

Faculty Summers

“How *do* you spend your summers in faculty ministry?”

We’re often asked that, so we thought we would share part of this summer with you...

Encourage Them



“I’m kind of an oddity in my department,” Todd told us over lunch. We were introduced through his friend at another university.

“I am the only Christian that I know of. My colleagues think it’s kind of interesting that I would go to church – like someone who’s a rock climber or wildflower photographer -- but so far God hasn’t piqued their spiritual interest.”

With Todd, just as with many other isolated believers, providing tools that will help them grow in their faith, and connecting them with other Christians at nearby universities, is often a huge encouragement in helping them be public with their faith.

Steering Committees



Summer means meeting with groups of Christian faculty on both the North Texas and Texas Woman’s campuses so they can plan events for the upcoming year:

- Current student thinking and trends (*see page 2*);
- Pornography on campus -- and how to respond;
- Career as a calling so that faith affects how we work;
- Conversing with atheists – caring without compromising.

We coordinate the details of these events so that the faculty can focus on attending and learning from the programs.

Help Them Love “Prof People”



“You have to be extremely focused to become a professor,” Dr. Chris Littler (*left*) explained. Both he and his wife Kay are physicists.

“In order to earn our Ph.D. each of us was trained to believe that our research is the most important thing in the world. As a result, it is sometimes difficult for faculty to understand another’s perspective and goals on common issues,” he told us.

How do believing professors live for Christ amongst those whose goals are focused on the things of the world? By living out their faith -- day after day. So often it is the response of believers to very difficult circumstances that causes nonbelievers to look at them and say “Now that is a *real* Christian.”

It is showing grace, and acting in love, that causes Christians to explain “the reason for the hope that is in them” as 1 Peter instructs us.

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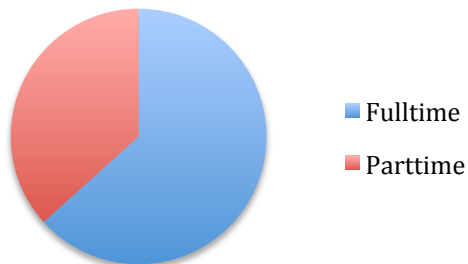
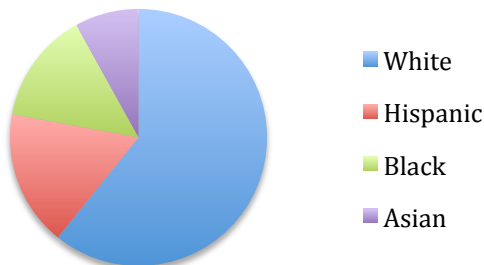
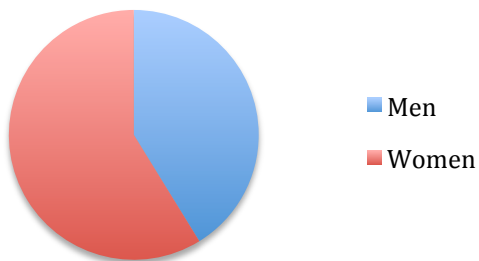
What Are College Students Like These Days?

This month 19,900,000 college students begin classes. Many are part time; most are women; and there is more ethnic diversity.



How this freshman class sees the world:

- *LBJ* = LeBron James
- *Amazon* = a retailer, not a river
- *Arnold Palmer* is a drink
- "Sears had a catalogue?"
- "Dial up? What's a dial?"
- Christmas trees are artificial
- Music is a free download
- Watch TV shows without a TV
- Vietnam = tourist destination
- Rarely *buy* their textbook



Would you pray for them?

Nearly 30% of incoming freshmen say they have no religious affiliation.

And Christian students often find their faith considered irrelevant or foolish by their professors.

Yet there are Christian professors who love students and show Jesus – not by preaching words but by practicing love. These Christian faculty may be the only believers that many of these students see on a daily basis.

They do end up talking about Christ to students -- over coffee, or online, in informal and personal conversations.

We will be meeting with these Christ-following professors on a number of campuses this year. Thanks for making our time with this possible!

----- Steve & Sarah

Sources: IES- DOE, 2015 Projections;
Beloit College
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