

ACTIVE CHRISTIANS TODAY

Making Disciples on the BGSU
and UT Campuses for over 35 Years

THE HEART OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Luke Gilkerson

The heart of campus ministry—the heart of any ministry—is Jesus. The greatest revelation in all my life has been that this rugged Jewish teacher from Nazareth was and is the Son of God. The greatest love I’ve ever heard about is that this man would die for me. The greatest honor in all my life is that I get the chance to tell this to others, bringing them closer to the God who created them.

The campus ministry of ACT was the arm of Christ’s body at BGSU that trained and disciplined me during the years I needed it the most. The church needs missional communities—an active presence—on the campuses of this nation to be a living witness to the young adult generation. This is why campus ministry is not just important: it is critical.

The church continues to seek key centers of influence so that the word of the Lord can move speedily and be honored in our generation (2Thess.3:1) and the campus is just such a place. I remember the spring semester of my graduation from college. I had been asked to take over as campus minister at UT and I felt shocked and privileged at the invitation.

I wrestled in prayer over the decision for quite some time. The Lord led me, unexpectedly, to a passage in Acts 19 where Paul began preaching in the city of Ephesus. I marveled at how Paul’s ministry in this one city for two years led to “all the residents of Asia” hearing the word of the Lord (Acts19:10). Then I read what Paul did for these two years: “He took the disciples with him and had daily discussions in *the lecture hall of Tyrannus*” (v.9). Paul had started the first *campus ministry*.

Through daily dialogues in this public school or hall he was able to speak and teach freely about Jesus, and because of the centrality and importance of Ephesus, he had the opportunity to speak to travelers, business owners, politicians and other people of influence from all over the region. After much prayer, this passage was a catalyst that propelled me forward into full-time campus ministry.

I am grateful for my time in ACT as a minister. I feel I’ve learned far more than I’ve taught. I’ve had the chance to befriend many students over the past 5½ years. I’ve watched them be transformed by the message of Jesus—many times in spite of me rather than because of me. It excites me to think about what these stu-

dents will do in the coming years as they move on from college to influence the world.

My prayers are with ACT and its students as I move on to the next phase of life, as I am again stretched by God into something new. Thank you, to all of ACT’s supporters, for your years of giving and praying. You’ve made Jesus very happy.



Luke was a student leader in ACT at BGSU. He has been campus minister for the UT group since 2002. This is Luke’s last semester with ACT as minister.



active (ak'tiv) *adj.* 1. functioning, working, moving, etc. 2. causing action, motion, or change 3. characterized by much action or motion; lively, busy, agile, quick, etc. 4. actual, not just nominal; participating 5. currently in operation

Christian
(kris'chen) *n.* a person professing belief in Jesus as the Christ *adj.* having the qualities demonstrated and taught by Jesus Christ



help us live up to our name

You and your church can partner with ACT to help us make disciples of the college students and young adults in northwest Ohio. We'd love to stop by your church for a visit to tell you more. Contact us at our Bowling Green office: 419-352-6486 or bg@actoday.org

today (te'dā) *adv.* 1. on or during the present day 2. in present time; nowadays



actoday@actoday.org

419-352-6486

Contact us:

www.actoday.org

Check us out online:

Address Service Requested

Bowling Green, OH 43402

612 E. Wooster



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Permit # 109

ACT@BGSU — YEAR OF CHANGES

When this semester began, we all knew that it was going to be a year of change, but we never imagined just how much.

Changes in leadership. Fourteen seniors graduated last May, most of them serving in leadership positions. We knew we were going to experience rebuilding, and the previous year's efforts to prepare for their replacements were successful. Praise God we also had some new students who immediately got involved. This semester's student leadership is strong, creative, and committed.

Changes in our staff also came. Last summer, two former ACTers asked to volunteer with the ministry this year. Christy Doeringer and Kim Kintner began ministries with us. Christy is primarily working with the women of ACT which includes a Friday morning study. Kim is also devoting her time to ACT's women, as well as overseeing ACT@BGSU's mission efforts and helping out with ACT's administrative work. In December she will become ACT's Administrative Assistant.

ACT has been blessed with Katherine Lawn, who began serving as an intern for this year



From Left to Right: Christy Doeringer, Kim Kintner, Katherine Lawn

after graduating last May. Katherine became a Christian through ACT while a student at BGSU. She is responsible for publicity, some of our Sunday night communion services, helping with the prayer ministry, spending time with the students, and helping out with office work. In addition, she works as a substitute teacher and serves as a youth leader in church. She sleeps sometimes.

And the beat goes on. In September, Jeff Lavalette, our worship leader, resigned and became the worship minister in a church in Indiana. Again God raised up another ACT@BGSU alumus in the area to lead worship for us. Mark Kintner, who had played in our worship band while a student at BGSU, stepped right in and is doing a great job.

What is so amazing is how God has continued to work through all of this. We had two more of our food giveaways this fall, grilling over 1000 God Dogs and Jesus Burgers in each one. The ministry that took place during these times is mind boggling. Many students on the way to the bars stopped by and spent the evening with us instead of going downtown. While we were cleaning up one night (I mean morning) at 3:30 am, some students came by and wanted us to know just

how much the university students appreciate what we do. They wanted us to know that "everyone loves us for what we are doing". A couple of our late night visitors have become ACT regulars this semester. God, who never changes, has continued to bless us through all of our changes.

Joy Savage, a senior, wants to serve as an ACT intern during the second semester of next year. Her ministry is "The Social Conscience of ACT". She has repeatedly challenged us to put our faith into action. While heading up ACT's "Operation Christmas Child" effort, ACT@BGSU prepared over 25 boxes to be sent overseas. She made us aware of the genocide in Darfur and we collected more money than any other organization on campus involved with the project. These are only some of this semester's activities, and we'll be starting off next semester by collecting money for IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service). Jesus has a lot to say about our reaching out in His name.

Changes challenge faith. Changes increase the intensity of our prayer lives. The challenges of change renew the spirit of adventure. In spite of it all, we serve a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.



Joy Savage

ACT BOARD ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION, RE-ORGANIZATION, PROMOTION

This summer, UT Campus Minister Luke Gilkerson shared with the ACT Board of Directors his plan to resign from ACT to pursue other opportunities. Luke has graciously served the UT ministry for five years, and the board wishes Luke the greatest of God's blessing for a bright and meaningful future of ministry and service. Luke shared his

plan with the students of the UT group a few weeks after school started, and recently announced to them that his resignation will be effective December 15th.

The board has had extensive discussions concerning the UT ministry, transition plans, and ACT as a whole. We were also able to have a special consultation

meeting with former ACT campus minister Steve Schertzinger, who greatly challenged the board in areas of church and alumni relations, board responsibility and decision-making, and UT transitioning. As a result of much discussion and prayerful consideration, the board has made many decisions. Dave Warner will be promoted on January 1st to Ex-

20,000 REASONS WHY WE'RE HERE

Brittany timidly approached the front of the room at the ACT Annual Meeting to give her testimony: "There was a time I truly believed God was not there for me. I got involved in a number of addictive behaviors when I was young. After being sent to a special boarding school—which literally saved my life—I came back home with more stability, but still felt far from God. I came to UT and after much prodding from a friend finally started coming to ACT. It has changed my life! Thanks to Luke and many of the students I am now growing in a real relationship with Jesus."

Brittany is one of the 20,000 reasons why the UT ministry exists (this is about

how many students go to UT). Through our programs we aim to give the students a place to ask honest questions and get honest answers. Our method has been simple: (1) make friends, and (2) brag on Jesus.

The semester began with our "30 Days of Outreach." We got into the dorms and led several Bible studies centered on Jesus and making disciples. We held several parties at the Campus House and encouraged the students to invite friends. We gave out food at the widely attended tailgates outside Rocket Hall. We had a chance to meet and make friends with several new students in those 30 days.



Towards the end of the summer we had a going-away party for Sara, one of our student leaders, who was leaving for Asia to work as a missionary. Sara found out about the mission opportunity at last year's National Missionary Convention.

Since then we've been providing more and more opportunities for the students to grow deeply in their relationship with Jesus. We've recently returned from our fall retreat where the students were challenged to think more on the subject of evangelism. Every Tuesday night our "Life of Christ" study has been equipping students to live and think more like Jesus. Wednesday nights a group of men have been going to "Men's Frater-



Phillip serves burgers to some of the thousands of UT tailgaters at the first home game of the year.

nity," an Toledo-area men's ministry initiative that is giving our college guys a chance to rub shoulders with some older men. Our Thursday night Ladies group has seen incredible growth, both in depth of fellowship and teaching and in numbers. As always our Monday night worship service on the campus has also attracted some new people but our focus remains the same: to provide an atmosphere for the students to gather in prayer and worship, to help them foster genuine intimacy with God.

Please continue to pray for the UT ministry and its students. Continue to pray that the hearts of the students will move out to the lost on this campus, to the thousands who need to hear and believe the message of Christ. Pray most of all that the UT students will fall more deeply in love with Jesus and His kingdom.

ACT BOARD ANNOUNCES... CONT.

ective Director of ACT, Inc. He will continue to serve as BG campus minister, and until a full-time replacement is made for UT, will spend some time each week at UT. This will enable the UT ministry to continue, and for Dave to gain valuable insight about the current opportunity there to help us search for the best minister for that campus. He

has also been charged with additional alumni, church relations, and fundraising responsibilities. ACT has restructured Dave's salary to enable him to again work full time for ACT. ACT has also authorized the hiring of a part-time administrative assistant. The board will continue to discuss this arrangement and its effectiveness as time goes on, and

will make decisions about the UT position. We plan to finalize a new job description for the UT position and begin to advertise for a new minister there, trusting that God will bless us with a wonderful person in His timing. The board covets your prayers as we go through this transitional yet exciting time in the life of ACT.