

The Campus as a Mission Field



The campus is a mission – possibly the American Church's most strategic mission field! Why must the Church embrace the campus? What is the potential local, national and global impact of doing so? Consider the following reasons.

An Unreached People Group: America is one of the largest unreached groups of people in the world. A nation known for its efforts to share the Gospel with the lost people of the world has become a mission field itself. The North American Mission Board states that the Gen X and the Net Gen generations constitute the most unchurched and unreached people in North America.

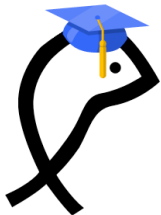
A Mission Field: Because of attendance guidelines in America, elementary and secondary schools are the one portal through which virtually all members of our society pass. Like sand that passes through an hourglass, God is funneling His field of harvest through these schools, providing a rich mission field just outside the front door of churches in every community.



As a result, “harvesting” in this secondary “field” builds the Kingdom of God, and local congregations, by building redemptive relationships with students and adults. Here’s how:

- Students pay attention to the love demonstrated when youth workers, parents, educators, coaches and mentors, care for them and their campus.
- The Church is called to “go” to the need, not wait for it to come to us. By going to the local school, the need is **encountered**, not merely **acknowledged**.
- By embracing the campus, church leaders model for **their youth and adults** the practical lifestyle of “salt and light” outreach demonstrated by Jesus and taught in Scripture.

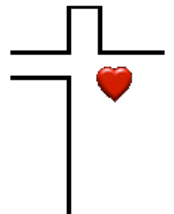
God In Schools?! YES!: The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of free speech to student citizens. The “Equal Access Act” (signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1984) guarantees that Christian students have the same access and privileges as every student on their campus.



In the providence of God, the campus community has opened the door for Christian students and the Church to be an active part of impacting students’ lives on campus. Even the U.S. Department of Education has publicly clarified and affirmed the vital role that “faith-based” organizations play in meeting the needs of today's students. The Church has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to call and equip its teenagers and adults as missionaries to one of the most needy and reachable mission fields in the world today.

The Church must present the relevant hope of Jesus Christ to the campus community. Why? Because Jesus said, "Go."

Engaging the Mission Field: Most Christians made their initial faith commitment to Jesus Christ before high school graduation, through the influence of a friend or relative (The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association states that 85% of everyone who accepts Christ as their Savior does so before the age of 18). When the Church engages this mission field, real **needs** are met, **relationships** grow, **souls** embrace Christ and **God** is glorified. This is the purpose of the Church and the hope for millions of America’s youth.



The Mission: The campus represents a vast, responsive mission field in our nation today! Let the Church realize the need, opportunity and responsibility to deliver hope to teenagers in our communities. Why? Because God expects His Church to fulfill His mission – and has opened doors to reach the campus community!

For more information on campus ministry go to: www.get-connected.org.

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