

# A Tale of Two States

June 2015

In May, I visited two universities where groups of faculty live out their faith in Christ...



Oklahoma State

Stillwater, OK Est. 1890

*First met in Stillwater  
Congregational Church  
Today: 26,000 Students*

For more than 30 years, a group of Christian faculty on the OSU campus has helped students know that there are Christian faculty on campus.

**Dr. David Engle** is a professor in OSU's dept. of natural resource ecology and management and one of the key leaders of their Christian faculty group.



He has helped the group to place ads in the student newspaper, signed by more than 100 faculty. And, he and others provide welcome gifts to new faculty each year which invited them to events as well as offering C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*.

Engle watched his father practice his faith by preaching on Sundays to small rural churches in New Mexico. Dave accepted Christ at age 12, and says: "My relationship with Jesus continues to mature through the Lord's grace -- extended in great measure through other believers on the campus of Oklahoma State University."

"I became involved with this group more than 20 years ago after hearing Rae Mellichamp, an emeritus professor from the University of Alabama and a leader in Campus Crusade's faculty ministry, speak at OSU on 'Christian Faculty Ministering in a Secular University.' Rae showed me that I could live out my faith on campus through such a group."



Louisiana State

Baton Rouge, LA Est. 1860

*First led by Col. William  
Tecumseh Sherman  
Today: 30,500 students*

For more than 30 years, a group of Christian faculty on the LSU campus has helped students know that there are Christian faculty on campus.

**Dr. Steven Hall** is a professor in LSU's dept. of biological and agricultural engineering and one of the key leaders of their Christian faculty group.



He has helped the group to place ads in the student newspaper, signed by nearly 100 faculty. This year he and others sponsored a Veritas Seminar entitled "Is Science Enough?" that drew a capacity crowd on campus.

Hall became a Christian in graduate school. He had started attending a Bible study out of curiosity: "Slowly, the messages in the Bible started to sink in, and I felt drawn toward the unique figure of Jesus: his humble birth and life; his service and encouragement; his willingness to associate with any ready to hear his words."

"Today I am a *professor*, one who witnesses, and shares the wisdom they have found, and as a father, one who nurtures and encourages with humility. I am still far from perfect, but grace has brought me a long way, and I have been blessed."

## And State Of The Nation

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“I have encountered more barriers in academia because of my faith than because of my race.”

*Dr. George Yancey  
Sociology, University of North Texas*

Dr. George Yancey (left) has been involved with the Christian faculty group at UNT for many years, speaks at our meetings and leads a fellowship for Christians in graduate school. In his early years as a sociologist he studied racial diversity -- or the lack of it -- in Christian churches, and wrote several books including *United by Faith*, and *Beyond Racial Gridlock*.

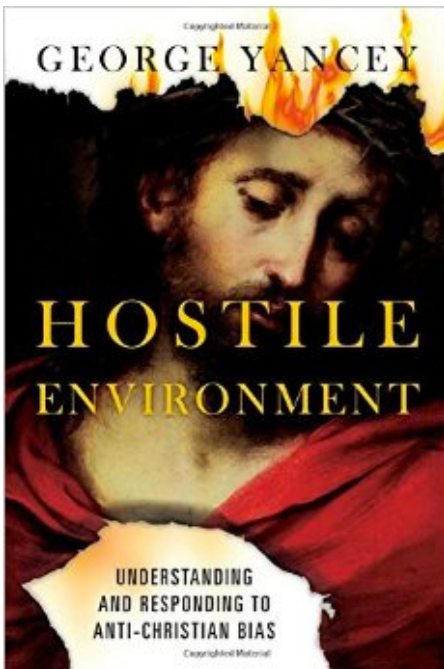
Several years ago he felt a need to address what he saw as a growing bias against Christians on America's university campuses. His survey of academics confirmed his suspicions, and resulted in several books documenting this: *Compromising Scholarship*, and *So Many Christians, So Few Lions*.

One conclusion from his research: “A small, but growing body of work indicates that in certain social areas Christians face real discrimination. Recently in the United States overt hostility toward certain Christians has been greater than overt hostility toward Jews.”

How should we respond to such hostility? That is the reason for his latest book *Hostile Environment*:

“An important challenge for Christians is to convince such individuals that they have the same rights to influence the public square as anyone else. Learning how to communicate, and hopefully find ways to co-exist, with them will help determine whether there will be a persistent cultural conflict or if a truce is possible.”

We are thankful for researchers like Dr. Yancey that are helping to make issues of faith considered in the public square.



### *About George Yancey:*

Proud father of a two-month-old son  
Graduate of the University of Texas  
Diehard Longhorn fan  
Is not bitter that the San Antonio  
Spurs did not win the NBA  
championship (Okay, a little..)

**Thanks for allowing us to work with followers  
of Christ on so many campuses!**  
—— Steve & Sarah