

Does Our Campus Ministry Do All that It Should?

Several years ago the Gallup Organization polled students about what they considered their greatest needs. The top five responses were: (1) to have meaning and purpose in life; (2) to be loved; (3) to be a part of a group that unconditionally loves them; (4) to be listened to; and (5) to have faith.

While we do a really good job in helping students have opportunities to deepen their faith and do hands on ministry in all kinds of ways. I wonder if we need to reexamine if we are scratching where a lot of students itch. Maybe, our evangelism efforts might be enhanced if we were more intentional in trying to meet the needs of students on our campuses.

Ironically, the results of the Gallup Poll are consistent with what we ought to be strategizing to do. It's not as if we need to stretch our ministry parameters to fit the results. Students' needs that were expressed encompasses BCM ministry. Some relevant and pertinent questions for us are: How are we correlating what we teach and preach and program to life purpose and a clearer understanding of the Jesus' promise of abundant life?

Second, how do we intentionally demonstrate our God-enabled love for students, especially those that are not a part of our group and those that are that often we might want to go away? Third, are we paying enough attention to group dynamics instead of just focusing on group tasks? Have we learned to really focus enough attention on students when we are with them that they feel they are not only important to us, but they are of immeasurable worth to God? Lastly, how are we helping students move from self-reliance and believing they are masters of their own fate to becoming God-conscious and trusting Him to be Lord of their lives?

Our campuses, even our BCM's have students, myriads of them who are without life direction and purpose. They are floundering with really important life issues and sadly, many of them don't see BCM as the environment where they can find help. First and foremost, we are in "business" to help students come to understand, at several levels, that knowing God and practicing his presence give purpose and meaning to life. Along with other soul-minded students they can know community, both physically and spiritually that will significantly change their world.

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