shared the gospel message about 4,500 times. More than 450 beachgoers prayed to accept Christ as their personal savior.

"Panama City Beach is the spring-break capital of the world. All of them, in a small way, are trying to escape their reality by coming here," said Glen Nielsen, a program director with Crusade. "Today's generation is living in a dark world. When they are exposed to the truth of the gospel, it's amazing how quickly they respond."

Campus ministries from other leading universities, including Princeton Faith and Action, also participated in Big Break. Dan Knapke, director of the Christian Union's undergraduate ministry at Princeton University, said students grew in their desire and boldness to share Christ's gospel.

"I don't know of any better place to go and get practice approaching people and initiating conversation," Knapke said. "By day four, there is utter transformation."

Ultimately, Crusade leaders simply want students to "take the message of hope back to their campuses," Nielsen said. ■



Students from Penn Students for Christ participated in the evangelism efforts that took place at Panama City Beach, Florida during spring break.

Christ's gospel with some of the thousands of youthful – and mostly rowdy – beachgoers who descend upon the so-called spring break capital of the world.

Overall, the trip "really encouraged students in their evangelistic motivation and overall ability. They came back to campus with greater vigor to reach the lost and to train other people to do evangelism," said Andy Young, a staffer with Penn Students for Christ.

The Penn team participated in Campus Crusade for Christ's Big Break Experience, an annual outreach to spring breakers from late February through March. The event offers believers the opportunity to minister to the estimated 250,000 students from across the East and Midwest who flock to the festivities that span the area's famed sugary, white shores and

ministry at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Almost all of the students had not (previously) shared their faith. Many of the students were pretty apprehensive, though they wanted to step out in faith," said Young.

"By the end of the week they were confident enough to do it themselves. They've come back to campus with a new passion for sharing the gospel with friends and people they don't have a relationship with."

Penn students echoed those comments. "God became a lot bigger – much more the focus of my life. After spending a week talking to people who didn't know [God], I am so much more grateful that he is in my life and I am really compelled to live more earnestly towards

LIGHTING THE WAY

Annual Event is a Night of Praise, Exhortation, and Prayer for Missions

C The Student Volunteer Movement 2, a nationwide movement of prayer for the nations, came to Cornell in the fall of 2004. Campus On A Hill, the networking hub between ministries at Cornell, sponsored a Student Volunteer Movement 2 event every year up until 2007. It served as a prayer for the nations night, with the hope that hundreds of thousands of American college students would commit themselves to be overseas missionaries.

Meanwhile, the Korean Church at Cornell had also created an annual missions' mobilization event called CU Straight Ahead, which was highlighted by exhortations from invited pastors or alumni. In 2009, leaders from Campus On A Hill collaborated with members from the Korean Church at Cornell to combine the two events into a new missions-minded annual event called LIGHT, a night of praise, exhortation, and extended prayer.

In March, LIGHT 11 drew close to two hundred Christians from different ministries and churches. Dr. Michael Oh, founder of Christ Bible Seminary in Japan and member of the Lausanne Executive Committee, was the invited speaker. Behzad Varamini, who received a Ph.D. from Cornell in December 2009, was the emcee.

The night started off with a combination of worship and video testimonies. Through video, Grace Lee '11 from the Korean Church at Cornell shared about her personal struggle with the possibility of long-term missions in light of a pre-planned career. David Bjanet '12, of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, shared about being challenged and amazed at the supernatural work God did through him on

a missions' trip to Nicaragua in the summer of 2010. Graduate student Henry Wen, from Chinese Bible Study (www.rso.cornell.edu/cbs), talked about his journey of being convicted about going on a missions trip to actually going in



Dr. Michael Oh, Founder of Christ Bible Seminary in Japan, spoke at Light 11 at Cornell.

the midst of family opposition.

Next, Michael Oh delivered a powerful message about being a nobody for Christ, citing John 3:30. He shared about how, despite the hatred many Koreans have toward the Japanese, he, as a Korean Amer-

“Did Jesus die so that we could be comfortable?”

ican, had given his life to be a missionary in Japan because his life was not his own. It had been bought with a price. Then he encouraged his audience to consider the call of Christ. “Did Jesus die,” he asked,

“so that we could be comfortable?”

He challenged the audience to consider missions seriously and personally, in light of the fact that Jesus had given his life for mankind. He suggested that this could mean committing one year to be a missionary overseas, or it could also mean committing 10% of one's future income to missions.

The night concluded with an hour of prayer for the nations. Students were encouraged to go to different stations around the room, where seven poster boards with information about regions around the world were placed. Information concerning a few selected countries in each region, including the religion demographics and some relevant prayer requests, were on the poster boards.

It seems that LIGHT 11 was nicely timed. A week after this event, Cornell students left for mission trips in huge numbers. A team with the Navigators served in Washington, D.C., with Little Lights Urban Ministries; the Korean Church at Cornell took its annual trip to Inner City Missions in Philadelphia; students from Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship went to the Dominican Republic; and Campus Crusade for Christ at Cornell sent people to Guatemala and Panama City Beach in Florida.

Henry Wen, who did his undergraduate work at Cornell and is now in a Ph.D. program at Cornell, mentioned how God has slowly snowballed missions into the Cornell landscape in recent years. “I think the fruit of the Student Volunteer Movement

—Dr. Michael Oh

2 was providing a forum for the Spirit to convict students to consider summer missions projects and also laying the spiritual groundwork for God's move in the subsequent years.” ■

PENN STUDENTS MAKE TIME FOR RECESS

Philadelphia Program Helps Improve Quality of Playtime in Schoolyards

PENN RECESS might be the favored “subject” among elementary students, but it also has received a thumbs up from school princi-

behavior and focus in the classroom.

However, a summary of the Gallup findings released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which sponsored the poll, also includes a caveat: “Because it is often disorganized and difficult to manage, recess is the time when principals encounter the vast majority of their school’s disciplinary problems.”

That’s where the Penn volunteers and the West Philly Recess Initiative come in. According to Natalie Feigenbaum, Penn ’11, director of the program, the goal is to create a positive environment in the lunchroom and recess yard.

As a student, Carolyn Miller, Penn ’10, was a member of the Newman Center, Penn’s Catholic community, and volunteered with the Recess Initiative. As a volunteer, she witnessed first-hand how the lack of structured recess can impact students.

“I came from a very structured Catholic school education, and it was often very frustrating to be in a school that was significantly less organized. Yet, I could tell that a lot of the students were also frustrated. They were frustrated that they often had to sacrifice their lunch and recess periods because of other students’ behavior,” she said.

Miller said that during her initial period working with the students she had

and ultimately encouraged her to take even more of a leadership role.

“Once I got to know a lot of the students, I became motivated to make their school experience more enjoyable. That motivation forced me to think of creative ways to get students involved at recess, and I joined the leadership board,” she said.

That commitment to the children and rising above what would otherwise be a chaotic time during the school day is what makes the Recess Initiative so important.

“By stepping in to help resolve fights and ensure a safe environment, kids are able to return to class unscathed by their time at recess,” said Feigenbaum. “Before, students would have more conflicts and then return to class upset about what they had experienced.”

But the students aren’t the only ones to benefit from the program. The volunteers also gained from the experience.

“I realized how blessed I was to have been able to attend good schools and pursue my passion for sports through club and traveling team,” said Miller. “It was nice to go to college and find a program like Recess, where I could, in a small way, share my passion with other students.”

Volunteering for the program with other members of the Newman Center also helped Miller to share and grow in her passion for Christ.

“Being a part of a group of students who openly celebrated and discussed their faith was extremely helpful throughout college, and gave me great strength, especially when I inevitably hit some road bumps.”

She added: “Being a part of Recess gave

“Because it is often disorganized and difficult to manage, recess is the time when principals encounter the vast majority of their school’s disciplinary problems.”

the challenge of being a disciplinarian while at the same time promoting fun. However, that challenge motivated Miller

me responsibility beyond my role as a college student. With younger students taking my example, I was forced to evaluate



Natalie Feigenbaum ’11 and students from the Penn Newman Center volunteer time to assist with the West Philly Recess Initiative.

pals and volunteers from the University of Pennsylvania.

In the Philadelphia area, the volunteer program is known as the West Philly Recess Initiative and involves local volunteers donating their time to develop and participate in structured recess activities designed to strengthen skills among students in low-income communities.

A Gallup Poll released last year revealed that “elementary school principals overwhelmingly believe recess has a positive impact not only on the development of students’ social skills, but also on achievement and learning in the classroom.” Additional research also has indicated that more recess is linked to better



Penn students are volunteers with the West Philly Recess Initiative, which improves the school experience for children in low-income communities.

how I conducted myself as a Christian. Through these experiences, I grew significantly more comfortable as a representative of my faith.”

For Feigenbaum, who was the community service chair for the Newman Center for two years, Recess is also a way for her to live out her faith. “The main lesson I take from my faith is to help others and work to correct inequities,” she

said. “In this way, I am living [out] my Christian faith. Education in America is a problem that needs to be rectified, and contributing my limited skills to Recess is my small contribution to this larger goal.”

And so, through the efforts of Feigenbaum, Miller, and the other volunteers, recess in West Philly is more than child’s play. It’s serious fun that is having a dramatic impact on the young students learning to play cooperatively, and a time of growth for the volunteers who are learning to reach beyond themselves and live out the Lord’s commandment to love others. ■

By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Adventure-Oriented Outreach Grows at Cornell

CORNELL An emerging ministry at Cornell University is helping to introduce hard-to-reach students to the Gospel through outdoor activities.

Adam Simpson launched a pilot chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ’s Lifelines ministry in the 2009-2010 academic year and is adding staff to grow the fledgling initiative into a full outreach in the fall semester.

Crusade’s Lifelines is an adventure-oriented outreach that uses the outdoors to help students grow in their relationship with God and each other, and to develop character and leadership skills.

Through rock climbing, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and the like, Lifelines teaches students to take physical, emotional, and relational risks while growing in spiritual principles. The ministry also focuses on leadership development.

“It was my passion to start Lifelines here. We’ve really seen God use it,” said Simpson. “Our mission statement is to bring the Gospel to those who are not seeking it.”

Simpson said the program targets students who do not regularly attend campus ministries. “Eighty percent of the people who come on our trips are not believers.”

So far, the Lifelines chapter at Cornell has taken a variety of student organiza-

tions, including fraternities and dormitory groups, on adventure outings such as whitewater rafting, canoeing, hiking, and paintball. In the fall, the ministry plans to add rock-climbing to its activity list.

Simpson, who operated with an intern during 2009-2010, recently added support from two couples, Nic and Christy

Lifelines began more than a decade ago with a few students in Maine wanting to take their non-Christian friends on rafting trips. Today, the experiential ministry has several dozen full-time guides, an outdoor curriculum, locations in a handful of states, and a variety of summer programs.

“One of the things that really drew me to the ministry was the opportunity to find common ground with students by taking them on outdoor trips and let them experience different aspects of the Gospel.”

—Nick Brenner

Brenner and Wes and Meghan Wright. Together, the team handles outreach at Cornell, as well as Ithaca College and the State University of New York at Cortland. The ministry benefits from natural resources surrounding the Hudson River and Finger Lakes region.

“It’s really a staff-dependent ministry,” said Simpson, who also receives assistance from his wife, Tracy. “You need people with the certifications.”

As staffers take students on activities, they look for segues to introduce spiritual topics. “We use experiential learning to spiral out to spiritual topics,” said Simpson. “They don’t seem to mind talking about God and relationships.”

One recent trip targeted residential advisers from a Cornell dormitory. However, as a result of inclement weather, only two – a Christian and a Hindu – showed up for a day of snowshoe hiking.



Lifelines ministry at Cornell is reaching out to students through outdoor activities.

“We had a great time, and our discussion on God was really encouraging,” Simpson said. “After the discussion, the Christian [residential adviser] came up to Nic and expressed how awesome it was to have a spiritual discussion with his fellow [residential adviser] who didn’t have a belief in Jesus.”

For now, many of the students who have served as leaders in Lifelines activities are also involved in Crusade’s campus ministry at Cornell. Eventually, the team wants to build its own base of student leaders. Approximately 100 undergraduates have participated in Lifelines activities this academic year.

A native of Colorado, Simpson said he was energized when he learned of Crusade’s Lifelines outreach.

“I came to Christ through Crusade in

college and joined staff in 2001. I’ve always had a passion for the outdoors,” he said. “When I heard there was a way to be involved in the outdoors and be involved in the Great Commission, I said, ‘Sign me up.’”

More importantly, Simpson and his team are enthused about opportunities for the fall.

“We finally have most of the gear we need and, more importantly, we finally have a staff team,” Simpson said. “This semester has been about building a solid foundation for our ministry so that next fall we can move forward in big ways and trust God to use us to expand His kingdom here at Cornell.”

Staffers receive both spiritual and practical training before joining Lifelines, adding to the start-up time for a Lifelines ministry.

“All of our staff are Wilderness First Responders,” Simpson said. “I’m a New York rafting, camping, and hiking

guide and a Colorado rafting guide. Whatever the activity, we are certified to the state level for safety.”

Nic Brenner, who joined Crusade as a campus staffer in 2006 and Lifelines in the spring, echoed Simpson’s excitement. “One of the things that really drew me to the ministry was the opportunity to find common ground with students by taking them on outdoor trips and let them experience different aspects of the Gospel. It creates open doors for further conversations,” he said.

“We do a lot of hands-on, experiential activities. We’re able to help students to gain the experience of different aspects of the Gospel, including trust. We have some great things planned for the fall. Our hope is to really be a blessing and serve the campus.” ■



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MOMS INTERCEDE FOR PRINCETON, YALE

Parents Use Technology to Connect in Weekly Prayer Sessions

I Groups of mothers of students at both Princeton and Yale universities are doing their part to seek God for both spiritual vitality among their children and for outbreaks of revival on their campuses.

While parents have joined in small, informal prayer chains for Princeton for the last five or so years, some parents of students who participate in Princeton Faith and Action, Manna Christian Fellowship, and Princeton Evangelical Fellowship started a new group in fall 2010. Princeton Faith and Action is Christian Union's leadership development ministry on campus.

In December 2009, a prayer group consisting of parents, alumni, campus ministers, and others formed to intercede for Yale.

Many of the mothers said they participated in prayer groups for their children's high schools, and they were thrilled to find similar groups emerging on university campuses. Both the Yale and Princeton groups meet via telephone conference calls on Fridays.

Barbara Schoenly of Salisbury, Connecticut, said she was delighted to learn of the prayer group for Yale, where her son Emery is a freshman.

"We are praying for Yale because we believe that academia needs to be reclaimed for Jesus," Schoenly said. "Christians need to be in the center of academia, helping to shape culture and return us to our Christian

heritage as a university and as a nation." student in Manna Christian Fellowship wanted to form a new prayer group for Princeton that would include students from several campus ministries.

"So, although, I initially wasn't sure how this new Princeton prayer group would fit into my schedule, I was excited to know that moms want to pray for Princeton...I immediately responded," Jennifer Superdock said. "God has so graciously carved out the time for six of us to meet regularly now."

Likewise, Jennie Tam, a Manhattan architect, said her desire to get involved in a prayer group for Princeton was a natural extension of the prayer team for her daughter Stephanie's high school.

"I belong to the Princeton community through Stephanie's enrollment in the university," said Tam. "I believe in the power of prayer, and it is my responsibility to pray for my communities and my children."

"Our Lord Jesus instructed us to always pray. The Bible also says to 'pray continually.' Prayer is the only one power avail-

able to the mothers far away from the Princeton campus and community to help them and to make a difference to them."

our Heavenly Father will answer our prayers." Not surprisingly, Leslie Bark, a key organizer of the prayer effort at Princeton, has high expectations for a spiritual awakening on campus.

Bark said her desire to help launch the new prayer group grew out of similar involvement with a prayer team for her younger children's high school.

"I meet with moms to pray for my other two children in high school here in Baton Rouge, and [I] did not want to neglect doing the same for Brandon in Princeton," she said. "The Lord calls us to pray, and He has put it in my heart to pray without ceasing for all of my children and each of the schools that they are attending."

The Princeton group recently decided to operate as a chapter of Moms in Touch International, a California-based prayer outreach.

Observers note the growing involvement among mothers is tied, in part, to the wave of technology – namely cell phones, e-mail, and instant messaging – that keeps parents keenly aware of the spiritual issues on campus.

Rhonda Walker, mother of Shannon Walker '11, said a visit to a student prayer session on campus in spring 2010 fueled her interest in praying for Princeton.

"What sparked me was the heartfelt sincerity of that noon prayer time, just crying out for revival," said Walker of the Princeton Faith and Action prayer meeting.

As for the parents' group, "it's great to have other mothers wanting to unite to pray for all of the ministries on the entire campus," said Walker, who lives in Northern Virginia.

That same fervor also is evident among parents of Yale students. Like other parents, Barbara and Newton Schoenly are committed to praying for spiritual awakening at their son's campus.

"We're praying for revival, and may it begin at Yale," Barbara Schoenly said. ■



Barbara Schoenly is passionate about praying for Yale University, where her son Emery is a freshman.

"We are praying for Yale because we believe that academia needs to be reclaimed for Jesus."

—Barbara Schoenly

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Not surprisingly, Leslie Bark, a key organizer of the prayer effort at Princeton, has high expectations for a spiritual awakening on campus.

The Lord hears us, so it is absolutely making a difference," said Bark, a registered nurse in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "I await in hopeful anticipation at how

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FERVENT PRAYING THAT CHANGED HISTORY

Clapham Circle Sought God Wholeheartedly

I With the increase of 24/7 prayer rooms and the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit at ministry retreats, students at several of the Ivy League Universities are seeking God through prayer as they seek to become instruments to change the culture for Christ. And as these believers and ministry leaders pursue God wholeheartedly, they do so in the shadows of other Christians like the 18th century Clapham Sect who brought their faith to bear in everyday ways that ultimately transformed society.

Perhaps best known as the circle of believers from Clapham, England, that was associated with parliamentary and abolitionist William Wilberforce, the Clapham Sect consisted of individual members who were, in their own right, citizens of prominence, including authors, philosophers, businessmen, and parliamentarians.

The Clapham Sect was replete with influential, wealthy members of society. Many could be likened to the distinguished alumni from this nation's leading universities who have gone on to lead governments, corporations, and social movements. But at the center of this circle of believers was a devotion to Christ and dedication to lives of prayer.

The Clapham Sect played a major role in making England a more civil society, according to author Eric Metaxas, who wrote the Wilberforce biography, *Amazing Grace*.

In his essay, *Does God Want Us to Change the World?*, Eric Metaxas, Yale '84, writes, "Far beyond abolition, Wilberforce and his friends had a monumental impact on the wider British culture, and the world beyond Britain, because they succeeded not only in ending the slave trade and slavery, but in changing the entire mindset of the culture. The idea that one should love one's neighbor was brought into the cultural mainstream for

the first time in history, and the world has never been the same."

According to Richard Gathro, who wrote the article, "William Wilberforce and His Circle of Friends," the Clapham Sect worshiped privately and corporately and gathered twice a week at the Clapham church. The group was characterized by, among other things, a common commitment to Jesus Christ, a clear sense of calling, and a commitment to lifelong friendship and mutual submission.

"The group made no claim to be theologians, yet they were people who regarded prayer and Bible study as serious matters.



William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect regarded prayer and Bible study as serious matters, according to writer Richard Gathro.

The Clapham Sect believed that they were representatives of God's kingdom on earth and the faithful stewards of all God had given them," Gathro wrote.

Therefore, the members lived out an all-encompassing faith that saturated all areas of their lives. There was no separation between their faith and their everyday duties. And despite the success attained in their chosen professions, they did not sacrifice time in prayer to achieve their goals.

Rather, prayer and faith in Jesus Christ were the foundation for those goals.

According to the book by G.R. Balleine, entitled *A History of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England*, members of the Clapham Society prayed three times per day for one hour. They prayed from 5:00 to 6:00 in the morning, noon to 1:00 in the afternoon, and 5:00 to 6:00 in the evening.

This dedication to fervent prayer has been inspiration to Christian Union Founder and President Matt Bennett (Cornell '88, MBA '89), who has sought to facilitate a seeking God culture at Christian Union and in the Ivy League.

"[The Clapham Sect] prayed three times a day for an hour each time, and look what the Lord did through them," said Bennett. "This is further inspiration for me to pray two to three times per day."


Additionally, Wilberforce and the other Clapham members approached prayer, as well as time, with a level of stewardship that is often associated with money or talents. For example, Balleine wrote that Wilberforce accounted for nearly every hour of his day in what were basically ledgers of time. A record was kept of the time devoted to business, rest, prayer, and even that which was "squandered."

Although the Sect's members were mostly considered prominent and affluent, they lived their lives in an austere, orderly manner.

Balleine described it as an "almost monastic self-discipline by which these well-to-do Christians ordered each day of their lives."

And through those ordered daily lives of uncommon men and women of prayer, other lives were touched, souls were saved, and a culture transformed as they led the movement to abolish the slave trade in England, and continued to engage the culture as they tended to their professions.

Gathro summed up the Clapham Sect in words that may, by God's grace, someday be used to describe those who gather in prayer throughout the Ivy League: "The love of God was the very center of the group's reason for being together and what became their legacy. From this love sprang a group that changed history." ■



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IGNITING THE FLAME

Students Intercede for Ivy League Campuses at Conference

I Nearly 50 students from Ivy League schools gathered in January to fervently seek God for revival on their campuses during a first-ever conference by Collegiate Impact that focused exclusively on the nation's top universities.

"The vision was to see another Great Awakening through the eight Ivy League schools," said David Warn, director of Collegiate Impact (www.collegiateimpact.com).

The Ignite Ivy conference was held Jan-

eight Ivy League campuses plus the Massachusetts Institute of Technology participated in the conference, along with a handful of ministry staffers and eight designated intercessors.

Donors covered the cost of meals, lodging, and registration for students who attended the conference on the C.S. Lewis Foundation's campus. The nonprofit recently acquired the former property of the Northfield Mount Hermon School—a boarding school launched by evangelist D.L. Moody—as a site for a new college to open in 2012.

Key speakers included Warn, a 20-year veteran of campus ministry; as well as Jonathan and Keeli Fawcett, founders of Something More Ministries; and Jerry and Judy Ball, founders of Breaker of Dawn Ministries.

The conference also featured three guest speakers who encouraged students to honor their faith in all aspects of life. John Beckett is chairman and chief

executive officer of R. W. Beckett Corp., a manufacturing firm in Ohio. Beckett, the author of *Loving Monday: Succeeding in Business Without Selling Your Soul*, serves on the board of directors for Campus Crusade for Christ International. Jay Bennett, Dartmouth '71, is a corporate attorney and entrepreneur and the founder and chairman of The Twin Cities Christian Foundation, an organization that seeks to help believers give wisely and generously to God's kingdom. Stephen McDowell is the co-founder of the Providence Foundation, an educational organization that trains and networks leaders of education, business, and politics to

transform their culture for Christ.

"The conference was powerful," said Warn. "God worked tremendously. This conference, prayerfully, was a tributary stream of what God wants to do in the Ivy League."

Students echoed those comments. Rebecca Wu, Dartmouth '11, said she was touched by how many Ivy League students fervently interceded for their campuses. "We prayed a lot," said Wu, the chair of Agape Christian Fellowship at Dartmouth. "I had never seen so many intelligent students who were really on fire for God 100 percent."

Wei Wu, Dartmouth '14, said she "really came out of the conference believing in the revival to come ... God is moving. I can feel it. There have been too many things happening for it to be coincidence or chance – it can only be Him."

William Poon, Cornell '13, echoed those sentiments for his campus. "I sense the Lord is on the move and there's definitely something happening [at Cornell]. Students from different ministries are coming together every week to pray for God to move on this campus," he said. "Cornell is among one of the schools on the verge of an awakening."

Alina Kim, Penn '12, also was touched by the fervent prayers for the Ivy League at the conference. "God's been placing prayer for our campus on many Penn students' hearts for quite a while," she said. "It was extremely encouraging to see students from all the Ivy League campuses come together with the same heart to intercede for the campuses and seek revival. And, it was even more awesome to know that there are people who are not students who have a heart for the Ivy League campuses and they're interceding for us. How encouraging is that?"

"It was so refreshing to be at the conference for the weekend, meet this amazing community, and fan the flame in us so that we can come back and be the revival on our respective campuses. Having been back, I can already see God moving in so many ways at Penn." ■



David Warn, director of Collegiate Impact, has a vision to see another Great Awakening within the Ivy League.

uary 13 to 17 at the C.S. Lewis Foundation campus in Northfield, Massachusetts. Collegiate Impact, a division of Life Action Ministries, Something More Ministries, and Breaker of Dawn Ministries co-sponsored the invitation-only event.

Local ministry leaders recommended students for the conference who have demonstrated passion in their commitment to Christ and to sharing His Gospel message.

"We went off those recommendations," said Warn. "We wanted students ready to jump into the deep end of the pool. We wanted to see igniters raised up."

In all, 46 students from seven of the

A MIGHTY MOVEMENT

Columbia Ministry Leader Encouraged by Conference's Unity

COLUMBIA At the Ignite Ivy Conference in January, Yasmin Kahan-Groves, CC '11, was delighted to pray with likeminded students who share a passion for unity and revival.

Held at the at the C.S. Lewis Foundation campus in Northfield, Massachusetts, the event was sponsored by Collegiate Impact, Something More Ministries, and Breaker of Dawn Ministries.

Kahan-Groves, the only undergraduate from Columbia at the conference, said one of the most encouraging things about the gathering was how quickly the different representatives became friends and got to know one another, creating a new network of leaders in the Ivy League. Students from each Ivy campus, along with some from Massachusetts Institute of

would be coming out of here," she said. "Before falling in love with academics, I fell in love with the idea of revival here, that people would be coming to know God through coming here."

It was in sharing the "spiritual status" of Columbia's student body that Kahan-Groves felt exciting new possibilities for revival emerging. "One of the things I shared was that relationships, friendships, and so forth, are a need," she said. "People are committed to their time at Columbia, but there's a very independent mindset. There is always that focus on *your* life and where *you're* headed." The other students and leaders at the conference responded by praying for flourishing relationships at Columbia, and for students to trust one another more and de-

"Before falling in love with academics, I fell in love with the idea of revival here, that people would be coming to know God through coming here."

—Yasmin Kahan-Groves, CC '11

Technology, shared prayer needs from their schools.

"The goal was to get us together in a place where we could be empowered and encouraged so a movement of God could happen and be sustained," said Kahan-Groves.

As the large group coordinator for Columbia's InterVarsity, the senior organizes the chapter's weekly worship service (also called *Ignite*) that has seen a doubling in attendance over the past year. For her, this conference could not have come at a better time.

"Before I came to Columbia as a freshman I felt excited that world leaders

pend on each other in healthy, life-giving friendships.

Kahan-Groves said the conference confirmed what she has been feeling this year in particular, that God is moving on Columbia's campus and drawing more students to himself. This semester she has felt convicted to start two new prayer meetings, one focused on revival and one for the senior class.

The organizers of Ignite Ivy hope that the new connections and commitments made there will not fade, and that God will use them to spark new movements on campus.

Kahan-Groves said students on all eight campuses need to rely on God more



Yasmin Kahan-Groves (above), CC '11, worships at the Ignite Conference, which was sponsored by Collegiate Impact.

and be more willing to accomplish His vision and be witnesses to their friends on campus.

"I'm carrying back to Columbia the idea that God can inform absolutely any interaction for his purposes," she said.

"I was excited to see Christians come together with a heightened sense of prayer. I know God wants to see Christians re-awakened to that vision of boldness and faith." ■

'THE COMEBACK'

Impact Conference Urges African-American Students to Rebuild Communities, Families

P Leaders of Legacy, the Christian Union's outreach to African-American students at Princeton University, ventured to Atlanta over the holiday break to participate in The Impact Movement's annual national conference.

A Princeton contingent of four joined nearly 1,000 students from across the country who gathered to partake in Impact's 10th conference, entitled "The Come Back!" Another 9,000 or so young adults participated in live broadcasts via the ministry's Web site.

The Impact Movement, which is Campus

Penn, where he studied applied science. After graduation, he joined Crusade over an offer from IBM.

Today, Impact has touched more than 20,000 African-American participants, and has a presence on about 70 college campuses. Likewise, Gilmer, the president of Impact, travels extensively across the country speaking to college students, churches and business leaders about topics of African-American heritage along with apologetics, missions, and ecclesiology.

Gilmer described the emergence and growth of The Impact Movement in a memoir entitled *A Cry of Hope, a Call to*

tend events when surrounded by their own culture.

In 2009 at Princeton University, Christian Union established Legacy as an outreach to African-American students and students of African descent. Ministry Fellow Quincy Watkins, Wharton Business School '95, directs the ministry.

Watkins described the recent Impact conference as "four to five days of high-oc-tane speakers and enrichment. The presence of God was evident and tangible."

The theme of the event was centered on Nehemiah 4: 19-20. As the Israelites faced opposition to their efforts to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, the prophet proclaimed, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"

Likewise, conference organizers encouraged students to rally together in their commitment to Christ and in their efforts to help rebuild their communities, churches, and families.

The messages resonated with the Princeton students and others from across the country. "Many of the students were touched, refreshed, and empowered," Watkins said. "You could sense a lot of them were fatigued. Christ is their panacea."

Main speakers included Rasool Berry, midwest team leader for Impact and director of its music ministry, and Priscilla Shirer, a Bible teacher based in Houston. Other top speakers included Pastors James White of Cary, N.C., Keith Battle of Bowie, Md., and Jason Barr of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Francine Saunders, Princeton '08, served as one of the event's emcees along with Christian hip-hop artist Sho Baraka.

Another highlight of the conference centered on the evangelistic efforts. Attendees "hit the streets" of Atlanta, ministering to the homeless and sharing the Gospel with passersby.

Christian Union intern Eddie Appeadu, Princeton '10, said he especially was encouraged by a message from gospel recording artist Kirk Franklin during a men's session.



Christian Union Ministry Intern Eddie Appeadu, Princeton '10 (left), Ministry Fellow Quincy Watkins, Wharton '95, and Princeton Students Charles Wright '11 and Meko McCray '11 attended the Impact Movement Conference held during the Christmas break.

Crusade for Christ's sister ministry aimed at African-American students (www.impact-movement.com), began as a conference for college students in 1991. After more than a decade of incubation under Crusade, Impact incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization in 2002 under the leadership of Charles and Rebecca Gilmer, Penn '81 and '80 respectively.

Reaching African-American college students has been the passion of Charles Gilmer since his undergraduate days at

Action. The book makes a compelling case for the biblical place for race and culture in today's society and highlights the critical need for leadership development among African-Americans while in college.

Gilmer explained how ministries, including Crusade, historically reached out to minority students, but African-American students often avoided meetings where they felt numerically or culturally out of place. While working at Howard, Gilmer observed that students would at-

“Without reservation and formality, he shared his personal struggles and testimonies and personally exhorted the men

to establish proper relationships with women, maintain humility, and avoid the pitfalls of a “world that wants to

seniors from Legacy who attended the conference were inspired and encouraged by smaller breakout sessions, especially one on biblical dating and marriage relationships.

Charles Wright '11 said the conference's emphasis on godly relationships helped him rethink how he interacts with women.

“I realized that, as men, we are supposed to protect the hearts of women and be leaders in relationships,” he said.

“I thank God for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference because it brought me closer to him and helped me apply his word to my life. I have never been around so many young people who were focused on glorifying God. It recharged my faith and set me on fire for God.” ■

“I thank God for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference because it brought me closer to him and helped me apply his word to my life.”

—Charles Wright, Princeton '11

to a life of pursuing God, seeking discipleship, and abstaining from youthful passions,” Appeadu said.

Franklin also encouraged the young

men to establish proper relationships with women, maintain humility, and avoid the pitfalls of a “world that wants to destroy progress in all those areas, especially for young men of African descent,” Appeadu said.

Appeadu said he and the two Princeton

By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer

SKIING AND SEEKING

Harvard, Princeton, and Yale Students Have Memorable Ski Trips



Princeton Faith and Action and Harvard College Faith and Action, Christian leadership development ministries supported and resourced by Christian Union, held winter ski trips that were true “mountaintop” experiences. Students and staff alike returned to campus re-energized after the presence of the Lord enveloped the events.

“The retreat was very refreshing and a great way to start off the second semester,” said Kenny Whitescarver, Harvard '13. “God really met us during our worship times at night, and a lot of the people there were called closer to him over the course of the weekend.”

“The ski trip had a huge impact on Princeton Faith and Action as a whole. We had been praying for the retreat for months, and God so faithfully answered us,” said Libby Bliss, Princeton '11.

“God really showed up on the retreat and worked in hearts and minds in big ways...The ski trip filled us up with so much love and passion for God and also brought us together as



The Harvard College Faith and Action winter retreat was held February 4-6 in Bridgewater Corners, Vermont.

close friends and as the unified body of Christ.”

Bliss was one of 96 students who par-

ticipated in the Princeton Faith and Action trip on January 23-28. That number also included members of Legacy, Chris-

tian Union's leadership development ministry to Princeton students who are African-American and of African descent.

Harvard College Faith and Action (HCFA) took 57 students on its trip, which was held February 4-6, and included Chris Matthews and Chad Warren, Christian Union ministry fellows at Yale, and four Yale undergraduates.

Both ski trips were held at Ottauquechee Farm in Bridgewater Corners, about ten miles from the pristine slopes of Killington.

“God really showed up on the retreat and worked in hearts and minds in big ways... The ski trip filled us up with so much love and passion for God and also brought us together as close friends and as the unified body of Christ.”

—Libby Bliss, Princeton '11

Don Weiss, Christian Union's ministry director at Harvard, said, “God really showed up and met us... Almost everybody, in an unhindered way, seemed to be sincerely engaged in worship.”

The trip was especially meaningful for the Christian Union ministry fellows and students at Yale, who embarked on their first winter retreat.

Rodney Evans, Yale '14, called the event, “one of those mountaintop experiences one has every so often.”

During the Harvard retreat, Weiss and Harvard Ministry Fellow Nick Nowalk led the sessions, which included an examination of fear of God through the lens of Scripture.

“We emphasized that the fear of God is primarily positive, not negative, and that it is the natural, derivative response to valuing God more than anything else,” said Ministry Fellow Nick Nowalk.

Another session showed how God blesses, cares for, and feeds his people, connecting Jesus' miracle of loaves and fish in the Gospel of Mark, the attributes of the good shepherd in Psalm 23, and the Last Supper.

For Princeton students and staffers, one of the highlights was a powerful

Likewise, Teaching Fellow Chuck Hetzler described the presence of the Holy Spirit as strong. “I really felt like He never left,” Hetzler said. “It was really great how the Lord came early on.”

“There was so much unity there; so much unity for a revival at Princeton.”

During the Princeton retreat, Ken Jasko, Princeton '78, pastor of Monmouth Worship Center in Marlboro, New Jersey, discussed principles of knowing and seeking God, the importance of humility, and the power of God-sized dreams. He also spoke about the need to agree with others in faithful prayer for God to do great things in and through us.

Rev. Jasko knows the impact Princeton students can have when they seek God fervently. He is the author of “God at Work: Religion and Revival at Princeton University 1746 - 1979,” a paper which chronicles the Christian foundations of the University:

Founded as a result of the Great Awakening, [Princeton] has educated many notable men of God amidst numerous campus revivals. Princeton students have had a great impact on American Christianity, for they have been responsible for starting the American Bible Society, American Tract Society, Intercollegiate YMCA, Student Volunteers Movement, and many other Christian works.

Events such as these winter retreats, which incorporate times of extended praise and worship, prayer, and exhortation, help Christian Union foster a seeking God lifestyle among leaders at some of the nation's leading universities.

“God did many amazing things in me,” said Evans. “I was very glad to take away some very practical precepts for living out my faith on campus.” ■

movement of the Holy Spirit early in the week.

“Tuesday night was the night when the Holy Spirit really descended on us, and that was the night when a number of people first truly believed,” said Phil Miller, Princeton '12. “The Spirit did many miracles that night.”

Staffers echoed those comments.

“The worship time on Tuesday night was a powerful time of experiencing God and encountering God,” said Dan Knapke, director of the Christian Union's undergraduate ministries at Princeton. “The agenda for the evening had to be thrown away. We had five hours of praise, worship, confession, weeping, and prayer.”

FINDING THE LOVE OF GOD

Catholic Community Students Feel the Lord's Presence on Retreat

B *The world is waiting...for new saints, ecstatic men and women who are so deeply rooted in the love of God that they are free to imagine a new international order. Henri Nouwen.*

Students with Brown-RISD Catholic Community took time this February to become more deeply rooted in God's love and explore how it is present in their lives during a retreat held in Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

The theme of the retreat was "Agape: Finding the Love of God in all Things." According to sophomore Pete Fernandez, "The idea was to discuss and reflect on God's love for all of us, where we have seen it, and how we can start to reciprocate that love."

Several students served as speakers for the retreat, sharing testimonies of where they have seen God's love in their lives.

Joseph Cadabes '14 spoke about how music has helped him better understand God's agape love in his own life, and Jenny Sparks '15 shared how her personal struggles have brought her closer to God and created a deeper love within her.

For junior Lauren Crapanzano, hearing testimonies from freshmen and sophomores was particularly edifying.

"As an 'older' student on the retreat, it was great to hear such personal stories from newer students to our community. It served as a great way to get to know and understand them better, but was also a challenge to my own ideas about what exactly love can mean," she said.

"For 24 hours I can put everything on hold and just pray, meditate, and grow closer to God."

The students spent time in small group discussion of scripture. Additionally, they paused for times of reflective prayer; during those times, Fernandez said, the Holy

Spirit could be felt.

"There was this presence among us, a feeling of comfort and protection," he said.



Students with Brown-RISD Catholic Community took time to focus on God's love during a retreat in Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

A Mass led by Fr. Henry Bodah, the Catholic chaplain at Brown, was held at the conclusion of the retreat.

This is Fernandez's third retreat with

the ministry and he has come to appreciate what the time in prayer and fellowship with other believers has done for his relationship with God.

"For 24 hours I can put everything on hold and just pray, meditate, and grow closer to God," he said.

Crapanzano agrees: "Sometimes when I find myself caught up in the hustle and bustle of life at Brown, I forget God's mission for me and the greater purpose of the mundane things I may be doing. Getting away on a retreat is always a wonderful opportunity to re-center myself and find God's presence in my life."

Fernandez said he learned something new: "This retreat, while dealing with God's love for us, developed into a discussion on how we, as imperfect and flawed beings, can improve ourselves to be able to fully receive God's love, and how we can love God back, even if we cannot fully love God as He loves us."

Fernandez said his involvement with the Catholic campus ministry has helped him grow

deeper in his faith and as a Catholic.

"I feel more comfortable embracing my faith and I truly feel like I am a part of something greater than myself," he said. "The best part is that I know I am not alone and that there are people both here at Brown and in the world that I can share this with."

The retreat also inspired him to devote more time to God; he continues to "retreat" from the stress of Brown and focus on God's presence.

"I make sure that I spend at least a small portion of my day to turn away from school and whatever else is going on to just reflect or pray and feel that wonderful gift of agape, God's love," he said. ■

'A BREAKTHROUGH YEAR'

Princeton Faith and Action Rejoices with Donors

P Students and staffers with Princeton Faith and Action, Christian Union's leadership development ministry on campus, recently paused to celebrate some milestones and to thank the donors who make possible their accomplishments.

"This year has been pretty incredible," said Dan Knapke, director of the Christian Union's undergraduate ministry at Princeton. "It's very possible this year is a breakthrough-type year... It's almost as if something has taken on a life of its own."

Knapke made his comments during a sponsorship celebration held February 18 at McCormick Hall during Princeton Faith and Action's regular "802" Friday night lecture series.

"It's the first time in my ministry life that I can begin to envision something pretty crazy happening on Princeton campus," Knapke said. "We're beginning to see the seeds [of revival] percolate around us."

Among the highlights of this academic year, Knapke mentioned unprecedented hours of prayer and fasting by students and staffers alike. "We prayed for the [entire] freshman class by name four times in the beginning of the year," he said.

In addition, in just the first week of the fall semester, 35 male and 39 female freshmen enrolled in the Christian Union's Bible Courses. Overall, there are currently 270 students enrolled in Christian Union's Bible courses at Princeton.

PFA has also seen an increase in attendance at its weekly lecture series, from approximately 80 students last year to 110 in this current academic year.

"It's been amazing to see the numeric growth," Knapke said. "God is doing

something very, very profound at Princeton."

Donors also expressed praise for the fruit being manifested from the Christian Union's outreaches at Princeton, Harvard, and Yale universities.

Among them, Jennifer Superdock of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, submitted a letter to be read at the celebration that highlighted the spiritual growth in the life of her oldest son, Matt Superdock '13.

"We have seen firsthand the way that our son has grown in his faith, been mentored and disciplined, and been given opportunities to lead through Christian Union," Superdock said. "We see that it is also a place where students can come who are seeking to know more about Jesus, and they will be loved and cared for in a Christ-like way."

Several donors connect with Christian Union by participating in growth sponsorships and

outreach sponsorships. In the growth sponsorship program, donors pray for a specific student and give \$100 a month, which helps provide the undergraduate with mentoring, Bible courses, and other resources.

The donors also have the option to contact their individual student, and some have formed friendships. Both students and sponsors are allowed to select their personal level of anonymity or openness, and they are matched accordingly.

In outreach sponsorships, donors give \$20 per month to help a specific student and also pray for that individual. In addition to prayer, the student is the beneficiary of book distributions and other outreach initiatives. There is no communication with the anonymous sponsored

student, but donors are made aware of the individual's gender, graduation year, and home state.

Additionally, a portion of the dollars from outreach sponsorships are pooled to fund broad evangelistic outreach, which includes public debates and speakers, distribution of relevant books, and expressions of Christian kindness.

Christian Union also offers donors the opportunity to sponsor specific Bible courses on the campuses of Princeton, Harvard, and Yale.

In another letter, Andy Kurtz of Princeton explained why he is enthusiastic about what Christian Union is doing.

"I support Christian Union because it fits very well into the Gospel to help young adults grow in faith, even as they are growing intellectually and in many other ways," said Kurtz '76, a chemical engineer and manufacturing executive.

"It also makes sense to support a ministry that is so well-aligned with my own experience, having been very active in campus Christian activities in the mid-'70s."

Sang Ahn, co-founder of a pharmaceutical development company and an entrepreneur, agreed.

"Princeton is really special because it is where I came back to meet the Lord again," said Ahn. "Princeton also has a special place in my heart because it's where I met my best friend, who later became my wife."

Ahn '97 experienced considerable spiritual and personal growth while at Princeton. He encouraged students to be faithful in their service to Christ while they also are working out key career and personal endeavors. "How are you loving your family, neighbors, and community?" he asked.

Overall, Ahn said he came away from his visit to "802" struck with the dedication of the students to both Christ and PFA's outreach on campus. "I was really impressed with the level of energy," he said.

Ahn and his wife Felice remain active supporters of the Christian Union, in part, because "those four years can be incredibly formative years. The Christian Union's mission is very necessary." ■



Dan Knapke, Christian Union's director of undergraduate ministry at Princeton, said "God is doing something profound" on campus.



PRAY WITH US

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO WILL TRANSFORM CULTURE



At Christian Union, we are prayerfully seeking God for transformation at Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale. Each year, thousands of students pass through the halls of these institutions and move out into positions of leadership in our society. Unfortunately, over 90% have had no regular Christian influence in their lives during these critical college years.

Christian Union recently launched a monthly email that describes the key prayer needs of the ministry. Campus-specific prayer emails are also available for Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

Will you join us and pray regularly for the development of Christian leaders at some of our nation's leading universities?

To receive Christian Union's prayer email each month, sign up online at www.Christian-Union.org/prayer or send an email to: prayer@Christian-Union.org.



CHRISTIAN UNION

Passionately Praying for Princeton



Christian Union Founder and President Matt Bennett, Cornell '88, MBA '89, and Teaching Fellow Chuck Hetzler meet biweekly to pray with pastors from Princeton, New Jersey.

Christian Union Founder and President Matt Bennett, Cornell '88, MBA '89, and Christian Union Teaching Fellow Dr. Chuck Hetzler are hosting biweekly

prayer meetings with pastors from Princeton, New Jersey.

The pastors and leaders, who primarily gather at the Christian Union's ministry headquarters on Nassau Street, began meeting in spring 2010 to pray for spiritual transformation in their town and adjacent Princeton University.

"As spiritual gatekeepers, pastors and ministry leaders need to come to together," Hetzler said.

Harvard Students Minister in NYC

Twenty-five students from Harvard, including a majority from Harvard College Faith and Action, a leadership development ministry resourced and supported by Christian Union, took a spring break missions trip to New York City this March.

Students and staffers with Harvard College Faith and Action spent spring break serving the poor in New York City.

The students worked with a variety of programs and ministries, including the Bowery homeless shelter, Brooklyn Teen Challenge, and after school programs. Additionally, nearly half of the students ventured into Central Park for evangelism and to conduct spiritual surveys.

Radiate Retreat is Refreshing

Christian Union staff members Dan and Laurie Knapke attended Campus Crusade for Christ's annual winter conference, Radiate 2010. The event, for Crusade staffers who serve in the Mid-Atlantic region, was held December 28 - January 1 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in the city's Inner Harbor.

"We were refreshed and enjoyed the sharpening that comes from being with the other ministry staff members," said Dan Knapke, Christian Union's director of undergraduate ministries at Princeton University. Laurie Knapke is a volunteer women's Bible course leader. Penn Students for Christ also participated in the conference.



Campus Crusade for Christ held its annual winter conference, Radiate 2010, at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

ALL IVY

Ivy Education, Prosperity Link Examined

A recent article in the *New York Times* asks the question, "Is going to an elite college worth the cost?" According to the article, a paper by the RAND Corporation and Brigham Young and Cornell Universities, reveals that "strong evidence emerges of a significant economic return to attending an elite private institution, and some evidence suggests this premium has increased over time."

However, regarding whether this success and affluence makes for greater happiness, the article states, "That's a question for another day."



According to an article and paper by the RAND Corporation, Brigham Young University, and Cornell University, there are economic benefits of attending an "elite" private institution.

Fox News Features Love and Fidelity Network

The Love and Fidelity Network (www.loveandfidelity.org) received national news coverage for its Valentine's Day advertising campaign in student newspapers within the Ivy League and seven other universities.

The organization garnered attention from outlets, including Fox News, for its advertisements reminding college students of their inherent dignity and the need for healthy respect and boundaries in relationships.

As well, Love and Fidelity, which is based in Princeton, New Jersey, received more than 25,000

hits on its Web site on Valentine's Day. With support from the Christian Union (www.christian-union.org), the organization ran ads that suggest sexuality has more dignity than is represented through campus pop culture.



The Love and Fidelity Network sponsored an ad campaign in student newspapers that emphasized human dignity and the need for healthy relationships.

Hundreds Attend Crusade Winter Conference

Students from five leading universities were among 358 individuals who participated in Campus Crusade for Christ's Boston Winter Conference.

Undergraduates from Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, and Yale attended the annual conference, which was held January 1 to 4 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

Guest speakers included three members of Crusade's national staff: Bret Ogburn, Holly Sheldon, and Darryl Smith. The event also included a popular dating workshop.



Students from Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, and Yale attended Campus Crusade for Christ's annual winter conference in Boston.

BROWN

Veritas Explores Religious Pluralism

The Veritas Forum (www.veritas.org) at Brown examined the myths of pluralism. Held on March 8, the forum was entitled, *When Tolerance Is Not Enough: Confronting the Myths and Challenges of Religious Pluralism*. The speakers



Brown Professor Kenneth Miller moderated the Veritas Forum at Brown this spring.

were Vinoth Ramachandra, the secretary of Dialogue and Social Engagement (Asia) for the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, and Professor Nathaniel Berman, professor of International Affairs, Law, and Modern Culture at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown. Kenneth Miller, professor of biology at Brown, moderated the event, which, according to its coordinators, sought to “expose and elevate the Christian worldview to the entire Brown academic community.”

College Hill for Christ Tableslips Scripture

College Hill for Christ conducted a scripture “tableslipping” initiative to expose Brown students to Bible verses. The outreach involved printing select biblical passages from the Gospel on small handouts that were placed on dining hall tables during seven meals each week. Students were then able to read the passages upon entering the dining hall, resulting in an estimated 2,500 exposures to scripture each week. A grant from Christian Union was used to help subsidize the initiative.



College Hill for Christ initiated a tableslipping effort to give students at Brown more exposure to scripture.

Crusade Sends Relief Team to Haiti

Students and staffers from Campus Crusade for Christ’s ministries at Brown University were among a group of 30



Members of Campus Crusade at Brown traveled to Haiti in January to help with relief efforts.

individuals from the Northeast who flew to Haiti in early January to assist in a relief trip.

The team, which also included participants from Crusade’s ministries at Cornell and Harvard universities, traveled between January 5 and 14 to work with Campus Crusade’s humanitarian arm in Haiti.

“During our stay, we made ourselves available around-the-clock to serve Haitian children and families, American missionaries, and the Haitian Campus Crusade team,” said Lorena Ellis (Brown ’09), a ministry intern at Brown.

COLUMBIA

Catholic Ministry Presents Peter Kreeft Lecture

On March 30, the Columbia Catholic Ministry (www.columbia.edu/cu/earl/ccm) hosted a lecture by Boston University Professor Peter Kreeft entitled, *Walker Percy and Christian Existentialism*. Kreeft, who is also a professor of philosophy at The King’s College in Manhattan, has authored numerous articles and books including *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* and *Fundamentals of the Faith*.

Philosopher and author Peter Kreeft spoke to the Columbia Catholic Ministry on the topic, “Walker Percy and Christian Existentialism.”



Life without God?

The nationally organized Center for Inquiry, founded by Columbia Ph.D. Paul Kurtz ’52, has launched a national multimedia ad campaign stating, “You don’t need God—to hope, to care, to love, to live.” The overall mission of the campaign is to convince people that, “it is possible to live a fulfilling life without God.”

Ads were featured on buses in Washington, D.C. and billboards in Indianapolis and Houston. These cities were selected to represent the nation’s capital, a heartland city, and a major “Bible belt” city. Other cities may be targeted in the future. A Web site connected to the campaign was also created.

The Century for Inquiry, a national organization founded by Paul Kurtz, PhD, Columbia ’52, has launched a media campaign with the message: “You don’t need God.”



Catholic Community Hosts Lenten Talks

On Sunday evenings from March 13 to April 17, the Columbia Catholic Community hosted the Sunday Series of Lenten Talks 2011. The reflections were presented by Friars from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.

The series included a variety of topics relating to the Passion of Christ, including, *What Happened on the Cross?* In this reflection, Fr. Joseph Alobaidi offered a meditation on the depiction of the crucifixion narrative in the Gospel of Luke. Other reflections included *Wondrous that Tree: The Cross in Poetry* and *The (Other) Good Thief*, which was described as “a theological reflection on the life of a modern day ‘Dismas.’”

The Friars from the Dominican House in Washington, D.C., participated in the Lenten Talks hosted by the Columbia Catholic Community.



CORNELL

Chesterton House Event Addresses Christian Environmentalism

“Why Tree Frogs Need Believers: Christian Concern for the Environment” was the topic of discussion by Rev. Peter Harris who spoke at the Graduate Christian Fellowship Roundtable (www.rso.cornell.edu/gradcf) at Weill Hall at Cornell on March 9.



Christian conservationist Rev. Peter Harris spoke on the topic, “Why Tree Frogs Need Believers,” during the Graduate Christian Fellowship Roundtable at Cornell.

Harris, an Anglican minister, is the founder and president of A Rocha, a Christian conservation organization. He is also a prolific writer on the topic of Christianity and environmental concern. According to author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, “No one has done more than Peter Harris to help Christians understand that the Word lives outdoors as well as in, and no one has written more tenderly or insightfully about the process of building community.”

International Christian Fellowship Provides Fellowship, Encouragement

Approximately 40 students with Cornell International Christian Fellowship (www.cornellief.org) come together for dinner, fellowship, worship, and Bible study each Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. Additionally, once a month, ministry members gather for Agape Night and listen to a guest speaker while enjoying a potluck dinner. The ministry also



Members of Cornell International Christian Fellowship come together each Friday for dinner and Bible study.

remains active during the winter and summer breaks by bringing students together to listen to a guest speaker or watch a movie. The goal of Cornell International

Christian Fellowship (CICF) is to provide fellowship and encouragement to Christian internationals at Cornell.

Recently, a grant from Christian Union helped to underwrite the ministry's efforts.

Festival of Black Gospel Features Byron Cage

The 34th Annual Festival of Black Gospel concert (www.festivalblackgospel.com) in March included a performance by Grammy-nominated and Stellar Award-winning performer Byron Cage. The event also showcased university choirs from the Upstate New York area. This year's concert also marked the first time Cornell musical groups collaborated with Ithaca College to produce events for the Festival of Black Gospel (FBG) weekend.



The 34th Annual Festival of Black Gospel Concert was held at Cornell in March.

FBG highlights included the concert on Saturday evening, as well as a Sunday morning church service. Co-sponsoring organizations included Cornell's chapter of the Impact Movement, Higher Call, Cornell's Chosen Generation Gospel Choir, and Ithaca College's Amani Gospel Singers and Awaken.

A grant from Christian Union helped underwrite the concert.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth Responded to Haiti Earthquake

According to a recent review, Dartmouth Haiti Response sent 40 tons of medical supplies to the impoverished country following the massive earthquake in January of 2010. Additionally, 3,414 pairs of crutches were among the supplies and \$1.5 in monetary donations and in-kind medical supply donations were also given. Manpower from Dartmouth Haiti Response also played a key role, as 51 medical professionals went to Haiti to assist the sick and wounded.



A review of Dartmouth's aid to earthquake stricken Haiti shows significant contributions from the university community.

Annual MLK Awards, Panel Discussion Held

The annual Martin Luther King Social Justice Awards and Panel Discussion were held January 28 at Collis Common Ground. This year's recipients were Holly Sateia, MALS '82; Jan Tarjan '74; Michael Dorsey, assistant professor of environmental studies; Gregorio Millett '90; and the Dartmouth chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

The annual Martin Luther King Social Justice Awards and Panel Discussion were held this January at Dartmouth.



The awards ceremony honors members of the Dartmouth and Upper Valley community who have significantly contributed to social justice, peace, civil rights, education, public health, or environmental justice.

A Worshipful Experience

Four students from Dartmouth College's Agape Christian Fellowship attended the International House of Prayer's Onething 2010 Conference during their holiday break. The conference was held December 28 - 31 at the Kansas City Convention Center. Thousands of young adults came together for the event.

“I really appreciated their emphasis on prayer, worship, and intimacy with God,” said Rebecca Wu '11, chair of Agape. “Their worship was the most genuine I've ever experienced.”



Members of Agape Fellowship at Dartmouth attended the Onething Conference held at the Kansas City Convention Center.

HARVARD

Harvard President Is Descendant of Jonathan Edwards

Harvard University President Catherine Drew Gilpin Faust has a notable family history. Faust, who received an honorary



According to the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Harvard President Drew Faust, Penn MA '71 and Penn Ph.D. '75,

is a direct descendant of Jonathan Edwards.

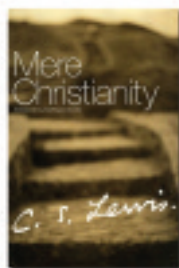
doctor of laws from Princeton in 2010, is a direct descendant of Rev. Jonathan Edwards, Princeton's third president and a spiritual leader behind the Great Awakening of the mid-eighteenth century. The New England Historic Genealogical Society outlined the extensive genealogy of Harvard's first female president in a 2008 article for *American Ancestors*. Faust, Penn Ph.D. '75, is the daughter of McGhee Tyson Gilpin, Princeton '42, a breeder of thoroughbred horses.

Students Study Mere Christianity, Proverbs

Students involved in Harvard College Faith and Action have been gathering for additional enrichment and fellowship. Harvard College Faith and Action is a leadership development ministry supported and resourced by Christian Union.

Female students spent parts of the fall and spring semesters studying *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, taking the opportunity to discuss the implications of the Christian faith "in their lives in the classroom, dorm room, and other social spaces," said Joanne Wong '13, organizer.

Kent Toland '14 led a study of Proverbs over the holiday break via Google Groups. "It was a good way to continue to pursue the Lord over such a long break," he said.



This winter, students with Harvard College Faith and Action studied *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

Harvard Participates in Day of Prayer

Students from Harvard and other campuses across the nation participated in the National Collegiate Day of Prayer on February 24, a day set aside for prayer that seeks a move of God on campuses across the nation. At Harvard, the Winthrop I-entryway attic was converted into a temporary prayer room with stations. The room was open from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., so that students from the different campus ministries would have time to participate.



Harvard students joined students through the United States in participating in the National Collegiate Day of Prayer.

The event had been a mainstay on campuses for a long period, but lost participation during the past hundred years. In 2010, the Collegiate Day of Prayer was brought back to campuses.

PENN

A Full Measure



Full Measure, an a cappella group at Penn, uses music to worship God and reach people with the Gospel message.

Full Measure, Penn's premiere Christian a cappella group, held its Fall 2010 Concert in December. The concert, which consisted of 10 songs as well as a coordinating skit, sought to encourage believers and share the Gospel with non-Christians. Additionally, the concert reached out beyond the Penn campus. It targeted students from other colleges in

Philadelphia as well as the greater Philadelphia area as a whole.

Wharton Students Volunteer at Soup Kitchen

Members of the Wharton Christian Group volunteered at the Penn Hillel Soup Kitchen this February. The volunteers served food



PHOTO CREDIT: iStock

to the homeless from the surrounding community and also spent time engaging in conversation with those they served. In addition to meeting the physical needs of the soup kitchen's guests, the weekly activity is also designed to build enduring relationships.

Volunteers from the Wharton Christian Group served with the Penn Hillel Soup Kitchen this February.

Penn For Jesus Promotes Unity

In the spring semester, Penn for Jesus (www.pennforjesus.com) hosted a variety of events aimed at encouraging unity among ministries on campus and at sharing the Gospel. The events included a weekly inter-ministry meeting by the Penn Fusion Group, which is designed to facilitate prayer for the Penn campus and to build closer inter-ministry relationships. The *Love Café, A Night of Worship & Testimonies* was held February 27 and included worship and personal testimonies from students. This year's event also incorporated a service focus, which was to encourage students to minister to the homeless in the community surrounding the campus.



PHOTO CREDIT: iStock

The Penn Fusion Group hosted a weekly inter-ministry meeting this spring to facilitate prayer for the campus and encourage inter-ministry fellowship.

PRINCETON

Anscombe Panel Addresses Dating and Religion

Just in time for Valentine's Day, The Anscombe Society hosted a panel discussion to probe approaches to dating among different faiths.

Rev. Bill Boyce, director of Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, and Imam Sohaib Sultan, Princeton's Muslim Life Coordinator, served as the panelists for the event, which was held February 11 in Robertson Hall.

Boyce reminded students that marriage is not a human invention. Rather, it is a divine institution and one that should be approached slowly and thoughtfully.

"Use this as a period of discernment," said Boyce, Princeton '79. "I urge people to go slowly and seek to know the other person better."



The Anscombe Society at Princeton hosted a panel discussion about approaches to dating among different faiths.

Students March for Life

Students from Princeton Pro-Life were among the 300,000-plus activists who descended upon Washington, D.C., for the 38th annual March for Life.

The students took part in the pro-life campaign, which is held January 24 to mark the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the landmark Roe v. Wade case.

With support from the Christian Union, about 50 students from Princeton Pro-Life journeyed via a chartered bus to Washington. Though exhausting, the students called their venture, which



Members of Princeton Pro-Life gather for a photo in the nation's capital during the March for life this spring.

included a private meeting with U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts, a worthy investment in the campaign to oppose abortion.

Women's Wellness

About 75 students participated in a joint-ministry event for female undergraduates at Princeton University.



Staffers from various Princeton ministries participated in Women's Wellness Day, a joint-ministry event geared toward undergraduates at Princeton.

Female staffers with Manna Christian Fellowship (www.princeton.edu/manna), Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, and Princeton Faith and Action (www.pfanda.com) held Women's Wellness Day on February 26 in Whig Hall to highlight issues of particular interest to female students. The staffers covered topics including: individual identity in Christ, achieving a balance of work and rest, nutrition and body image, and male-female relationships.

The students "appreciated hearing more of the women's voices from the staff and hitting on topics very relevant to their day-to-day lives," said Danielle Sallade, Princeton '94.

YALE

Tanner Named Professor of Systematic Theology

Kathryn Tanner, Yale BA '79, Ph.D. '85, was recently named the Frederick Marquand Professor of Systematic Theology by the Yale Corporation. "She is an outstanding leader in the field and we are honored to have her in this chair," stated Dean Harold Attridge.

Tanner has previously taught in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale and at Yale Divinity School. She also was a faculty member at the University of

Kathryn Tanner, Yale BA '79 and Ph.D. '85, is the new Frederick Marquand Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale.



Chicago Divinity School for 15 years. Tanner is the author of *Christ the Key* and *Economy of Grace*, among other books.

Bartlett Lecture Examines the Prophetic

The Bartlett Lecture at Yale Divinity School was presented by Eddie Glaude Jr. Glaude, Princeton Ph.D. '96, is the William S. Todd Professor of Religion and African American Studies and chair of the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University.

The lecture, which was held in Niebuhr Lecture Hall on January 25, examined John Dewey's view of imagination "not in its traditional setting, but as a locus for a certain view of the prophetic." The lecture was also open to the public.



Eddie Glaude Jr., the William S. Todd Professor of Religion and African American studies at the Princeton, gave the Bartlett Lecture presentation at Yale Divinity School.

Metaxas Talks Bonhoeffer with Bush

Best-selling author Eric Metaxas recently visited former U.S. President George W. Bush to discuss his newest biography, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*.

In February, Metaxas, Yale '84, met with Bush, Yale '68 and Harvard Business School '75, at his office in Dallas to discuss Metaxas' account of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian and spy who was executed in 1945 for his role in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

"We talked about everything from who might get the G.O.P. nomination in the next election to writing books," Metaxas said. "It was a fun and rambling conversation, and I shared much of my own story."



Author Eric Metaxas '84 (R) met with fellow Yale alumnus and former President George Bush '68 in Dallas to discuss his biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN UNION



Following is the mission and vision of Christian Union, printed in each issue of the *Ivy League Christian Observer* to keep new readers informed of the ministry's purpose and passion.

INTRODUCTION

America is unusual in the industrialized world in that it has significant spiritual devotion, but unfortunately lacks Christian vitality among those who are in positions of cultural influence. Many of the most influential people in academia, the arts, business, education, government, media, medicine, and law are decidedly secular in their outlooks. Unfortunately, the Christian community itself is mostly to blame for this sad state of affairs. Over 100 years ago, large segments of the Christian community decided that intellectualism and positions of cultural influence were to be avoided and left those arenas to the secularists. Years later, Christians have lamented that so much of the culture is directed and influenced by those with values contrary to the Gospel of Christ. Of course, this should be no surprise.

WHY THE MINISTRY EXISTS:

Christian Union was founded in 2002 to rectify this imbalance by developing Christian leaders to impact the larger culture. The ministry is strategically focused on a very influential and unreached segment of the U.S. population – the portion that makes much of the decisions that affect the daily lives of all Americans. Christian Union focuses on developing Christian leaders through events and conferences throughout the country, but directs most of its energy toward eight university campuses because of their extraordinary influence. Research has shown that just eight of the 2,500 universities in the country produce 50% of the most influential leaders. It's incredible to consider, but out of 21 million current American college students, a small segment of only 100,000 students on a small number of campuses

will occupy 50% of the most influential leadership roles in the United States. Graduates from these schools will also have extraordinary influence on the international scene.

Currently, these campuses are extremely secular in their outlooks, representing a slow-motion train wreck that has been negatively impacting our country and world for a generation. Astoundingly, 93% of the students on these campuses



Christian Union Founder and President, Matthew W. Bennett, Cornell BS '88, MBA '89.

have no regular Christian influence in their lives. These campuses include Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale.

MISSION

Even with the help of local churches and godly national campus ministries, the proportion of Christian involvement and strengthening on these campuses has not changed in 50 years. There is no good reason to expect that America will substantively change spiritually in the next 50 years if these campuses are not dramati-

cally changed in our present day. New approaches and energy need to be poured into making it a priority for the Christian Church to see that the lives of these leaders are strengthened with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the mission of Christian Union is to develop Christian leaders at these colleges in order to dramatically change the direction of the nation.

THREE VALUES OF THE MINISTRY

In its mission, Christian Union has three values of paramount concern. First, the ministry is organizational and engaging in its approach. Several in the organization have M.B.A.s, providing training for the ministry to be strategic and purposeful in its goals and objectives. Every quarter, the ministry compares its progress against goals in a number of key indicators. Jim Collins' monograph, *Good to Great in the Social Sector*, has been a tremendous aid in providing direction for the ministry. This strategic-mindedness of the ministry is also reflected in how students are mentored on campus. They are coached to be dynamic, faithful leaders, making an impact for Christ on their sports teams, academic departments, social clubs, and extra-curricular activities, such as singing groups and theatre.

Secondly, Christian Union works deliberately to engage students, and in order to have a realistic chance of seeing them develop into Christian leaders in a few short years, ministry workers of substantial caliber are needed to mentor and teach the students. Christian Union's ministry workers are called "ministry fellows" and have a strong educational and experienced background. Many have advanced seminary degrees including master of divinity, master of theology, and Ph.D. in New Testament. Others have years of experience in some of the best companies in the world including McKinsey and Co. Years of educational training and life experience give the ministry fellows the depth and ability to mentor students and teach them bibli-

cal depth, theology, Christian worldview, and integration of faith with academic disciplines and anticipated vocations.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, Christian Union emphasizes the importance of seeking God wholeheartedly. What's the point of having a Christian in a position of cultural influence if his devotion to God, faith, and spiritual strength are so weak that his values do not significantly differ from his secularist peers? Daniel of Bible fame serves as an inspiration. He was extremely organized and focused in his outlook, which he had to be as second in command of the most powerful nations in the world in his day: Babylon and Persia. He also was known to be extremely intelligent, which is why he was selected to enter the king's service in the first place, learning the literature of the Chaldeans. Yet, he also had a devotion to God so strong that even under the threat of death, he would not eat food defiled by idols, would not bow down to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar, and would not cease praying three times per day. After teaching the students to be good leaders organizationally, and developing their intellectual knowledge of the Christian faith, they also need to be taught how to seek God with a whole heart day and night: praying fervently, humbling themselves, reading the Scriptures often, repenting of sins daily, and obeying the Spirit promptly, persevering day in and day out in their love and devotion to the only true God of the universe.

ACTIVITIES

Christian Union fulfills its mission on campus through a variety of strategically conceived activities. These are divided into three categories: 1) partnership ministry, 2) ministry centers, and 3) Christian leadership development programs. The first category of ministry activities is active on all eight campuses, the second on three campuses, and the third on three campuses.

The first category of ministry on campus is the Partnership ministry, which consists of Christian Union partnering with other ministries for a variety of Christian related initiatives on campus. The ministry spends \$200,000 per year helping other ministries on the eight campuses. Approximately 50 projects per year are sponsored, about seven per campus per year. Past projects have included

funding Christian speakers to come to campus, evangelistic outreaches, community service projects, pro-life initiatives, conferences to help ministries recruit interns to join their staffs, and many other initiatives. Though the vast majority of Christian Union's spending goes towards its own programs (see category 3), the ministry is unique in that it devotes so many resources to the furtherance of a faithful Christian presence through other organizations.

Christian Union's second category of ministry on campus is the ministry centers, which are currently in operation at three campuses: Brown, Cornell, and Princeton. These facilities range in size from 3,600 to 5,500 square feet and are for the benefit of the Christian cause on the campus. Every semester, hundreds of small and large events happen in these facilities. These events are sponsored by Christian Union and also by many other ministries, free of charge. The spaces are used for offices, fellowship meals, prayer meetings, organizational meetings, small lectures, receptions, Alpha courses, and in many other ways. Christian Union plans to have ministry centers on the remaining five campuses in the next several years.

The third category of ministry activities on campus, and by far the largest and of the most significance, is Christian Union's Christian Leadership Development Programs (CLDP), which require full-time staff on campus and are present at three campuses: Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, with plans to begin at Dartmouth in 2011 (other campuses will be added down the line).

The centerpiece of the CLDP consists of Bible Courses containing 8-10 students each and led by a Christian Union Ministry Fellow. These are very popular and there is often a waiting list for students to join. As of spring 2010, there were 24 Bible Courses meeting weekly on the Princeton campus and five on the Harvard campus. Students need to be sponsored in order to be able to join a Bible Course, so there is a great need for more sponsors in order to touch the lives of more students (for information, see www.christian-union.org/sponsorship). Every student sponsored means one more student is receiving the opportunity to develop into a Christian leader. In addition

to the Bible Courses, students benefit from one-on-one mentoring, a weekly Christian leadership development lecture series, various conferences, and service and training opportunities.

CLDP includes one-on-one mentoring of students so that they can be coached to live for Christ wholeheartedly, understand the depths and implications of their faith in Christ, and make a godly impact in their spheres of activity and influence. By helping students succeed in affecting the culture on campus, Christian Union is preparing them to impact the culture when they graduate.

IMPACT

We are grateful to God for the impact he has had through us on the campuses. I think the best way to convey to you all that has happened, is by sharing a number of quotes from students who have participated in the ministry's various activities:

"The Princeton Faith and Action ski trip was the first time I had an encounter with the living God. That's when I was like, 'wow, this is for real.'"

"Christian Union's Ivy League Congress on Faith and Action really made a very great impact on my life. It helped me to be close to Christ and definitely put a sense of meaning in my life. From now on, I can look forward to being a true Christian."

"Harvard College Faith and Action has provided me with a base of Christian leaders and friends on campus. At Harvard you meet people with a lot of different perspectives, and if you're not grounded in your beliefs, it's easy to sway. Having people who can answer your questions and who are willing to wrestle through things with you is invaluable."

"The worship and the messages during 802 (Princeton Faith and Action's weekly lecture series) taught me about God, both on an intellectual and a spiritual level."

"PFA has shown me the importance of fellowship and surrounding myself with believers, and to always make time for prayer." ■

EMBRACING AND ERASING DOUBT



Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:24-29 (ESV)

In the church today, believers expressing doubt are often viewed negatively. Lack of faith insists facts known are insufficient to make the leap, and self-reliance rejects experiences or ideas contradicting personal belief paradigms.

In this passage, Jesus makes a second post-resurrection appearance to the disciples. Thomas, absent during the first appearance, was unwilling to accept news of Jesus’ resurrection based solely on the disciples’ words, and insisted he must physically see and touch the wounds of Jesus to believe.

From several scriptural accounts of the life of Thomas, his unbelief appears to be his normal reaction when facing challenging circumstances. Moreover, Thomas probably gained a reputation among the disciples as a second-guesser, slow to believe. However, Jesus appears to Thomas and grants his request to physically inspect Him to eliminate his doubt. Thomas enthusiastically rejoices and calls Jesus “My Lord, and My God.” Jesus replies that blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Many believers ridicule Thomas for his lack of belief. They are baffled how Thomas could discount the testimony from ten other disciples. From the surface, it appears that Thomas was being obstinate. I agree. Thomas should have believed the overwhelming testimony of the other disciples. However, the other disciples saw Jesus firsthand and did not have to rely on the testimony of

others. I wonder if we would have responded the same way as Thomas. If we had, I believe people would have ridiculed us as well. However, if our only take-away from this story is for us not to doubt, we are missing the true intent of the narrative. This story is less about scolding Thomas as revealing to us three poignant truths:

DOUBT IS DOUBT

Doubt must be treated as doubt. Minimizing or ignoring doubt will not eliminate it. We must face our doubts head on. Having doubts reminds us of our human frailty. As believers, we will encounter and entertain doubts on many occasions. However, doubts acknowledged and embraced stand a great chance of being transformed. Transparency in areas and commands from the Lord in which we struggle to accept or have serious questions is the key. Thomas should be commended for vocalizing his doubt instead of burying it.

DOUBT IS DANGEROUS

Doubts are cantankerous. They poison and hinder the lives of believers. If we refuse to expose our doubts, they will become cancerous, rapidly destroying our faith, relationships, and destiny. Thomas embraced his doubt, and Jesus was able to transform his doubt to faith. Jesus provided Thomas with the revelation he needed to move from fear to faith. Thomas’ relationship and ministry was saved. He would have eventually forfeited us fellowship and his future assignment given to him by the Lord.

DOUBT MUST BE DESTROYED

Doubts grow in the dark. We must shed light on doubts by vocalizing them to the Lord and to others. We must be honest and hold nothing back. The Lord knows about them anyway. Then and only then will we experience the freedom that comes from the presence of God. The Lord is willing and ready to transform your doubt into faith. Pride is our enemy; humility is our lifesaver. If we confess our faults, Jesus is “faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and cleanse us from all iniquity.” It’s also healthy to share them with your Christian leadership. Go ahead and embrace and discard your doubts. ■

Quincy Watkins, a teaching fellow with Christian Union, received a B.S. in Economics from Temple University and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School.

Doubts grow in the dark. We must shed light on doubts by vocalizing them to the Lord and to others. We must be honest and hold nothing back.

BROWN

- Athletes in Action has been reaching and influencing both Christian and non-Christian student athletes by having former collegiate and professional athletes share their stories of faith. Pray that these outreaches will strengthen the faith of Christian student athletes and plant seeds among non-Christians.
- Pray for each ministry leader and worker, as they tirelessly devote their time and energy to spreading the Gospel across the Brown campus.

COLUMBIA

- Pray that discussions resulting from the Veritas Forum will cause many non-believers to ask questions about Christianity.
- Be praying for the Columbia Catholic Undergraduates as they seek to strengthen and encourage one another in their walk with the Lord.
- Pray for unity among the campus ministries as they work together to reach out to students.

CORNELL

- Over 200 students attended the Light '11 missions' event in March. Pray for those who were influenced to make commitments to summer missions and for those who are considering long-term service.
- Pray that the Easter Celebrations on campus will start people talking about Christ, and that people will share their faith and lives will be changed. Pray especially for the Chalking Ministry.

DARTMOUTH

- Pray that ministry leaders would be provided for in abundance so they can meet their obligations and devote their time to the work of the Lord.
- Continue to pray for the nine Dartmouth students who went to Panama City Beach, FL. over Spring Break. Pray that the training, skills and experience gained in evangelism would be in operation as they reach out to their peers on campus.

HARVARD

- The last issue of *The Harvard Ichthus*, a journal of Christian thought, was delivered to 6,000 students on campus. Please pray that God will use this journal to promote dialogue about Jesus Christ.
- Journey Church, which began one year ago with a desire to reach Harvard students, now has a vibrant growing community. Pray that the grace of God continues to bless this church.

PENN

- As the seniors prepare to leave the academic setting, pray that their transition will be smooth and that those who are Christians will soon find a vibrant community of believers.
- New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir was one of the groups to perform at the Total Praise Café. Keep these music ministers in prayer as they continue to reach out on campus and in the surrounding area.

PRINCETON

- In January, Princeton University was ranked as a "faith friendly" school in *First Things* magazine. Pray that the Gospel would continue to be boldly proclaimed on campus.
- Keep in prayer the 30 Princeton students who took part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January. Pray that they will be bold in promoting Christ's message on the sanctity of life on campus.

YALE

- Lift up the Yale Law Christian Fellowship as they seek the Lord for the emergence of new leaders. Pray that ministry members will continue to be steadfast in their devotion to Christ.
- Pray for students wrestling with sin, be it related to drugs, alcohol, relationships, sexuality, sickness or stress. Pray that they might be transformed by Jesus Christ and dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to Him.



From the bottom of our hearts, “Thank You!”

Through your generous giving, Christian leaders
are being developed to change culture.



Peter Maag, Princeton '12
Hometown: Lake Oswego, OR
Major: Computer Science

Campus Activities: Varsity Cross Country and Track and Field Teams,
Princeton Faith and Action Campus Kindness team leader

“I began running competitively in seventh grade. God has given me the ability to run. The best way I can glorify him is pushing myself to see just how far it will take me. This pursuit led me to Princeton and its cross country team. In the same way, challenging myself through Christian Union’s rigorous Bible courses has enabled me to grow as a Christian and inspired me to tell others about my relationship with Jesus Christ. Ministry fellow Scott Jones’ mentoring encouraged me to start a Christian Union Bible Course for my team. It was a step of faith. I had prayed God would use me in his pursuit of my teammates, even though I was concerned about how they might react. However, the risk and effort were rewarded with an awesome response! Every week I now see eleven of my teammates grow in their relationship with God. I am experiencing so much joy in seeing them seek Him.”

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