

FRONTLINES

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A WINDOW INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES

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Awesome and Surprising

Rick Hove, Faculty Commons Executive Director

It wasn't what Austin expected. A pre-med student at Wabash College in Indiana, Austin traveled to Haiti last summer with 120 U.S. Campus Ministry students. Much of what he found there he expected—warm, loving people; searing heat; and a country with great possibilities and needs.



What Austin didn't expect on this trip was a professor. He blogs from Haiti:

Phil, as he prefers to be called, is a tenured Exercise Physiology professor from the University of Alabama. He is not your average Joe, even when it comes to professors. He is a marathon runner who has been to numerous countries in service to the Lord and is fully committed to walking according to God's will for his life.

It is pretty awesome and surprising to receive spiritual guidance from a professor...

For almost 60 years Campus Crusade for Christ

has excelled at reaching, building, and sending students. For the last 30 of those years we've had a thriving national faculty ministry.

Now we have the opportunity to harness the resources of both of these ministries in a synergistic way to increase Christ's impact on our American universities, our country, and the world.

Professors play a key role in helping us reach students and send mature graduates into the world. Austin's reaction speaks for most students: it is "awesome and surprising to receive spiritual guidance from a professor."

Students, in turn, can be a critical catalyst in building thriving faculty ministries all over the U.S. and the world. They can:

- introduce us to Christian professors
- initiate with them
- involve professors in their ministries

Dr. Bishop was just as influenced by the students as they were by him:

"These college graduates, undergraduates, one pre-college student, and Campus Crusade leaders, were among the finest bunch of people with whom I have ever associated, and I have been at it for 60 years.

They sweated night and day in the dusty, hot, humid environment. They rode a bus for two hours in the heat. They didn't complain and continually looked for opportunities to minister. They sought out kids to play with and on one occasion carried kids over two miles to and from Flamingo Lake.

I was blessed to be among them, to watch them interact, and to learn from them.... Just being



Back to the Future

If I could go back and start Campus Crusade for Christ all over again, there is one thing I would change. I would place a stronger emphasis on ministry to university faculty. If we had done that, I believe we would have made a much greater impact for Jesus Christ in education and, in fact, every facet of society around the world.

—Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ Founder, 1921–2003

around these folks has done a lot to make me want to be a better Christian. So I guess I was just one of the many folks to whom they ministered."

How would you like your son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter, to have Dr. Bishop as a professor?

How would our country and world be different if there were thousands of Dr. Bishops engaged with our students?

This Haiti mission is a wonderful snapshot of the Faculty Commons' vision:

- to see students strengthened, emboldened, and sent into the world because of Christian professors like Dr. Bishop
- to see professors encouraged and motivated to go to the world because they've spent time with dynamic students who love Christ

Each issue of *Frontlines* will pass on inspiring stories of God at work through students and professors serving Him together to present the gospel to the world. We'll also give you a window into the struggle for America's universities.

We need your prayers and your partnership with us. Please feel free to contact me at frontlines@facultycommons.org if you have questions or comments concerning our mission. †

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.

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The Power of Professors

Ministry Profile: Ralph and Connie Cooley, Washington State University and the University of Idaho



After 33 years of student ministry at Washington State University and the University of Idaho (only nine miles apart), Ralph and Connie Cooley realized they were overlooking important *insiders* on these campuses. Christian professors, they found, could:

- help them reach students and other professors with the gospel
- influence the university to create a more friendly environment for a biblical worldview
- open doors for the gospel anywhere in the world

Since joining Faculty Commons two years ago, Ralph and Connie have "networked" their way to identifying 65 Christian professors on the two campuses. Their goal is to build faculty *movements* at these universities, so that every professor, student, and university staff person will know someone who truly follows Jesus.

Ministry highlights over the past two years include:

- forming a core leadership group of professors to reach out to students and other faculty
- finding a retired professor already involved in campus ministry to partner with in prayer and outreach events
- hosting their first Greater Northwest Faculty Fall Conference, with 33 professors attending from nine universities in four states
- meeting with professors to pray at the University of Idaho each Tuesday afternoon
- watching God give Christian students at

both campuses a heart for their professors

- co-leading student mission trips the past two summers to universities in Africa with a Washington State University professor (Because a professor was on each trip, all of the student team members were official honored guests and had audiences of 200-500 students in a number of classrooms to hear their messages.)

The Campus Crusade ministry at these two campuses is changing. Christian students are helping reach faculty for Christ. Christian profes-

sors are helping reach students for Christ. Ralph and Connie are helping reach the *whole campus*, so that believers from Washington State and the University of Idaho might reach the *whole world* more effectively. †

Ralph and Connie Cooley are field staff with Faculty Commons. All over the country staff like the Cooleys serve on the "frontlines," sharing Christ on campus and launching new movements of professors and students to take the hope of Jesus Christ to the world.

Professors Open Doors Around the World



Faculty and students together — Ralph Cooley (far right) with a team of Washington and Idaho students and Professor Bernard Van Wie (center) on their summer 2010 mission. The University of Ghana is the oldest and most prestigious university in West Africa, shaping leaders for all of Africa.



Washington State University

Founded in 1890, WSU is now among the nation's top 60 public research universities, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* 2010 rankings.

- Total Enrollment: 26,101
- Undergraduates: 21,726
- 200 students involved in Campus Crusade weekly meetings
- 20 professors involved in Faculty Commons
- 5% international students
- Original mascot: Squirt the Terrier; current mascot: Butch the Cougar
- The Palouse (the general area in which WSU is located) is the dry pea and lentil capital of the nation
- Noted Alumni: Edward R. Murrow (broadcaster), Paul Allen (Microsoft co-founder), Drew Bledsoe and Turk Edwards (NFL)
- And of utmost importance: the specific type of wheat used in Oreo cookies was created here by a WSU professor!
- Go Cougars!

Thirsty for Life in Haiti

Faculty Profile: Dr. Marc Compere, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



Professor Marc Compere and wife Shannon ministered with students in the Republic of Haiti.

After the devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January, mechanical engineering professor Marc Compere challenged his students: "Let's go to Haiti and use our engineering skills to bring clean water!" The students raised more than \$2,800 and

built a solar-powered water purification unit that: water was contaminated with at least five different bacteria species. Many of the village children suffered from coughs, runny noses, and chronic diarrhea as a result. The camp's water purification unit was broken, so Marc and the project students quickly got the solar-powered system working.

• supplies safe drinking water for 500 people per day
 • is powered by renewable solar and wind energy
 • is small and easily transportable
 • can be quickly set up by three people who have no formal training

Over the course of nine weeks in Haiti, three teams of American students and professors brought not only purified water but living water—the gospel. They led over 150 Haitians to faith in Christ and presented the gospel to several thousand people among the over one million still living in tents since the earthquake.

When Marc and one of his students arrived at the Campus Crusade mission project's camp in Haiti on June 1st, they discovered the local well

This is the Faculty Commons dream in action: partnering America's Christian professors with students to take the gospel to the world. †



A total of 120 Campus Crusade students in three 3-week sessions ministered in earthquake-ravaged Haiti last summer, visiting an orphanage, distributing food, helping build a mission and relief compound, and sharing the gospel in displaced-person camps. Two Christian professors from the University of Alabama and Embry-Riddle University joined these dynamic students.

Imagine the Consequence



73% of the professors at elite universities believe the Bible is "an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men." Every four-year undergraduate student sits under the teaching of these professors for almost 2,000 hours. Imagine how these professors shape our students, country, and the world.

Join with us in prayer for...

Every Student: That we can engage Christian professors in reaching out with the love and truth of the gospel to America's 18 million college students.

Every Professor: That we will be full of boldness and love as we present the gospel to professors who don't yet know Christ.

Every Campus: That God would use us to launch Christian faculty groups on at least 25 new campuses this year and ultimately raise up a thriving group on every U.S. campus.

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.



What Did You Expect?

Review by Rick Hove, *Marriage wisdom for pros and the rest of us, too*

The Faculty Commons national leadership team is soaking in the wisdom found in Paul Tripp's recent book on marriage, *What Did You Expect?* (Crossway, 2010). We eagerly commend it to our professors and friends, and we highly recommend it to you, too.

Why do we love this book? Tripp shows us that the road to a great marriage begins with the honest admission that what is broken in our marriages is us:



"One of the most tempting fallacies for us—and for every human being in this fallen world—is to believe that our greatest problems exist outside us rather than inside us. It's easy to fall into thinking this way.... We do live in a broken world.... We live with flawed people.... Despite this the Bible calls us to humbly confess that the greatest, deepest, most abiding problem each of us faces is inside, not outside, of us.... *My greatest*

marital problem is me." (pgs. 73-74)

Ouch. In fact, Tripp argues that it is the brokenness in each of us, as married couples, that actually causes us to "dehumanize" our spouses:

"No longer are they objects of our willing affection. No, they quit being the people we find joy in loving. Rather, they get reduced to one of two things. They are either vehicles to help us get what we want or *obstacles* that get in the way of what we want." (pg. 47)

It is only when we come to realize that the source of the great problems in our marriages is ourselves—and that the great hope for our marriages is not our spouse, nor ourselves, but God—that we'll have the hope of a great marriage.

"What is the hope of your marriage?... The hope of your marriage is not all the principles, insights, and perspectives found in this book. No, the hope of your marriage can be captured in one glorious, powerful, and transforming word—*grace*."

God's grace guarantees that you, in your struggle, will never be alone.

God's grace assures you that when you have blown it there is forgiveness to be found.

Grace means that there is strength available when you are weak.

Grace assures you that there is wisdom for the moments when you do not know what to do.

Grace gives you hope when there seems little to be found.

Grace enables you to get up and move forward when inside you want to quit or run away. . . .

You see, God knows that this side of heaven there are ways in which we all are weak and unable.... So he has given us the only thing that will rescue, restore, and mobilize us.

He has given us himself!" (pg. 284)

What great hope is found in this book. We'd love for you to pick up a copy and read it with us. †

Fast Facts:

Our Faculty Commons staff at Princeton have led a strong faculty group there for over two decades.

Faculty Commons' largest ministry is at the University of Georgia which has 170 professors involved.

Students at North Carolina State University launched a strategy to give *Mere Christianity* to their professors.

A retired emeritus professor leads our ministries at the University of California Berkeley and in the Bay Area.



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