



## Sowing Hope

August 2021

### Soaring Rates



“Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, rates of depression and anxiety [among students] have soared — and have showed no signs of coming down.” *Dartmouth University study*

“This fall we have two years of new students on campus.”

Last week a UNT administrator told a group of campus ministers about the need to care even more faithfully for students: so many will be new to campus. Because those who were freshman last year attended college only online, this will be their first year in crowded situations. As I listened in that meeting, I thought of another group who cares for students and who interacts weekly with them: their professors.

### When Professors Listen



“The most meaningful and influential interaction is the informal one that students and faculty may have *outside* of the classroom.”  
M. Komarraju, *Journal of College Student Development*

There are many professors who have gone out of their way to care for students in the past year. Among Christian faculty, the overall concern is to show the love of Christ and encourage them to persevere.

It involves taking time to listen -- not only to questions about exams, but also how those students are coping. These times of listening often involve students asking their professors how they cope, how they continue to have hope. Because these students ask, professors are often willing to share “the reason for the hope within them” (1 Peter 3:15).

### Faithful



“Several years ago a student came to my office and said he wanted to talk about becoming a Christian--because he knew I am one. Recently he called and let me know that he had received Christ as Savior.”

-- *A Prof at Univ of North Texas*

This past week two other faculty told me similar stories. There are students seeking to know God. Christian professors ask these students questions, listen, and if the student asks, talk about how Christ gives them hope in tough times.

Sometimes conversations about Christ with coworkers, neighbors or friends may seem fruitless. But those seeds of faith can germinate, grow and lead to Christ.

As this school year starts, there are many Christian professors who believe God has called them to the university.

**Please Pray** that they will be faithful witnesses and loving examples of Christ to students and to their colleagues.

*Steve and Sarah*