

FRONTLINES

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A WINDOW INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES

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FACULTY COMMONS-CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

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Who Cares?

Rick Hove, Faculty Commons Executive Director

Did you know that robots—through discerning various speech and sound patterns—can now accurately assess and respond to human emotions like anger?



Experts claim that robots can now be more empathetic than humans. One day soon, you may call customer service and discover that a robot fields your call! The robot will analyze your voice patterns and let the company representative know if you are angry or happy.

These companies can spare their money and time; after I am forced to choose between countless irrelevant options, I am already agitated. Trust me: if I find out that a robot is on the other end of the phone I will become MORE perturbed. I don't want them to know that I am upset. I want them to care.

To care is to be human at a completely different level than to merely recognize emotion.

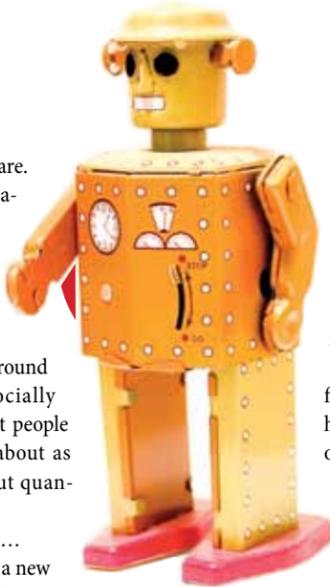
We at Faculty Commons devote our lives to bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to university professors. It is one thing to recognize this specific audience as an important mission priority.

It is another thing to care.

Professors, for some reason, do not elicit warm, caring feelings from most of us. Some of us view them as distant and condescending. Others feel stupid around them, or find them socially awkward. Typically most people care about professors about as much as they care about quantum physics.

But if you want to care...

- Step into the office of a new professor who is a Christ-follower, close the door behind you, and listen to the fear and confusion in his or her voice. It is a terrifying journey to figure out how to be a Christ-follower in elite U.S. universities. Many never make it.
- Sit in a dorm room and listen to the spiritual journeys of students who came to school professing faith, but who have now lost all hope because they've been taught by their professors that God is irrelevant.
- Slow down enough to recognize the not-so-subtle messages (like "sexual experimentation of all kinds is healthy and natural") that percolate through our entertainment, music, and TV shows. These destructive messages origi-



nate in the ivory towers of academia. Every day our kids and grandkids absorb these messages, unaware of the consequences for their own lives and futures.

If you're close enough to the carnage, it is easy to care.

The Apostle Luke tells us of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem: "And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it" (Luke 19:41). Jesus didn't simply pronounce that the city was a "wreck." He walked through it, saw it for what it was, and cared.

So who cares about the broken professors of the world? We do.

We pray that God will give us eyes to see their brokenness and pain—but also hearts that care enough about their tragic condition to bring the hope of Jesus to them.

Something is wrong if we are content only to recognize that much is broken.

No. God has made us to be people who care. †

Executive Director of Faculty Commons since 2005, Rick Hove has also directed the student ministries of Campus Crusade at Rice University and Duke University. He is a summa cum laude graduate from both Georgia Tech and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Rick, his wife Sonya, and their three children live in Durham, NC.



Campus Crusade for Christ student, Ty Carver, senior at Morehead State University has a vision for professors.

Faculty Appreciation

Ty Carver appreciates his professors and understands the strategic influence of their position. "Professors will have contact with hundreds more students than I will during my four years on campus. Christian professors encourage us as students, serve as mentors we can confide in, and show us how to carry the gospel from our college lives into our careers after we graduate."

So Ty wants to organize a Faculty Appreciation Dinner on his campus. "What better place to express appreciation for my profs—where I can thank them for caring for me?"

Faculty Commons has several Faculty Appreciation Dinners planned this year. They allow students to invite their favorite professor to be their guest at dinner and provide a way for students to have more personal conversations with their professors, including the possibility of talking about Christ.

As Ty says, "Students loving on faculty—showing them appreciation—is a no brainer!" †

§2

Princeton's Resurgence

Ministry Profile: Scott and Jan Luley, Princeton University



Princeton University educates some of the world's most influential leaders. Its alumni lead governments and cultural institutions around the world. Founded

as a Christian college in 1746, Princeton has since grown from its religious roots to become one of the world's elite secular universities.

But in the last 20 years, Christianity has experienced a resurgence on the Princeton campus. When Scott and Jan Luley launched the Faculty Commons ministry at Princeton in 1991, they knew only four Christian professors there.

Now they minister to a network of more than 100 Christian faculty and staff. "Every week," Scott says, "small groups of faculty and future faculty—graduate students—meet for prayer, Bible study, and outreach."

Last year, one future professor from China became a Christian after meeting weekly with Scott for several months. He then joined a local church,

finished his Ph.D., and is now a post-doc at Harvard University. Another Chinese grad student was disciplined by Jan, received her Ph.D. from Princeton, and is a post-doc at Harvard as well. The Luleys are confident these two "will do something significant to change the world for Christ—either here in America or when they return to China."

At Princeton, the Luleys often partner with other Christian groups to co-sponsor strategic campus-wide outreaches such as:

- The Veritas Forum, a national program the Luleys brought to Princeton 15 years ago.
- Engineering professor Dr. Walter Bradley speaking to an overflow crowd in one of the largest auditoriums on campus on "Scientific Evidence for the Existence of God."
- Dr. Robert George and Dr. Cornel West, two of the most popular professors on campus, speaking at another well-attended event on "What It Means to be a Christian."

These outreach events serve to make Jesus and the gospel an issue on campus; they present Christian faith and a relationship with God as

Influencing Princeton for Christ



Scott and Jan (front row, right) frequently entertain faculty and graduate students in their home, a welcome retreat from the rigorous demands of life in the academy. Scott sums up their mission, "At Princeton University, we are reaching leaders for Jesus Christ who will influence every aspect of our society and world in the next generation."

credible and worthy of further investigation.

Dr. Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Professor of Politics, explains that "the Christian perspective is sometimes not regarded as valuable or legitimate on campus. The Luleys encourage and challenge those of us on the faculty to stand for Christ all week long." †

Dr. Scott Luley co-founded Faculty Commons in 1980. For the last 20 years, he and Jan have served as Faculty Commons field representatives at Princeton. The Luleys and other Faculty Commons staff serve on the "frontlines" at universities across America, taking the hope of Jesus Christ to professors and the world.



Princeton University

Established in 1746, Princeton ranks number two among all national universities, according to U.S. News and World Report's 2011 rankings.

- 2009-10 Enrollment: 5,044 undergraduate, 2,450 graduate
- Motto: Dei Sub Numine Viget translates as "Under the Protection of God She Flourishes"
- Founded by Presbyterians to train ministers, Princeton was the fourth college in America. Jonathan Edwards and John Witherspoon were early presidents.
- Nine Princeton graduates attended the Constitutional Convention in 1787, more than from any other American or British institution.
- Outstanding students attend from more than 98 countries. China is the most represented after the U.S.
- Consistently rated number one or two in America, along with Harvard University.
- Several large, vibrant Evangelical Christian student groups are active on campus, as well as several smaller undergraduate/graduate student discipleship ministries.
- Notable alumni include Presidents Woodrow Wilson and James Madison, First Lady Michelle Obama, three current U.S. Supreme Court Justices, hundreds of U.S. congresspersons, governors, and state legislators; leaders such as George Gallup and General David Petraeus; the founders of eBay (Meg Whitman), Amazon (Jeff Bezos), and Teach for America (Wendy Kopp); and over 30 Nobel Prize winners.

Professor with a Sure Foundation

Faculty Profile: Buff Furman, *San Jose State University*

When Dr. Burford “Buff” Furman entered the University of California at Davis as a freshman in 1976, he was (in his words) “a straight-A student, an athlete, and by all external measures, a good kid.” He thought that was enough to get him to heaven after he died.

He discovered that he was wrong about that.

In his online “faculty office” at FacultyLinc.com, Buff relates his conversation with a college ministry leader at a local church. They discussed Jesus’ talk with Nicodemus in John 3. “It began to dawn on me that what I thought it meant to be a Christian and how one went to heaven was different than what the Bible says,” Buff recalls.

He gave his life to Christ, and tells today’s students, “Being a Christian has given me a sure

foundation, for life now, and for life after death.”

More than 30 years later, Buff is a professor of mechanical engineering at San Jose State University, where he leads the local faculty/staff Christian fellowship. “Buff has been the glue that holds the Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship together,” one of his colleagues reports.

“He has a strong testimony for our Lord’s love and grace to all those around him,” says *Faculty Commons* staff John Walkup. His leadership skills and his desire to impact the faculty, staff and students at San Jose State for Christ have led him to organize a number of different outreaches to his campus over the years.

Buff begins class each semester by telling his students that he is a follower of Jesus. He posted

the details of that story at FacultyLinc, where all of his students can see it. Buff’s faith shines like a beacon at SJSU.

For all this and more, Dr. Buff Furman received

the *Faculty Commons Erick Nilson Award and Grant*, given annually to recognize outstanding Christian leadership, service and ministry by a university professor or administrator. †



Erick Nilson Award

Dr. Erick Nilson and his wife Fern ministered to countless students, professors and staff during his 24-year tenure as a professor of agronomy at Kansas State University. Following his death in 1990, Dr. Nilson’s family endowed a fund so *Faculty Commons* could recognize “the men and women of God that He is raising up to forward His cause at the university.” The annual award and grant recognizes outstanding Christian professors or administrators. Past recipients are listed at FacultyLinc.com under Faculty Offices.

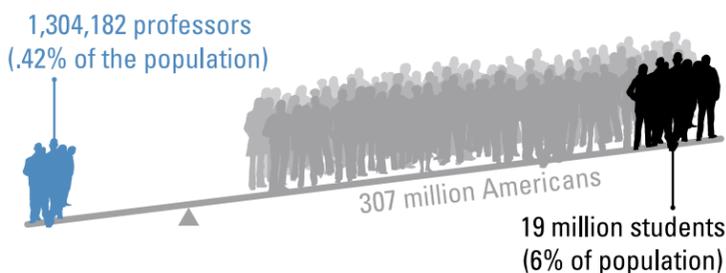


Dr. Buff Furman, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, San Jose State University (photo above). Dr. John Walkup, Texas Tech Emeritus Professor and now *Faculty Commons* staff, presents the Nilson Award to Dr. Furman.

Join with us in Prayer

As you consider the potential influence of professors (diagram below) please pray that God would...

1. Do a new and mighty work in the lives of Christian professors across the country, renewing their affections for Him and sending them out with the hope of Jesus Christ to their campuses and the world.
2. Raise up key Christian professors on campuses where there are no Christian faculty groups; men and women who are willing to launch and lead new faculty groups.
3. Provide additional veteran campus ministry staff to work with professors. The fields are ripe for harvest and we need more staff to help build professor movements.



Investing in the Mission

Your financial investment will enable us to build movements of professors and students to take the hope of Jesus Christ to the world. Will you prayerfully consider partnering with us to help us in this great endeavor? All contributions to *Faculty Commons* are income tax deductible.

Cash donations

Please make your check payable to *Campus Crusade for Christ* and mail to our office:
Faculty Commons; 2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 2700; Plano, Texas 75075
You may give via check or credit card online at: give.ccci.org/give/View/2271527

Maximize your giving to help reach the world for Christ

Securities held for at least a year, which have increased in value since the time purchased, will receive extra tax savings when used as a donation. Please see: give.ccci.org/pages/Stock_NonCash_Gifts.html

Gift and Estate Planning

Professionals at the *Great Commission Foundation* are available at no charge to you: www.gcfccc.org

To assist you in any of these ways, please contact our Director of Fund Development, Rich McGee at 972-516-0516 ext. 125.



The Jesus Storybook Bible

Review by Rick Hove, *Seeing the real hero in every Bible story*

For many years I’ve helped teach a required graduate course on Biblical Interpretation and Communication for *Campus Crusade* staff. Over a thousand staff have taken this course.

Most purchase textbooks ahead of time to start on their reading assignments, so inevitably we receive emails prior to the course, “This book listing in the syllabus is a misprint. *Amazon* lists this book as a children’s book.”

It is no misprint. We require all of our staff to read Sally Lloyd-Jones’ illustrated children’s book, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.

It might even surprise you that we are reviewing this children’s book in this issue of *Frontlines*, since our focus is university professors.

But this book is too good to not commend. We think you personally will enjoy it, and we highly recommend it to professors, to you, your kids, your grandkids, and all of your friend’s kids and grandkids.

What sets Lloyd-Jones’ book apart from other Christian children’s books?

This book is so valuable because of what it isn’t. It isn’t your usual run-of-the-mill moralistic look at Bible stories. Virtually all Christian children’s books present Bible stories as moralistic lessons, such as: “Don’t be like Samson, who lost his temper” and “Be a good friend like Jonathan.”

What is so “wrong” with this approach? Though there are “morals to the stories” and God wants us to learn these “morals,” in the bigger context the little stories in the Bible are included to point us to God. God is ultimately the hero of all Bible stories! And what He desires for us to “get” from these stories is HIM.

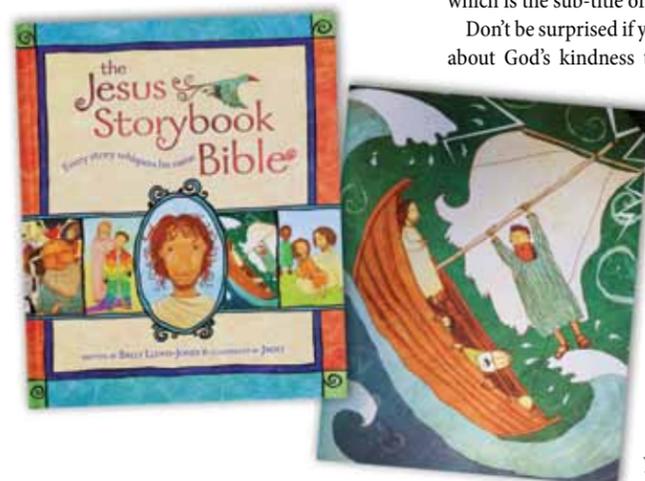
When we tell the little stories apart from the big stories the big Hero often gets left out!

So this book connects the little stories in the Bible to the Hero of the big story. This Hero leaves everything to do something unimaginably great to bring lost and wayward people back to Himself.

In this way “every story whispers His name,” which is the sub-title of the book.

Don’t be surprised if your tears flow as you read about God’s kindness to stubborn people (like you and me!) or His powerful plan to rescue desperate people (like you and me!). It is the best story of all.

When you read stories from this book to your favorite little ones, you will introduce them to the greatest Rescuer ever—God’s Son. And you will remember what a great Treasure He is for you as well. †



Fast Facts:

During a luncheon our staff at the University of Kansas taught Christian professors how to share their faith legally and ethically with students.

Students at Duke University will host a Favorite Faculty Dinner this spring, showing appreciation to their professors and pointing them to Christ.

Professors will join Campus Crusade students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on their El Salvador spring break mission trip.

At Utah State University, *Faculty Commons* used the recently released C.S. Lewis movie, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, to begin gospel conversations with Mormon students.



Frontlines

Faculty Commons is the faculty ministry of *Campus Crusade for Christ*. We want to hear from you. Please contact us via email at frontlines@facultycommons.org. Faculty Commons, 2001 West Plano Parkway, Suite 2700, Plano, Texas 75075; Phone: 972.516.0516; Web: www.facultycommons.com