

Taking Action

Active Christians Today

On the campuses of:
B.G.S.U. & U.T.

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What Difference Does A.C.T. Make?

We asked a couple of A.C.T. Alum to reminisce about their time in A.C.T. and what impact it had on their lives.

When I think back about my time in ACT at BG I always have to smile. I have to smile because God knew exactly where I was on my journey and whom I needed to come in contact with that would help me find the path God had for my life. As a college freshman I was filled with dreams of being a successful physical therapist that would ultimately make lots of money, own a large home, and travel the world. As a college senior I was sold out to the cause of Jesus Christ, fully committed to

I first got involved in Active Christians Today at Bowling Green my junior year. I had come to college with big dreams for my future. My career aspiration was to be a reporter for ESPN. Though I had grown up in church, God had fallen away in importance and I was on the verge of drifting away from Him even more. But when I became a part of Active Christians Today, I found a family in Jesus. Fellow brothers and sisters that reminded me I was not alone and this world was not my home. Together we tackled the tough faith issues and through late night conversations, prayers, retreats and conversations, we found answers. My eyes began to focus on Jesus again. In campus ministry, I was also given the opportunity to go on mission. I traveled to Haiti on a short-term mission trip over

being a missionary wherever and however God would see fit. My time in ACT was a time of growth. There I was challenged in every area to be who God had called me to be. Through the Bible studies, drama and music teams, prayer nights, praise and worship, retreats, mission trips, and outreaches, I found what I had been searching for- a deeper relationship with God that was being demonstrated in authentic community. Since then God has taken me to several countries including

Christmas break of my senior year. That trip was the toughest of my life, as I saw a glimpse of the prideful girl I had become. Little did I know that God would call me back to this little Caribbean town for fourteen months, to break my pride and show me His presence and His plan for my life. He had much more in mind for me.

I am now twenty-nine years old and seven years have past since I graduated from BGSU. But I remember my time there often and the importance of campus ministry. I am currently the Senior High Youth Pastor at Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio. It's a church where hundreds of students attend and my role is to connect these students to Jesus Christ. What an honor! After college, God took me many places; ... to

spending a summer in Kenya with Christian Missionary Fellowship, a year in Bulgaria with Campus Crusade for Christ, and year in Haiti with the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission. I am now a Children's Ministry Coordinator at a large church. The passion that was lit during my years at BG continues to grow brighter each day.

Noel Garrett

Ecuador, London, Albania, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, and of course back to Haiti several times leading mission teams. I also went to back to school and got a Master's in Ministry Degree from Cincinnati Bible Seminary. God continues to amaze me at how He will use His children who give Him their all.

God wants to use each of us personally in His mission. Active Christians Today played a vital role in my life. It stood in the gap and helped bridge my faith to my purpose on planet earth and surrounded me with godly friends and mentors to learn from and lean on. I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

Holly Garrett

Holly and Noel, while they were students at B.G.S.U., played an important role in the ministry. As you can see, they are still impacting the Kingdom of God. A.C.T. is proud of what God has accomplished through all of its alumni around the world. This small piece of God's kingdom in Northwest Ohio has, through Holly, Noel, and the hundreds of alumni like them, had the opportunity to change the lives of perhaps thousands of people around the world. We want to say thank you to all the alumni who are faithfully serving God. And thanks to God for allowing this ministry to be used in ways beyond what we could ever imagine.

From The Students

Most people discover who they really are after going to college. While in school, they mature and learn numerous things about life as well as themselves personally. Active Christians Today has been my reason for personal growth and development. Not only has ACT brought me from youth group to the next level of discipleship, but it has also created a leader out of me. Through the teachings and personal time with the campus minister, Luke Gilkerson, I was able to discover my strengths within the ministry. The opportunity to then use these strengths were implemented in service. Last

year I helped lead the women's ministry and this year I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead the prayer ministry. I have learned so much about myself and who I am in Christ. Besides my spiritual growth, I have gained another family. We have come together to support, guide, have fun, and be accountable to one another. As a result, we are very close-knit group. For once in my life, I feel like I have a purpose and I am excited everyday to see what God has in store for me, especially in ACT. The first thing that appealed to me about ACT was that I could see the great example of Christ's

love pouring out from the members. I'm glad to say that it has only become stronger. ACT has been one of the biggest blessings in my life and without it, I would not be the same person I am today. God has created ACT for a great purpose and I am very proud that I can be a part of this life-changing organization.

Kelli Reichstadt is a student at the University of Toledo and has been involved with A.C.T. for the past two years.

U. T. Update

Answered prayers! U.T.'s fall semester was a busy one, and it was so busy because we asked God for His kingdom work and it was given.

At the beginning of the fall semester, we saw our largest initial growth of the fellowship. Interested freshmen came every week as they shopped around for churches and ministries to be a part of. Our initial outreach to them consisted of going to every interested new student, in every dorm on campus, and hand-delivering welcome packages to them. It was an exciting time to meet and speak with them.

The ministry really took shape, thanks to our campus house. Our house has again become a center of community and gathering. New students, hungry for a place to belong, are starting to come around the house at odd hours just to see who was there.

In addition, our newest fellowship program, "Sacred Grounds," really took off. Students brought their friends over to the house for a night of coffee and games, and we got a great chance to meet some new people and to incorporate more of them into the little friendship circles of the ministry.

Both the Ladies' and Men's' groups started up this semester. While the Men's group started just before the semester's end, the Ladies group has grown and grown throughout the semester. In addition to leading their own retreat and fellowship activities, the ACT ladies have practically spawned their own ministry to campus, and women who do not ordinarily come to our regular meetings are coming to the Ladies' Bible study for fellowship and rich discipleship.

The Prayer Ministry really took shape for the first time this semester. Every week, we see dozens of prayer requests typed, printed, and sent to members of ACT, informing us of all that we can be praying for in one another's' lives. Next semester, look forward to seeing more updates as our intercessory team is built.

I was so proud of the students at the end of the semester. Whereas most students are looking to concentrate on all the schoolwork they've neglected, several of our team leaders really wanted to reach out to their fellow students on the campus. Independently, the leaders of our

Outreach Team, Prayer Team, and Encouragement Team approached me about doing something come the end of the semester.

2 dorms, 2 hours a night, 5 nights, giving out 100s of doughnuts and cups of coffee to 100s of students. That's pretty much what we did. From 10pm to midnight, every night UT students had an exam, we sat in the front lobby of two dorms and passed out sugar and caffeine to students up late studying (or procrastinating). It was a great chance to meet new faces, pray for people, and get our name out there. Not that we pushed the ACT name or anything. In the spirit of the "no strings attached" generosity of the B.G. food give-aways, we simply wanted students at UT to know that we are there for them, that God loves them, and that God's love can be shown in practical ways.

I am looking forward to what the spring semester has in store for us and what God has in store for His kingdom. Pray for the continued influence of ACT on UT's campus, for the leaders of that influence, and for our continued growth in the Lord as we pursue Him above all else.

Let Your Congregation Know What We're Up To...

We're currently working on booking some church visits for this semester and into the fall of 2004. If you would be interested in having A.C.T. come and not only present the work that God is doing on campus, but challenge your congregation to become more involved with missions and the mission of your church, contact us soon.

We are also available to help with youth rallies, overnights, and retreats that you may be planning. Maybe you have a special program scheduled and need a speaker. Or maybe you would like to schedule a Saturday seminar on a special topic.

We are available to assist you. If what you have in mind is not listed here, please give us a call and tell us what type of event you're thinking about and we'll work with you to plan the event so that it meets the needs of your congregation. Whatever your ideas and needs, we want to be a resource for you, to help you in your work for God's kingdom here on earth.

B.G.S.U. Update

January finds us with the conclusion of the Christmas Break and beginning the Spring Semester for ACT@BGSU. There were two highlights that really stand out from the past semester – the Men’s Group and the Ladies’ Group. The Men’s Group under the leadership of Craig Gunnett and Shannon Collins has been going great. Craig has been around ACT since the 80’s when he came to BGSU to receive his Masters Degree. He now teaches at the University of Findlay, but his heart has always been with the ministry of ACT. Shannon is one of our senior leaders.

Last year, Craig helped get the men’s group up and going. This ministry captured the heart of Craig while Craig captured the hearts of the men with his humbleness, servant’s heart, and compassion. Craig continued the ministry throughout the summer as he met with several of the guys who remained in Bowling Green. He started a “laundry ministry” where he invites the guys over to do their laundry at his house and also invites them to join him for a meal. (He says he has a captured audience for a couple of hours.) This year, Craig volunteered to lead the group since we did not have an intern. At this time, most of his ministry with the guys takes place outside of the weekly meeting at the campus house as he has made his home and life available to the guys in whatever ways are needed. We are always on the look-out for more “Craig Gunnetts”. While they may not be in the geographical location to help like Craig, we are hunting for those who share his passion for students on the campuses of BGSU and UT and are willing to sacrifice in order to see that passion come to fruition.

The Women’s group also took off this year under the leadership of Kelly Wilkinson, a nursing student at BG. Kelly led the group last year as they went through the video series “The Song of

Solomon”. What an impact it had on so many lives. She returned this year and led a study during the first semester on the book “What Happens When Women Pray.” They did things as a group throughout the semester, including a women’s retreat in Michigan at the home of one of the students of ACT. The retreat included volunteering at a homeless shelter in Detroit. Sorry to say, Kelly will not be back this semester, but has turned the responsibility over to a senior in Education by the name of Amanda Helppie. Pray for Amanda as she continues on with the good work that Kelly started.

Due to the fact that we had a large number of our student leaders graduate last year, the developing of leadership has been a major focus throughout the year. One of the issues that is a major part of ministering in a campus ministry is the great turn-over of leadership. At best, you have them for four years. Most of the time it is less. You can either allow that to become a major source of frustration and disappointment, or you can understand that developing future leadership is an exciting challenge. We have come to understand that in the area of leadership campus ministry is a “farm club system” for the Kingdom of God. We have the joy and challenge of developing leaders who will leave ACT and make an impact within the Kingdom throughout the world for years to come (see article by Holly and Noel Garrett).

The “farm club system” is a concept that is an important part of the ministry of ACT. Through our outreach programs, mission programs, Bible studies, and discipling programs, we are preparing leaders for the church. We have focused our retreats, as well as themes of Campus Worship on being a committed, follower of Jesus. Last semester, our theme was “God Hunts in Scripture”. This semester will be the same emphasis, as we will be spending our time

together with the theme, “Developing a Christian World View”. Dave has always spent a lot of time in one-on-one discipleship with students. This year he has been studying Ephesians with various students. This will continue to be a major emphasis throughout this semester.

We did have four food give-a-ways this past semester. We had one the first weekend of school to make ourselves known to the incoming freshmen class. We had two more cookouts before it got cold. These provide us with the opportunity to meet several hundred students. We also had a Christmas dinner on the Monday of Final’s Week where dozens of students came to the campus house for a big Christmas dinner with all of the fixings. We had more visitors than we have ever had before, due to students inviting many of their friends, roommates, and classmates. We had more in-depth, lengthy conversations with more students than ever before during this first semester. There is a real spiritual thirst within this generation. We need to quench that thirst with the Living Water. We plan on two more food give-a-ways this Spring if the necessary funds are available. It costs around \$400 to \$450 for each give-a-way.

Plans are for there to be only two mission trips instead of the three we usually take. We are probably not going on a Spring Break trip this year, but will take the two trips to Haiti during the summer. These trips are a major opportunity for students to understand the level of commitment it takes to be “real” Kingdom people and to help them to see that we are a part of a “world-wide” movement called the Church.

Please pray for ACT@BGSU as we continue to bring students to Christ, help them to develop into productive disciples, and prepare them for leadership in the years to come.

Can you help?

This spring retreat promises to be a huge benefit to the students of not only A.C.T. but to the other campus groups that attend this retreat with us. But we need your help.

In order to keep the cost of the retreat in line with what a college student can afford, we are trying to underwrite the speaker. The four other campuses involved with us are doing the same. Would you be willing to help in those efforts?

Could you send a one-time gift to help underwrite the cost of bringing the seminar to our students? The usual fee for this seminar would have been around \$2500.00. The group

has dropped their costs to \$1100.00, which is a huge help, but we are still looking at an extra \$10.00 a student if we add the seminar costs onto the cost of the retreat.

Can you help us with an “above and beyond” gift? If, in the memo line of your check you would just write “Retreat”, we will know that the gift should go to this fund. Thanks for your support and please pray with us that this retreat will have an eternal impact the student’s lives.



Cat And Dog Theology?



An Open Letter To The Church

Where your student spends the years of his or her college career can make or break their relationship with Jesus Christ. Yes, we really do think it is that serious. With whom they hang out with, the places they go, the habits they develop, the interests that they gain during those four years will be, at best, a part of the rest of their lives and, in many cases, an extremely large part.

Countless students lose their faith in Christ, because their roommate or classmate invited them to go out one night. We have heard stories of students who were leaders in their youth groups leaving any commitment to Christ that they had at the door of the dorm when they arrived at school. We see thousands and thousands of students who either have no idea that they are lost and going to hell, or don't care.

That's why Campus Ministry exists. That's why we spend hours upon hours trying to discover new ways to reach the university student. That's why we have dedicated ourselves to ministering on the college campus. You see, in spite of the churches desire, most students are not going to Bible College. The vast majority of students will find themselves on the campus of a secular

university. And believe us when we tell you: that campus is no place to go through it alone.

A.C.T. is only a part of a network that is available to you for your students. There is a nationwide group of Campus Ministries that would love to help you disciple the students that you have in college. And make no mistake about it; they are still your responsibility. Just as a parent is never done raising their child, a churches job does not end when they leave your town for the university. Just as the role of a parent changes, so does the church's role change.

The campus ministries are here to help you with that changing role. We can provide not only a safe and loving community where your students can grow in their relationship with Christ, but a place where they can be trained for further service in the kingdom as well. Some of the best ministers that are out there started in the ministry because they got involved in a campus ministry at college. Many of the missionaries around the world are there because of a short-term mission trip that they took as part of their local campus ministry. Thousands of youth sponsors, Sunday school teachers, Elders,

Deacons, and many other vital members of the church body all have had their training thanks to Campus ministry.

If there is anything that we can do to help you with your ministry, please let us know. There are lots of ways that we can be of assistance: We can provide staffing for lock-ins, we can lead worship for youth rallies, we can plan VBS programs, we can teach Sunday school classes, and we can even supply material to other Youth Ministers for them to use with their youth group. If you have any other ideas, let us know.

Finally we want to thank you for the ministry you are doing in Christ's Church. We know that there are a lot of things that distract Jesus' disciples from commitment and holy living. We know that you are seeking to build disciples who walk faithfully after the Master Teacher. We are grateful for the students you have equipped and sent out as missionaries to our campuses and who lead in our ministries. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of our Lord. As the body works together under it's Head, may the Lord be lifted up so that He might draw all people to Himself.

Taking Action, January, 2004