

## I. Introduction

- Matthew 9:35-38
  - A pastor's heart for college ministry
  
- Psalm 71:18
  - "I close with ... Psalm 71:18 – a passion to make the greatness of God known to the generations we are leaving behind...Oh, that God would give us a passion in our final years to spend ourselves to make him look as great as he really is – to get old to the glory of God." <sup>1</sup>

## II. Vision and Model

- Vision
  - The opportunity

“...(The) strategy for reaching college campuses in our time flows from...a firm commitment to the sufficiency and inerrancy of

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, Stand: A Call for the Endurance of the Saints (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 48

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Scripture. Many students are asking, 'How can I know God?' and 'How can I know myself?' The answers are found in Scripture...(The) gospel is one of the most exciting things to talk about on college campuses because it is so misunderstood..."<sup>2</sup>

"Young people will give their lives for an exclamation point, but they will not give their lives for a question mark, not for very long anyway. Once the protest runs out and the emerging church has its own blogdom, and conferences, and church networks, and book deals, there will be no exclamation point, and all that's left will be ethical intentions and passionate appeals for kingdom living. This will not sustain a movement – the protest will for a while, but once that's gone there will be no great vision of God, no urgent proclamation of salvation, no eternal judgment or reward at stake, just a call to live rightly and love one another. That message will sell on Oprah, Larry King, and at the Oscars, but it won't sustain and propel a gospel-driven church..."<sup>3</sup>

- A strategic ministry
  - Campus demographics
  - University: culturally upstream
  - Priority of reaching the next generation

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<sup>2</sup> Rod Mays, "The Soul of a University: Faithful Campus Ministry," *Modern Reformation*, July/August 2003, 35.

<sup>3</sup> Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck, Why We're Not Emergent (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008), 127.

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- Church-based college ministry

“... (The church) is increasingly eschewed by so many believers as either irrelevant or peripheral to their lives...Why? There are many reasons... (w)orst of all are those who have been taught by the poor example of a spiritual mentor...Christopher Adsit directs Campus Crusade’s Disciplemakers International ministry. ‘Many of you have a tendency,’ he wrote to fellow Christian workers in *Personal Disciplemaking*, ‘to plug your disciples into your ministry...and exclude the local church. ...But if you neglect to teach your disciples how they can be integrated effectively into a local church ministry, you’re making a big mistake.’ ...This mistake is like withholding food from a hungry man or woman...”<sup>4</sup>

“Many Christians become so frustrated with the church that they try to bring the gospel into the culture without it. This is commonly referred to as the parachurch, which includes evangelistic ministries such as Young Life and Campus Crusade for Christ. The success of these ministries is due in large part to their involvement in culture and in loving people, whereas the church often functions as an irrelevant subculture. But the failure of such ministries is that they are often disconnected from the local church, connecting unchurched people to Jesus without connecting them to the rest of Jesus’ people. This can lead to theological immaturity.”<sup>5</sup>

- Evangelistic mission: Witnesses on the campus, building friendships for the purpose of sharing the gospel with lost people.

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<sup>4</sup> Steven Grezlak, “Who Needs the Local Church?” *Worldwide Challenge*, September/October 2002, 22.

<sup>5</sup> Mark Driscoll, *The Radical Reformation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004), 20, 21.

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- Discipleship in the local church

“Campus ministry is most effective when it is driven by a sound doctrine of the church. We must ask: Where will students be in ten years, after they leave campus?”<sup>6</sup>

- Caregroups: Integrated ministry within the church

“Since parachurch ministries are often age-specific, they lack the benefits of a church culture in which all generations are integrated to help people navigate the transitions of life. This further separates families from each other if mom, dad, and kids are each involved in disconnected life-stage ministries outside of their church, rather than in integrated ministries within it.”<sup>7</sup>

- ◇ Babysitters

- ◇ Mentoring

- Model: Volunteers For Christ

- The Funnel

- Booths

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<sup>6</sup> Mays, 34.

<sup>7</sup> Driscoll, 21.

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- Contacts
- Parlor groups (bible studies)
- Thursday Night Meeting
- Special events
  - Pig Roast, game day football parties, cowboy olympics
  - Anthem
  - VisionQuest
- Church building location
  - VFC Room
  - VFC House
- Leadership
  - Senior Pastor involvement

- Pastor of Campus Ministry
- Campus internships
- Student Mission Team
- Student Leadership Team
  - ◇ Twice annual training
  - ◇ Monthly training
- Financing
  - Church budget
  - Intern support

### III. College Ministry: Reasons & Obstacles

- Compelling reasons to take the gospel to the campus

- Culturally strategic
- Age of opportunity for the gospel
- Impact on the local church
- Reaching the next generation
  - Campus Intern path to ministry
  - Future pastors and church planters
- Obstacles to college ministry
  - Finances
  - Are you cool enough?
    - ‘Why I don’t want a cool pastor’<sup>8</sup>
    - “...I take out my cell phone and call my wife, to tell her that I love her, and that I saw an old couple that reminds me of the kind of old couple I want to be in about fifty

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<sup>8</sup> DeYoung and Kluck, 225.

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years. And to tell her that I'm really glad that we have a pastor who, instead of being 'with it,' is committed to being with God."<sup>9</sup>

- Demands of college ministry
- Anti-Christian / Church bias on campuses
- Student transition limits church growth? 'You can't plant a church on a college campus'

#### IV. Conclusion

- Student transition means long-term commitment

"MEN WANTED FOR HAZARDOUS JOURNEY. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success." **Earnest Shackleton**

- Interview with John Piper (2/10/09):

**CJ:** What single bit of counsel has made the most significant difference in your effective use of time?

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<sup>9</sup> DeYoung and Kluck, 235.

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**John Piper:** A great tree will fall with many small chops. Pray for daily grace to keep chopping.

- Campus Initiative Conference, December 17-19, Cornerstone Church of Knoxville