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# A.C.T. In Action

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For all of your support this past year,  
we wanted to say thank you!

Have a Christ-filled Christmas,  
and we pray you will have a great New-year

*Your family at A.C.T.*

## What A Semester It Has Been...

It's difficult to know where to begin in writing this column. It has been an amazing year so far. God has really been working through A.C.T. in ways that have been very clear and noticeable. Actually, that's a good thing because with as tired as Dave, Jeff, Luke and the students are, we probably wouldn't have noticed if God had been very subtle. (Or maybe it's just that we're that dense?) Let us try to tell you what all God has been doing.

School started with a bang and not a whimper. Two days before school started, a group of 10 or 12 students gathered at the campus house and painted the interior from top to bottom. We cleaned up all of the corners that had gathered stuff for the past year, and sorted out all of the paper products that have been given to us from the paper showers by various churches. It really spruced up the place and things are really looking good.

Later that weekend, we had our first leadership meeting. A lot of things were talked about, a lot of ideas were generated and a lot of plans were laid for the semester. Then we spent a lot of time praying about the year and asking God to take the ministry the direction that He wanted it to go.

The Sunday night before classes started found us having our first food give-away for the year. Geared toward reaching the new students on campus, this one was a little different. It began at 6:30 and we were done by 9:00. We met several freshman that night who are now involved with the ministry in a variety of ways from packing the follow-up thank you gifts for the visitors to Campus Worship, to being a part of the worship team.

Then classes started. At U.T., we started up our Brown Bag Seminars once again. The Tuesday study is led by Luke Gilkerson, our intern for this school year. He leads a study geared for skeptics called "Crucify the Christian". It's a study where people can ask the tough questions that they have about Christianity and get honest answers. This study has also opened doors into other venues of ministry. But more about that later.

The Thursday study is covering the Spiritual Disciplines. They are looking at areas like Prayer, Worship, and Simplicity and discovering new ways to implement them into their lives. Both of the studies are reaching a segment of the student population of U.T. that no one else is reaching... commuters.

Things at B.G. have taken off as well. The Sunday night Praise, Prayer and Communion service has outgrown the campus house on several occasions this semester. It has also become one of the most anticipated times we spend together. Between 20 and 30 people usually gather in the evening to sing, pray, read scripture, share what God has been doing in their lives and fellowship around the communion table.

The Wednesday night Campus Worship time continues to grow and reach more and more of the campus. Each Wednesday night we gather in Prout Chapel on campus and spend time with God. This semester, we have been doing studies of Old Testament characters. We've talked about everyone from Aaron to Solomon to Daniel. And God has been doing some mighty work in people's lives that attend.

One recent Wednesday night, we studied Josiah and the revival that he brought to Israel. After the teaching, we turned the lights off and just prayed. You could hear weeping over personal sin, crying out for the lost and even laughter because of the joy that the Lord brought that night. But mostly you heard people crying out for revival. Our usual ending time is somewhere around 9:15 or so, but that night, we didn't finish until nearly 10:00.

And, speaking of prayer, Wednesday night isn't the only place or time that you will find A.C.T. praying. Besides the two regularly scheduled prayer meetings each week, we schedule special times of prayer as well. All night prayer meetings where we'll meet at 10:00 or 11:00 and pray until 5:00 or 6:00. It's during those times that we really discover how powerful God is in this ministry as we cry out for direction and guidance.

We also have a time of prayer before each of our food give-aways. We'll meet at 7:00 to pray for the people that will be passing the house that evening. We'll pray that God will open opportunities to talk about spiritual issues with them, and that He will direct our very words and actions during the give-away.

Then, at about 11:00, we'll start cooking and won't stop until almost 3:00. At our last food give-away this semester, We gave away over 700 bratwurst and 200 hotdogs.

God is doing some good things through this particular ministry. One young man stopped by who told us his goal for that night was get drunk, get high, and have sex. He ended up spending the evening with us at the Campus House. Needless to say, he did not accomplish his goals. The same night, a freshman young lady also spent much of the evening at the house. She had been able to say "no" to her non-Christian roommates requests to go to the bars for the entire semester until that night. She was so glad that she found us on the way and spent the evening with us. We hold our last food give-away of this semester on the Monday of Finals Week. We will offer a Christmas dinner and will probably serve 100 to 125 people.

Reaching into the population of the University is what Campus Ministry is all about. A.C.T. U.T. had a great opportunity to do that this past semester. We partnered with, of all groups, the philosophy club to sponsor a presentation and discussion about Evolution and Theology. It was a great afternoon. (from 2:00 - 4:00) We had a chance to talk to people that would never set foot in a church or even attend an on-campus meeting. And now, they know, that there is a Christian group on campus who is not afraid to discuss the difficult questions on their terms and not ours. They know that we are willing to meet them where they are, and that they don't have to come to us.

And, here we are at the semester break. We're sure that God has a lot more planned for this ministry this year, and we are anxiously waiting to see what He is going to do with A.C.T. Would you join us in praying for God to continue using A.C.T. to reach out to the campus? Will you pray also that God will continue to stretch A.C.T. into new ministries and a deeper commitment to His kingdom business on the campus?

## Two Major Developments

### Decision made to Remodel the B.G. Garage into Usable Space

Space...The unknown frontier. At least that's the way it feels around the B.G. Campus House these days. The ministry has grown beyond the size of the campus house. As a matter of fact, we've even gone so far as to convert the front porch to another room.

One of the local Subways® was remodeling and we were lucky enough to get 4 of their old booths. WE set them up on the front porch and rearranged a couple of couches that we had and ... presto... more space. Then we had a heat duct put in so we can even have heat out there when we want to. But that doesn't solve our problem for Bible studies and the like. When you try to cram 25—30 people in a living room for communion, it just gets a little too cozy.

So the decision was made to remodel the garage into yet another room that we can use. It will house a computer lab with 4 computers as well as provide a place for larger meetings and studies. The heating system (a wall mounted furnace) has already been installed and some of the electrical has been done. Hopefully, we'll be able to finish the rest of the work over Christmas break so the room will be useable when the students return for second semester.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be around \$6000. We have someone who has already donated the labor to do all of the electrical work and someone who has donated the flooring and labor to install it. Also, Boulevard Church of Christ in Toledo has taken on the framing of the garage as a project for their youth group.

Whether it's help with the finances, swinging a hammer or running a paint brush, we could use your help on this project. If you would be willing to help us with a financial gift to finish the job, just mark your check, "Garage Remodel" and we'll be sure to put it toward that project. If you're handy with a hammer or paint brush, let us know that you're willing to help. We're compiling a list of those willing to share in the labor with us, and we'll set up a time with you, when you could come and help us as we again expand the possibilities for ministry at A.C.T.

### A.C.T. To Call A Third Full-Time Staff Member

For a several years now, the ministry of A.C.T. has been growing to a point where the current staff could not add any new ministries or services without something that was currently happening suffering. And a ministry that just maintains is not what we were interested in anyway. But, even as it is, the hours that are required to maintain the ministry are becoming increasingly difficult to handle and the ministry was approaching the place where growth will be hampered by the lack of staff to train, administer and create student leaders for those new areas of ministry.

The situation was discussed at the last Board of Directors meeting, and the decision was made to pursue another full-time staff minister. Much discussion took place on the financial impact that the decision would have on the ministry, and many solutions were brought forward.

It was decided, in the end, that the best course of action would be to hire a new minister who's primary focus would be the U.T. campus. Although, there would continue to be the concept of team ministry that Dave and Jeff have used over the past several years, with the new staff person doing some things at B.G. and Dave and Jeff doing some things at U.T. as needed.

This would also allow the U.T. campus house to be deemed a "parsonage" and used as part of the salary package for the new staff member. That would not only lower the costs to the ministry, but also would provide an easy solution to the housing situation that usually faces a campus minister when they move to a new location. Even with the "parsonage" situation, we are still going to need in the neighborhood of \$1500 a month to cover the rest of the salary and insurance for the staff member.

Would you prayerfully join us as we begin the search for the person that God wants to be a part of this ministry? And would you also join us in praying that God will supply the financial needs that this new position brings with it?

### Looking for a Good Seminar?

Listed here are several of the seminars that we have prepared. Because of the nature of these topics, each of them would take between 4 & 6 hours to cover properly. They are a great idea for an all-day Saturday program or even a Friday Night / Saturday meeting. Our schedules have a few dates available, and we are beginning to book for the summer months.

Topics Include:

Developing a Christian World View

Is The Bible Really God's Word?

Is Jesus Who He Claimed to Be?

Lostology...Understanding The Pre-Christian Mind.

How Jesus Taught...A course in Biblical teaching methods

Toward A Biblical Perspective: Homosexuality, Abortion, Suicide, Euthanasia

Biblical Interpretation

Science & The Bible

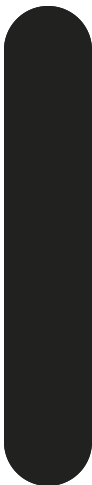
The Second Coming

What Is Worship?

# Active Christians Today

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## **Help out A.C.T. When You Buy Groceries**

We have a great way for you to support A.C.T. without costing you a thing.

The Spartan chain of stores has begun a program called "Serving You More". They are donating up to 2% of the total amount of groceries purchased each month to non-profit organizations. All you need to do is go to the service desk and sign up. Then, each time you swipe your card, a donation will be made to A.C.T. ACT's ID Number is 30088.

Spartan Stores include Ashcraft's, Family Fare, Food Town, Forest Hills, Glen's, Great Day, and Prevo's. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up and keep swipin' those cards...

## *What Can You Do?*

- Pray for us!!!
- Send us names and addresses of students.
- Partner with us for an outreach event such as the food give-aways or tailgate parties.
- Invite us to your church to share A.C.T.'s ministry.
- Have an A.C.T. day at your church.
- Use A.C.T.'s worship band for a special event.

## **Prayer Warriors Wanted!**

Interested in praying for A.C.T. Daily. Join our Prayer Warrior team. Each month you'll receive a list of daily requests and a short update on the ministry. You can receive the list in two ways:

1. Through the regular mail
2. Over E-Mail

If you're interested in joining, send us your name, address, phone number and E-Mail address by whichever method you prefer to receive the list. We'll get you on the list in time for the next month's mailing.