

Introduction

This book is designed to assist local congregations, including young adult and student groups, in creating ministries that journey with students as they explore faith and discover a personal Savior. The principles and ideas are applicable in a general way to young men and women of college age whether they have entered or are seeking to enter the workforce or are attending college at an Adventist or non-Adventist school. However, this Quick Start Guide is primarily focused on ministries on public college and university campuses.

The Importance of Collegiate Ministry

There are an estimated 20 million college and university students in North America. The number of college and university students is larger than the combined population of the five largest North American cities: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto and Houston.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”
Matthew 9:37

Estimates of 50-70% of Adventist students attend non-Adventist colleges or universities. In addition, numerous Seventh-day Adventists from abroad attend colleges and universities in North America.

In general, college students are not very likely to respond to an evangelistic series or Revelation seminar, even when presented by a peer. But many will respond to food and friendship. Yes, the university campus may indeed be the most skeptical environment on the planet, but does that mean that students and faculty should be ignored? Do we believe that Christ is interested in college students? Is not Christ, through the Spirit, already on campus walking with students, actively working to develop a friendship with them? Should we not join Him in His efforts for students?

20 Million Students = Mission Field
Adventist Students = Missionaries
Holy Spirit = Go and Make Disciples

This simple formula follows Christ’s commission to go, as well as the experience of the early church. Still, something must be missing, because it is difficult to

find evidence of much success in campus culture today. Could it be that the missionaries do not realize their role? If the missionaries are ignored or deserted by their own spiritual community, who will help them recognize God in their own lives or His work on campus? What will they have to give if they lack a personal knowledge of their Savior? How will they know what to do or say when the Spirit opens the doors of searching hearts if faith is left behind when they enter college?

This Quick Start Guide is designed to challenge and train both students and local congregations in the development of Adventist-based ministries on non-Adventist college and university campuses.

- Local congregations will learn how to welcome and engage college students.
- Students will learn how create and maintain active campus-based ministries that engage their campuses for Christ.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.”
Matthew 9:38

The college years are a time of transition. Young men and women are expected to achieve independence and maturity. They make friends, develop skills and form values that shape the rest of their lives. Developing a faith in God that is vibrant and personal is an important part of this journey. Faith is largely borrowed from family, friends, teachers or pastors, at least throughout high school. Unfortunately, too many college students set faith aside or reject God altogether when they leave their Christian bubble. It is estimated that as many as two-thirds of college students ignore or reject the Christian faith of their childhood during their college years. That begs the question, why? Answers will vary with each student, but the following list suggests a few reasons why some college-age young adults may ignore or reject faith.

- The influence of skeptical friends and professors
- Escape from the reality or perception of self-centered legalistic religion
- Unchecked social and emotional immaturity that leads to destructive behaviors
- The natural process of differentiating themselves from their parents to become individuals
- A lack of support from, or often even contact with, their spiritual communities
- Inflexible churches that inhibit personal spiritual exploration, discovery and expression
- The sense that church is out of touch with their culture and needs

A Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

This philosophy for ministry is delineated with ten essentials. The first four essentials form the foundation, and are therefore given more explanation. The last six essentials build on the first four to provide a framework for programming and activity.

Word

It is essential that ministry with college students be built on and centered in Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:1, 14). Every relationship as well as all programming and activities should be created and evaluated by the presence of Jesus in them.

While this is true for all ministries, it is particularly important for this ministry because college students are in the process of forming foundational views on life and they need to learn of Jesus, the foundation of all true faith. All doctrines are meaningless to someone who does not first know or believe the Gospel of Christ.

“The Word became a student and moved unto the campus.”
John 1:14, paraphrased

Be

It is essential that ministry with college students be designed to foster friendship. Just as Christ came to be with us, “the Word became flesh,” so we could learn about the Father, so we must be with others so they too can learn of Him. Jesus said in John 17:10 of all disciples, “My life is on display in them.” The presence of older members in the lives of young Adventists is vital to spiritual development. A network of Christian friendship among peers provides support and accountability. People are won to Christ best through unconditional friendships. This ministry is about investing in meaningful relationships.

Come

It is essential that ministry with college students have an active Christian community for support and spiritual accountability. Friendships expand to become community. Jesus extended a very simple invitation when calling His disciples. He simply said, “Come, follow me” (Matthew 4:18). He then spent the next three years creating a community out of a very diverse group of people who ultimately took on the role of revealing God’s plan of salvation through Christ to the world. Community is a transparent witness for Christ. We are called to worship in community and to serve our world in community. When we include others in our group we are inviting them into the community of Jesus as a tangible witness of His kingdom. “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name,” Jesus said, “there I am among them” (Matthew 18:20).

Go

It is essential that ministry with college students challenges them to serve, to lead and to share. Jesus said, “Because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I have been doing” (John 14:12, Message). It is out of community centered in Christ that we are sent. God never sends us out alone, but He has sent us. The Holy Spirit and collective prayers of our communities are always with us and while it is never our job to convert people, we are given the privilege of bringing Christ’s restorative power to our world. Often God’s love is revealed even without His name being spoken, through a listening ear or healing touch. Other times the command to go means that we proclaim with confidence our living Lord.

With

It is essential that ministry with college students partners with others for Christ’s mission in their lives, on their campus and in the world. “I thank my God,” Paul said, “because of your partnership in the gospel” (Philippians 1:4, 5).

New

It is essential that ministry with college students creates dynamic ministries for a diverse, constantly changing world. “He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” (Revelation 21:5).

Gift

It is essential that ministry with college students includes sharing the gift of the story of salvation in Jesus. “Freely you have received,” Jesus said, “freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

Know

It is essential that ministry with college students includes components that help young men and women know Christ so fully that they are able to share the Gospel with humble confidence. “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,” John wrote to his fellow believers, “so that you may know that you have eternal life” (I John 5:13).

Now

It is essential that ministry with college students is able to communicate Christ in the context of today’s culture. When he wrote, “Now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2), Paul reminded the Corinthian believers of the urgency of receiving the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ today.

All

It is essential that ministry with college students honors the inclusive invitation of Jesus with activities and programs that convey a welcoming attitude for all. “For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people” (Titus 2:11).

Meeting Students' Needs at the Local Church

While it is true that students need the freedom to examine and explore the broader world, what they do not need is the absence of mature Christian influence. Yet unfortunately, that is all too often the church's response to college students. Whether they attend church-sponsored colleges, secular schools or enter the workforce out of high school, there is often little purposeful effort on the part of the local church to maintain connection and conversation with the twenty-something demographic.

The local church can and should be a major source of support for college students. Personal conversations, online or text messages, photos on a bulletin board, a meal together, invitations to participate in worship, recognition of accomplishments and milestones, and care packages are just a few ways local church members can initiate and maintain a connection with college students. Time spent listening to a young person share their dreams and praying with them through their struggles is time well spent. While they may not be present for every event or even attend church regularly, college students like to be remembered, valued and included.

Following is a longer list of ideas churches can include in their ministries to this age group. Read over the list and perhaps it will inspire ideas that your church can use.

Food

Provide food and students will come. Here are a few other opportunities for church members to provide for this basic need.

- Invite students home for lunch on Sabbath
- Provide food for Friday fellowship, Sabbath school or other meetings
- Schedule regular potluck lunches and invite students
- Take students out to eat for lunch between classes or in the evening
- Have an all-you-can-eat pasta night several times each year
- Take students to a grocery store and purchase food for their dorm room or apartment
- Host international student meals and plan events inviting participants to make dishes from their country
- Host Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for international students to experience American culture and hospitality

Love

This category is the most important, and it encompasses all of the ideas in this Quick Start Guide. Love is separated to emphasize several specific practices that are extremely important. The following list is designed to challenge your church to seek ways they can demonstrate love for students.

- Provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere
- Seek out students and invite them to church and other events
- Provide a safe place to stay connected—a home away from home
- Provide a haven from studies and a place for interaction with friends
- Offer uncritical acceptance of students and their friends
- Have an openness to discuss any issue or question
- Become friends and spend quality time with them when possible
- Demonstrate authentic concern by listening and learning from students
- Work to develop community for students
- Make difficult program changes to provide relevance
- Pray for and with them
- Preach, teach and live grace

Involve

There is nothing like participation to encourage ownership. When students have responsibility in the local church, they are more likely to attend and support it. More importantly, participation increases the chance that students will seek out and be involved in a church after they graduate, move away and begin careers.

“When students have responsibility in the local church, they are more likely to attend and support it.”

- Discover students’ gifts and passions
- Encourage college student involvement in children’s ministry
- Invite students to lead out in worship
- Include students on boards and committees
- Organize service projects and invite students to participate
- Include students in mission trip plans
- Provide leadership training
- Assist students in the development of a local Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) chapter (for more information about ACF see page 11)

Invest

More often than not, money is the tail that wags the dog. If college ministry is first made a priority, then helping finance it will be obvious. Remember that

students will soon have salaries and be giving back to the church, so it is wise to invest in them now.

- Include student ministry in your budget, and seek special donations
- Help students finance short-term mission trips
- Provide funding for a student chaplain, a task-force worker or even a full-time college pastor
- Develop and maintain an alumni list for future support of college ministries

Challenge

If we truly love college students, we will challenge them to grow spiritually. This process should really begin when students are younger. The level of responsibility and the degree of accountability should increase with age. College students should be given adult responsibilities and held accountable in the same manner.

- Give students permission to explore spiritual issues and make faith their own
- Hold students accountable in their personal spiritual life through personal friendships
- Be available to mentor students with studies
- Disciple them and provide spiritual leadership training

Commit

This category is included to connect the local congregation with student-based ministries on non-Adventist college and university campuses. Here are a few steps a church might take to get started with this important ministry.

- Meet with the elders, church board and any other interested parties, and ask:
 - What campuses are in close proximity to the church?
 - What students have already attended, or have you noticed?
 - Who has a passion for college students?
 - Who connects with college students in general?
- Discuss ways of making this ministry a priority in the church
- Actively seek leadership and sponsors for this ministry

Students are the Culture

One of the great dilemmas faced by the local church is how to be relevant to the local culture. Walking into most churches today is like stepping into a time machine. Most congregations have a style of worship unchanged for 20 to 50 years or more in some cases. This means that to the uninitiated, they may as well be in a foreign country. Even our own youth, who have attended weekly since they were babies, often find services irrelevant. When style supersedes substance, the Gos-

pel message is diminished. Youth leave, the community stays away and the congregation becomes a club, which over time can turn into a museum. If a church desires to influence culture, it must learn to understand it, communicate with it and actively engage it. If we hope to reach today's culture, we must first learn to reach our own youth. They have a much better understanding of contemporary culture because they have grown up in it. They speak the language and understand the metaphors. They are the culture. Develop an environment in the church where the older generation can learn style from students while the students learn the substance of their faith from their elders.

Starting a Ministry on a Public College or University Campus

Prayer

Success in ministry on behalf of Christ is hopeless without prayer. We must be connected to the God who is already at work on campus so we can follow His lead and join Him in bringing grace to students and the university community. This is not about quick prayers to start and finish meetings or events. Campus ministry must be bathed in prayer. It must be God-directed. Let Him speak the need for ministry to students while we listen. God will do the talking if our ears are open to hear and to discern His plans and how we can participate.

One practical way of applying this principle is “prayer walking” the campus. It is a good thing to do every year, but especially if you are launching a campus ministry program. Invite your leadership team, your pastor, a couple of students or some leaders from another Christian ministry on campus. Walk around from building to building and pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on campus and in your ministry. Notice how He is already at work. Look for needs your ministry can meet. Sense His presence and His desire to reveal how He has already acted to save.

Develop a Ministry Plan

Before embarking on a journey into public college ministry, it is valuable to determine destination and direction. The following series of six questions are included to help you define or refine goals, focus programs and develop a ministry plan. Answers will be based on a combination of many issues including local culture, students' needs and the gifts and interests of the team. It is best if a core group of leaders can sit down together and write answers to these six questions. Then, place the answers on a table next to a list of the ten essentials and use both to develop plans and programs. The process can be repeated each year as the ministry grows and its purposes are refined.

- Who are we trying to reach? (Target Audience)
- How are we going to do that? (Ministry Strategy)

- What do we want to say to them? (Message)
- Who are we going to partner with? (Ministry Team)
- How are we going to evaluate success? (Goals/Purpose)
- What will sustain this ministry over time? (Master Plan)

After determining the general goals and direction it is important to move to more specific issues. There are two additional questions that are vital if you want to be intentional about establishing an Adventist-based ministry on a public college campus. What type of group are you trying to create? And what leadership structure will you follow?

What Type of Group Are You Trying to Create?

- Do you want to create a fellowship of Adventist students on campus?
- Are you going to focus on evangelizing the campus for Christ?
- Will this be a college church group, a campus group or college church plant?

Most groups sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America begin with students who are already church members or at least come from an Adventist background. When this is the case, it is easy for the group to become more preservation focused. While God certainly is as anxious as you are to see students remain connected to the church, He has also challenged us with the privilege of passing on His love to others. If a fellowship of Adventist students is your objective, create an environment and develop programs to which they feel comfortable bringing their friends. With this model, evangelism grows out of friendship. Perhaps the best way to help faith develop in students is to involve them in the joys of sharing salvation.

Another method is to make reaching the campus for Christ the priority. With this model connecting with Adventist students is a concern but not the priority. Groups like Campus Crusade for Christ and Inter varsity Christian Fellowship are good examples of this type of campus evangelism. A group that chooses evangelism as their focus may want to partner with one of these organizations and support their ministries with a few supplemental programs that draw on Adventism's denominational uniqueness. Meeting the needs of international students is one approach to launching such a ministry focus. These students are far from home and living in an unfamiliar environment. They need friends who can help them navigate the local culture and provide social and emotional support.

Some groups meet only on campus and have a secondary connection with a local church. Other groups meet primarily off campus at a church or in someone's home. Either can be very successful. The primary benefit of meeting on campus is

proximity to students. It is especially difficult to get students who do not belong to the Adventist Church to attend something off campus in an unfamiliar place. This is especially true if the meeting location is a church whose program is not designed to meet the needs of students. The church, on the other hand, can provide an escape from campus pressures and serve to help students learn the value of participation in a church family.

It is important to determine your initial response to these questions. Whenever possible, seek to merge both preservation and proclamation. Be active on campus and with the local church family. Allow the Spirit to lead not just as you begin, but in every step of your journey.

Choosing a Leadership Structure

Every campus ministry is unique. One of the first things to consider in launching a new campus ministry is the leader. This person might be a full-time pastor, a pastor with partial responsibility for college ministries, a part time stipend student or a task-force worker. Another factor is the requirement and availability of student advisors, whether they are connected with the college or the local church. Sometimes a graduate student who is going to be around for several years takes the leadership role, or a group of students come together, organize and delegate responsibility. At times a local lay person with no connection with the campus will choose to take on this ministry and make it happen. Most often it is students who have a desire to organize, meet together and share their faith. Regardless of which model is chosen, students need to be involved in leadership. The following list provides some basic ideas about the roles of leadership.

The campus minister is a role model for the group and must be a person of integrity. They provide pastoral care and some minor counseling. (Unless a campus minister is a trained and certified counselor, their role is primarily to listen, pray, advise and refer.) Another function is to help the team develop a vision and stay on course. Their primary role is to provide leadership and discipleship training for students and to release them to be leaders of the group and an influence for Christ on campus.

The student leaders should lead in every way that their gifts and time allow. This involves every aspect of the program, from establishing the vision, to planning and leading weekly programs, annual retreats and all other events. Campus ministry presents great opportunities for students to learn and experience leadership. Student leaders should be challenged to analyze the needs they see on campus and develop programs that can address those needs. They need to be good examples for other students and can be involved in peer counseling. Older students often serve as great models to incoming freshmen and transfers.

The student advisor's role is to serve as the link to the campus and/or church. Many schools require all groups to have a faculty advisor who is the group's connection with school administration. If the advisor is an Adventist, they should also be a voice in the local church promoting campus ministry. Their role might also include getting people involved and providing support and advice for the group, especially the student leaders. Finally, since advisors are usually people who are around long term, they become the anchor for the group and provide continuity from one year to the next as students move in and out.

Seek Counsel

You do not have to reinvent the wheel. Many others have walked this way before. Here are a few examples of places to go for counsel and coaching in launching and sustaining a campus ministry program. See Resources on page 22 for more information.

Adventist Christian Fellowship

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) is the umbrella organization for public campus ministry in North America. This organization exists to assist in building Christian communities on campuses across the North American Division (NAD). More information is available about ACF/NAD at www.acflink.org. This website includes links to dozens of Adventist ministries on campuses across the NAD. These ministries are a very important source for information and guidance.



Other Campus Ministry Leaders On Campus

There are other Christian groups on virtually every campus in North America. You could become acquainted the leaders on your local campus, visit their group meetings and ask questions. The leaders of these groups can help you understand the campus and its unique ministry needs. These organizations also have a variety of resources including Bible studies for college students and ministry ideas. Many campuses have a council made up of other religious groups. Joining these groups can be a great source for ideas and often provide members with a sense of credibility and accountability.

Local Church Leadership

Communicate with the local church leadership. Most churches are willing to help support campus ministry; they just need someone to be passionate about it. New campus ministry leaders should meet with the pastor, elders and the board. They

need to hear and understand the need for this ministry. You should never hesitate to seek their prayers and ask for financial support. The church should be involved with the students whenever possible. It is important to challenge the church to work on becoming a place students will want to come and worship and bring their friends. Ask church leaders to read this Quick Start Guide, and then arrange a time for church leadership and several students to sit down, get acquainted and discuss the local church and its relationship to students and campus ministry.

Study the Campus

Before starting a campus ministry, it is important to learn as much as possible about the campus. You should become familiar with the buildings and the student hangouts on and off campus. Here is a list of what to look for in order to discover what the campus feels like to students.

- Examine the school's website carefully
 - What are this school's priorities?
 - Which departments are the strongest?
- Walk around or ask a student to take you around and tell you about their school
 - How is the campus laid out?
 - How old is the campus?
- Notice the location of the campus and its buildings
- Learn about the population
- Find out how the academic structure works
- Sense the mood of the campus
- Learn about the other ministries already at work

Meet with Administration

It is wise to arrange a meeting with the dean of students so they know who you are, who you represent and how you plan to interact with the campus and the students. If there are faculty who are Seventh-day Adventist, they should be invited to participate in the meeting.

- Ask for an appointment to become acquainted
- Provide him or her with an ACF brochure and information about the group
- Ask about his or her specific concerns for students
- Let him or her know you want to partner with them
- Ask about gatherings that bring student ministry groups together
- Find out what is required to establish an official religious club or organization

- Seek a list of service opportunities on campus
- Ask what campus needs the group can pray about

An Important Note for Programs in the United States: If there is a concern that ministry on a public campus violates the separation of church and state, remember that the religious portion of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution includes both an establishment clause and a free exercise clause. The Supreme Court interpreted the First Amendment as it relates to public institutions such as colleges and universities to allow for what they refer to as “Equal Access.” That means that any religious group may have access on campus to students who choose to associate with a particular group. It includes a student group’s ability to make use of classrooms or other facilities on campus and to promote their group on campus. However, the establishment clause of the First Amendment and very strict right to privacy laws usually make it difficult to obtain names and contact information for students even when they associate themselves with a particular religious organization. Nevertheless, some colleges and universities have found a way for religious groups to solicit that information. How your campus handles those issues should be identified early in the set-up process.

Locate and Connect with Students

Adventist groups will naturally want seek out the Adventist students first. If there are only one or two Adventist students, they can invite some friends, and then establish a club/group based on common interests. This ministry is about students, and ultimately the students need to be the leaders. It is often a student with a passion to reach the campus for Christ or who initiates the process of starting a ministry. Sometimes it is someone else with a burden for the spiritual well being of students. Whatever the particular situation, the following list should help get the process started in the quest to find students.

College/University Options for Locating Adventist Students

- The school’s religious preference list (if available).
- A similar list compiled by the religious organizations council.
- Join with other religious organizations as part of the university’s orientation process.
- If the campus has a list of religious campus organizations on the web or in a brochure, find out how your group can be included in the brochure after gaining student organization status.
- Advertise in campus newsletters and bulletin boards. The group may first need to be registered as an official group/club on campus.

The Local Church

- Always watch for students, and often their parents, the Sabbath or two just before classes begin.
- Expect calls from parents, grandparents or students.
- Many families will call the local church to help connect incoming students. Make certain the church office is prepared for these calls.
- Make sure people at your church know about the campus ministry program.
- Provide all members with the contact information of the leadership team.

Local Conference, Union and Other Adventist Institutional Organizations

- Obtain a list of contacts at all churches and academies. Call each of them personally and ask for names and contact information for all high school seniors who may be planning to attend a public college.
- The Adventist Youth Transition Network (www.aytn.org) has lesson plans and materials to use with high school seniors. Ask your local academy Bible teacher for permission to take a class period or two to cover the Spiritual LIFE for College and Beyond curriculum and find out who plans to attend a public college or university. For more information about the Spiritual LIFE curriculum, see Resources on page 22.
- Advertise in the union magazine and conference newsletter.
- Provide the conference administration and youth/young adult departments with information about your ministry.
- Ask someone in the conference to send a request to all pastors for names of students attending a particular campus.

Online Options

- Check with ACF/NAD for names acquired through its website. A simple survey on the website allows students to provide information about their college plans. Once the chapter is registered with ACF, that chapter will be notified of students who indicated they are planning to attend that school.
- Use social media websites to look for Adventist students to connect with. Set up a group for the local ACF chapter.
- Develop a ministry website and link to the university site and ACF/NAD. Update regularly to include all upcoming events.

Send a letter of congratulations to all students who you learn have been accepted to a local college or university, and send a letter to all students at the beginning of each year inviting them to join your campus group. Provide a list of activities

and services the group and the local church can provide for them. Often a student will decide to attend a particular university because they know they will have the spiritual support and social network of a local Adventist-based campus ministry.

Most ACF groups have discovered that there are students on campus from many different faith backgrounds who are seeking community and are excited to connect with any group willing to accept them. Most often these students come because they are roommates, classmates or friends of Adventist students. Some might see an advertisement for an activity that interests them on a bulletin board on campus. Others may stop by a booth or table run by your ACF group. You just need to be proactive and aware of all opportunities and design attractive activities.

Organize and Start Meeting

Below is a three-step relational approach to jumpstart your planning:

- **Play**—Begin with a game night, a party or a fun activity.
- **Pray**—Invite the core group to your house or the church, or meet on campus and do a prayer walk together.
- **Plan**—Often when a group has already had the opportunity to hang out and get acquainted, the planning process flows more smoothly and is quicker.

Getting started is at times the most difficult step. It may seem like there is so much to do. The best advice is, just do it. Do what it takes to get started and move ahead, constantly keeping hearts and minds open to the leading of the Spirit. Use as much of the advice in this Quick Start Guide as seems appropriate, but do not allow the volume of potential planning steps to keep you from moving forward. God did not give Abraham a to-do list before setting out on his journey. He just told him to gather his family and go. Paul notes that Abraham is considered our faith father because “he entered into what God was doing for him.” If God is calling you to lead a campus ministry, then do it. If you feel impressed to start an ACF chapter where nothing at all exists yet, just do it, and pray for God’s guidance and resources with each new step you take.

The school will require some of the items on the following list, and other items just make life easier. There are so many variables that it would be impossible to list them all. This list covers a few of the more important steps to follow in establishing a ministry on campus.

Discover the school’s policy regarding religious groups and clubs. The student affairs office is a good place to find that information.

Find a faculty advisor. This is usually required, but not always. At times this can be a local pastor or lay leader, and in some places it must be a school employee. Do not be afraid to ask someone of a different faith to be the advisor if there are no Adventists on the faculty. Many other groups have done that with great success.

Develop a mission statement. A mission statement is a brief statement describing the purpose of your group. Some examples of other campus group mission statements and a suggested process for developing a unique mission for your group are included in *The Word on Campus* and *The Word in Action: Launching Public College Ministry*. For more information, see Resources on page 22.

Create a student group constitution. This may or may not be required, but it will help with organization. This is something students should do together. An advisor can help, but this is a great learning experience for students. After all, part of the goal is to provide opportunities for leadership.

Complete a petition to form a student group, and submit it to the appropriate school office. Some schools may require a petition and some just a couple student signatures. Some require a monetary deposit, which will allow student leaders to have access to school resources, such as making copies, etc.

Designate campus leaders. It is important to be intentional about a leadership structure. Many students seek opportunities to serve because it looks good on their resume. The goal is to find students who are anxious to make a difference and who are willing to invest some of their time.

Charter with ACF/NAD. This puts local information on the ACF website for students looking for a chapter at their school. The local ACF program also becomes a resource and a part of the sisterhood of Adventist Christian Fellowship. Registering with ACF/NAD also provides legitimacy for the group, as the ACF chapter then becomes connected with the official Adventist Public Campus Ministry Association for the NAD.

Register as an official group/club with the college. Some church-based groups have successful programs without registering with the college, but there are often benefits to having official recognition from the school and/or religious organizations group. Most significant is the fact that the school will know where to direct students seeking a Seventh-day Adventist group. Another benefit is that it demonstrates credibility.

Set up a calendar of events. Students are busy and need to know when the big events are scheduled. There will be plenty of opportunity for spontaneity, but taking the time to plan what the group will do each month, quarter, semester or school year will enhance both the quality and quantity of programming.

Develop a budget. Begin this process by making a list of anything that might require money. Do not be afraid to dream. Then ask. Here is a list of possible sources for funding. (More budgeting and fundraising ideas are included in *The Word on Campus*. See Resources on page 22 for more information.)

- Campus allocations—Find out if the college provides funding for clubs. Many student services offices actually provide a small budget to help promote student organizations. However, this is normally limited to non-religious activities.
- Alumni contributions—This is one reason it is helpful to maintain contact with students who have graduated.
- Local church—Some churches will make campus ministry a part of their regular budget. Others will provide an opportunity to make special appeals for funds.
- Local conference—Approach conference administration. Some conferences are anxious to see this ministry thrive. A few have even made a separate department for public campus ministry. Approach the youth, education, evangelism and ethnic ministries departments.

Register your group
with Adventist
Christian Fellowship
www.acflink.org

Planning Activities and Programs

Time not spent developing one-on-one relationships will probably be spent in programming. Programs are often the most visible part of what a group will do. Sometimes activities will emerge randomly from group interaction. However, as valuable as those events are, they should not be counted on to replace intentional planning. Successful programming is a natural byproduct of healthy philosophy, so consider the ten essentials as activities are developed. Below are a few more items to consider.

Identify needs. This will likely come from interaction with students and observation of the campus. Spend time with students and ask questions.

Brainstorm. Sit down with your leaders and talk about needs and how they might be met. Remember, there's no such thing as a bad suggestion. The Holy Spirit is at work with any group of open minds and hearts. Use the play, pray, plan model noted earlier.

Create variety. Let the needs of your group and the campus provide direction. It is easy to grow comfortable with the familiar, and familiarity breeds mediocrity. Challenge your leadership team to think outside of the box. Invite guests to your planning meetings periodically to provide new ideas.

Evaluate existing programs regularly. You will want to give a program or activity time to succeed, but every semester—or at least every year—everything should be evaluated and improved, removed or replaced.

Plan ahead for big events. Determine at least six months ahead of all big events what you plan to accomplish. You may need to book guest speakers, find and prepare a venue, and advertise.

Weekly Programming

Regular weekly programming is important. The earliest believers in Christ devoted themselves to worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelism. When they did that, they grew. Each of these branches of the campus ministries community is important. Including them in weekly programming is vital to strength and will foster growth. The following list of typical weekly meetings and events is designed to generate discussion. The possibilities are unlimited, and creativity is encouraged.

Group Meetings

Friday fellowship: A Friday evening gathering is the most important aspect of weekly programming for most Adventist students. The 24-hour Sabbath experience is familiar and comforting for many. Providing an alternative to the Friday evening party scene is attractive to those who have grown up in homes where Friday night is special. Many Adventist campus ministry chapters use the Friday night meeting as the focal point of their week.

Remember to design your fellowship to also attract students who are not as connected to the nostalgic aspects of keeping Sabbath. This might be Adventist students who had a bad experience with Sabbath growing up, it could be other Christians who have a completely different understanding of Sabbath, or it could be those who do not believe in God at all. Avoid as much Adventist jargon as possible.

The default name for these meetings is usually “vespers.” Changing this name to something else such as Friday night fellowship, which is neutral and descriptive, is more relevant to those outside Adventist culture. You should also work hard to avoid using terms and concepts that cast anyone as an outsider. Focus the conversation on subjects such as following Jesus in a secular setting, or where is God in the midst of tragedy. Make use of the Sabbath gift to create an environment that helps participants experience its peace.

Another important aspect of Friday fellowship is food. If you provide it, students will come. If possible, invite church members to help with the preparation so food is home cooked. A member’s home is a great place to hold Friday night meetings, as well. Students love an opportunity to get away from the campus, especially if there will be food and friends.

Sabbath school: The Sabbath school time is another way to provide something for Adventist students seeking the feel of home. Most students find it very easy to use Saturday morning to catch up on sleep. Again, food helps, and the quality of the program makes a big difference. Some churches have started providing lunch for students, and then follow lunch with a meeting or activity.

Small groups: Any group of people that chooses to meet regularly with some specific intent can be considered a small group. Small groups are more flexible than Sabbath school or Friday night meetings, though these may be small groups themselves, in that they can adapt themselves to students’ busy schedules and are able to meet almost anywhere.

Many small groups are built around Bible study and prayer and are designed to strengthen and support the spiritual life of each member of the group. They can be used for leadership and discipleship training or to reach out in a totally non-threatening way to friends. A small group might meet at lunch on or close to the campus, in a dormitory, at a home or at the local church. It should be a place that is easily accessed by students and that provides a degree of privacy.

The subject matter of a small group is limited only by the interest and imagination of its participants. Often Bible study is the focus of these gatherings, which is then surrounded by prayer and a time for personal sharing and support. The inductive method that asks questions of the text designed to draw the group back into the passage for answers is best. The Bible can interpret itself if allowed.

Service projects: One of the greatest evidences of the image of God is our capacity to give. Most college students are interested in social issues and causes. Providing regular service opportunities as a group in the community is a vital aspect of spiritual development. Taking sandwiches to a park frequented by the homeless

or visiting residents in a nursing home on Sabbath afternoon, providing tutoring at a local school during the week or helping at a homeless shelter on a routine basis are all good examples of projects that can be done regularly without a large time commitment.

Social events: Perhaps the best way to establish new friendships and develop healthy relationships is with activities that have no other agenda than to have a good time together in a wholesome environment. Some of the common social functions are game nights, parties, outdoor recreation activities and competitive sports. These events are non-threatening and therefore attractive to people who are hesitant to attend a more religiously focused meeting. Many students are looking for enjoyable activities not built around drinking, drugs or sex. Most campus ministry chapters try to have a social event at least once a month.

Other Weekly Activities

Campus interest table: Many campuses have a strategic place for clubs to set up a table and promote themselves and their upcoming events. This provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people and to let the campus know you exist and what you are about. All you need is a card table, a poster or two, perhaps something to give away, a smile and an ear to listen. Put your group name, email address and program information on a small card you can hand out, make the arrangements on campus with the appropriate office, set up, and be ready to smile, listen and share.

One-on-one discipleship: Nothing is more important than spending one-on-one time with individual students. Good campus leaders know how to listen, share ideas and offer helpful feedback. Meeting students can take place in a coffee shop, over a sandwich at lunch, while involved in an outreach project, sitting in an office, walking around the campus or in any number of other strategic places. One-on-one time can establish the initial connection to help a student through a difficult time or to challenge them in their spiritual walk. It is important to meet with student leaders on a regular basis and encourage them to meet with others in the group. Jesus spent many hours with His small group of disciples. You will not go wrong to follow His example.

Annual and Biannual Programs

There are some events that will only be done once or twice each year. They will, however, require a good deal of planning and preparation. It is important to delegate as much responsibility for these events to your student leaders as possible. Following are a few ideas. Start here and create your own.

Retreats or seminars: It is always good to get away at the beginning of the year and spend some quality time with student leaders. It is not always necessary to bring in a guest speaker for this retreat, but it will always be important to spend some time in training and planning. Holding an all-student retreat away from campus is also important. It might be connected to a camping trip, or you might find an inexpensive place to stay at a state park, in the mountains or at a beach. This is a great opportunity to just hang out for a weekend.

Mission trips: Nearly anyone who has participated in a short-term mission trip will tell you that it was a life-changing experience. This experience sometimes leads to taking a year to serve somewhere in the world as a student missionary, but it will always lead to a greater appreciation for the broader mission of the church and the development of a life lived to bless others. Students who attend Adventist academies and colleges are given opportunities to participate in mission trips every year. These opportunities should also be available for those who attend public schools. This might mean taking spring break to help with a project in an inner city or a neighborhood that has met with tragedy, or it may mean a trip somewhere else in the world. If your group is small and your fundraising resources lean, you might consider joining forces with the conference youth department, college in your union or another Christian ministry on campus. There are often mission projects over Christmas or summer break that one or two students can participate in, as well. The idea is to make it a point to connect your students with mission opportunities.

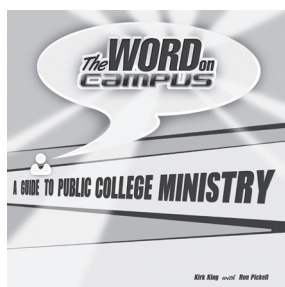
Evangelistic outreach projects: Evangelistic outreach often means a series of meetings designed to teach basic biblical truths and Adventism's distinctive doctrines. The goal is church growth and it is often measured in terms of baptisms. That form of evangelism will not likely be successful on most college campuses, but that does not mean that other projects designed to share Jesus with the campus cannot be valuable. Jesus gave away the kingdom first by meeting obvious needs. That usually attracted crowds and opened doors, ears and hearts to His message of love. Watch for opportunities to pass grace on to students and staff on campus. Pray about it, and the Spirit will place you in the pathway of needs you can meet.

Conclusion

Thank you for your commitment to reach college students for Christ. The most effective way to bring Jesus to campus is through the friendships of committed students. Help your students develop a relationship with their Savior that naturally overflows into their relationships on campus. Develop programs that are attractive to those who do not believe, and teach students who do believe to be prepared "to give an answer for their faith" when the door opens.

Resources

The following resources are available from AdventSource. For a complete list visit www.adventsource.org or call 800-328-0525.



The Word on Campus Book with DVD

By Kirk King with Ron Pickell

A comprehensive guide to Adventist ministry on non-Adventist college and university campuses in North America. Learn how to start and lead a campus ministry and how to work with students, the campus, and the local church and more.

Catalog #623956



The Word in Action Workbooks

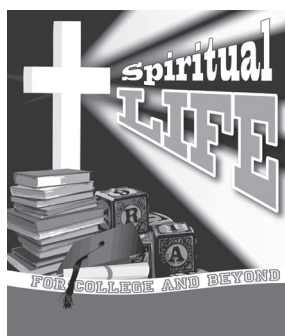
By Kirk King with Ron Pickell

A series of three workbooks designed to be used as guides for student groups and/or training events.

Launching Public College Ministry Catalog #623968

Sharing Your Faith on a Public Campus Catalog #623969

Growing Your Faith on a Public Campus Catalog #623970



Spiritual LIFE for College and Beyond

By Kirk King with Ron Pickell

A workbook designed for use as a guide to assist high school seniors and incoming freshmen in creating and maintaining a vibrant spiritual life in a secular environment.

Catalog #623971



Reach Your Campus, Reach Your World

Edited by Steve Case

This book includes 23 papers on the topic of Seventh-day Adventist campus ministry on public college and university campuses. The papers cover three major themes: campus ministry models, networking and resources.

Catalog #623945

Seventh-day Adventist Websites

Adventist Christian Fellowship www.acflink.org
Adventist Youth Transition Network www.aytn.org
Affiliated Resources for Campus Ministries www.ar4cministries.org
AMiCUS <http://education.gc.adventist.org/amicus.htm>
CAMPUS HOPE <http://campushope.com>
Center for Youth Evangelism www.adventistyouth.org
Involve Youth www.involveyouth.org
North American Division Youth and Young Adult Ministries
www.adventistyouthministries.org
Service Safari www.servicesafari.org

Resources from Other Christian Organizations

Campus Crusade For Christ www.ccci.org
Every Student www.everystudent.com
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship www.intervarsity.org
InterVarsity Press www.ivpress.com
Serendipity Student Bible www.lifeway.com
The Veritas Forum www.veritas.org