

# Talk to God about People Before You Talk to People About God

## Think About It

What one thing will make or break your ministry on campus? What has God used to fuel the great revivals of church history? What does God use in our hearts to broaden our vision, deepen our passion, and give us courage for the challenges of reaching students?

### Heart of the Matter

History and God's Word make it clear that prayer is more than preparation for the work-- it is the work. Unfortunately, rarely do we see instant results from our secret prayer life. We know it's vital, but we're too busy. We think we can pull off a ministry with only perfunctory prayer. It takes discipline to pray effectively, because we don't always see what prayer is accomplishing.

Have you ever heard of Epaphras? He's not too famous, but he's the one who brought the gospel to Colossae. In Colossians 4:12 he's named as the prayer warrior: "He is always wrestling in prayer for you ...""Are we prepared to be like Epaphras? Are we prepared to really pray?

Reaching that nearby campus could revolutionize your prayer life.

### Real Life

The year was 1980. Ronald Reagan was running for president. Iran was holding American hostages. AIDS was a disease unknown to the public. **Cyberspace** was not yet part of the vocabulary. And 5,000 freshmen were about to start college at Virginia Tech.

That summer a light switched on for Mike. He was taking a seminary course on the work of the Holy Spirit and was impressed as never before with the importance of prayer. Prayer had always been on his to-do list. Now he decided to put it at the top of the list--to pray first.

During August he went on a personal prayer offensive, spending the best hour of each day bathing the upcoming ministry year in prayer. God used those hours to bring about many dreams and plans that were born that month.

Then Mike asked his ministry team to meet for prayer regularly. They kept a miracle book to chronicle prayer requests and answers. They got students to sign up for a 24-hour



prayer chain during the first week of school when they did freshman surveys. They prayed for 1,000 students interested in talking about spiritual matters, and God gave them 1,018.

The team gathered students for prayer every Wednesday in the chapel and they broke up into small groups and prayed for the campus and personal requests. Once they even had a night of prayer and wrapped it up with a "Jericho walk" around the campus.

That was a supernatural year of campus ministry. They still worked hard, but it seemed that God's presence was always with them. New students came out of the woodwork and got involved in the ministry. Real conversions happened, lives were changed, and no one could take the credit.

Over the next several years a long-term prayer request was realized. God sent students from Virginia Tech to five continents to spread the gospel.

When we pray and God answers, He gets the glory.

## Steps to Take

There's no formula when developing a prayer strategy, and plenty of room for variety. The important thing is that you and your leaders are seeking the Lord regularly as you are involved in reaching college students.

### Here are some ideas:

1. **Spend personal time in prayer**, taking time to develop your prayer life. There are lots of good books on prayer such as *How to Pray* by Bill Bright, *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels, and many others.
2. **Encourage your leadership team** to spend time in prayer. Don't assume that people are natural prayer warriors. Model it and build it into their lives. As a group, you might want to study *Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening* by Dan Hayes which was written with campuses and revival in mind.
3. **Invite people in your church** and Christians in your community to pray for the ministry on campus.
4. **As small groups** are formed, make prayer a vital part of each meeting.
5. **Pray specifically.** Each development phase of your campus ministry will have its own prayer needs. Bathe each event, each outreach and each person in prayer.



6. **Be creative.** Variety is a friend of enjoyable prayer, but if you have to choose between consistency and creativity, go with consistency.



This is a resource from the GodSquad ([www.godsquad.com](http://www.godsquad.com))

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