



MissionalTeamLeaders.com

BUILDING MOVEMENTS: TRANSFORMING MOVEMENTS

WHAT IT WILL TAKE

BY MIKE TILLEY

Our desire is to develop multiple movements, on every campus. The movement is not merely a religious club but rather movements that transform the campus. We envision movements where lost students are being transformed by the gospel of Christ (Colossians 1:13-14); where Christians are being transformed in 'grace and truth relationships' (Ephesians. 4); and where the campus and world are being transformed by laborers who are sent (Matt. 9:37-39).

Acts 2:42-47 describes the first transforming movement within a community. Everyone felt a sense of awe because they saw God at work. Believers were devoted to biblical teaching, prayer, and real koininia (fellowship). And God was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.

That first movement was a true movement of God's Spirit. That is the kind of movement we are trusting God to create and to multiply on every campus. While a core or cell group is the foundation for such a movement, we'd like to see it grow to a size of 50 or more students. And when God moves, we often see that He uses students to reach students.

During one summer, the Atlanta Summer Project launched the ministry at Kennesaw State University, a commuter campus in Atlanta. Three years later, they had 150 students at a (completely student-led) weekly meeting at noon on any given Thursday. Several students who first came to know Christ at Kennesaw State now after three years held leadership positions. As part of the Atlanta Metro movement, these students were not only transforming their campus, they were influencing the city, with a view towards the world. And they had the opportunity to go to the world, through Atlanta's Worldwide Student Network (WSN) partnership.

A NETWORK OF MOVEMENTS

God is raising up a network of student-led groups at universities and colleges across the world. Volunteers are working to help leaders like you build movements that will transform their campuses and make an impact around the world.



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What Is Your Dream?

As you look at your campus, ask yourself these questions: “What would I like to see God do here?”, “What is my dream?” If you don’t know the answer yet, it’s OK. God will show you His desire for your campus as you continue to trust Him. Vision develops and deepens as students like you pray and dream together, and reach out to others on campus. There is room to fill in the specifics of your vision over time to reflect the character and flavor of your unique campus.

What Is the Campus Like?

Another important question to ask is, “What are students like on my campus?” Kennesaw State has its weekly meeting during the lunch hour. This works best because it’s a commuter campus. Most campuses are so multifaceted with many people groups based on ethnicity, majors, sports, clubs, etc. that many transforming movements will be needed to reach them.

Ask yourself these questions about your campus: What is the level of spiritual interest? What keys will open doors for the gospel? What is the ethnic diversity on campus? What do people do for fun? Answering these questions will help you tailor-make your ministry to your campus.

Who Are the Leaders?

A third question that must be answered is, “Who will lead the effort on campus?” Within two kilometers of every campus, we believe God has already placed the people and resources to reach that campus for Christ. We want to discover who that person is and help that key leader gather the essentials needed to get started. This is called assembling critical mass. In Mark 4, Jesus talked about the small mustard seed, which, when planted, grew into a huge tree. Critical mass is like the seed; it contains all the future elements needed to build a transforming movement.

How do you know if you have critical mass to launch a transforming movement?

One metro director believes you have achieved critical mass to launch when four things are in place: aligned leaders, the mustard seed of movement, prevailing prayer and students engaging the lost, and in some cases, the best way to assemble critical mass is to partner with a church or lay volunteer. Whether you start with a key student (like yourself) or partnering church, you do not have critical mass unless a core group of students is poised to reach the campus.

How Do We Go from 10 to 50?

Ask yourself, “How will I go about it? What will it take to turn my dreams into reality?” There are at least four critical path steps to build a movement to transform your campus for Christ.



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Prayer

In Colossians 4:2, Paul encourages the believers to “devote yourselves to prayer.” We are engaged in spiritual warfare, and prayer is critical. E.M. Bounds wrote there could be no devotion without prayer, and no prayer without devotion. A passion for God and His work is born in prayer. Be creative here. Plan a Jericho walk where you walk around the campus seven times praying that God will cause the spiritual strongholds to come down. (Different variations of this can be applied to your campus. Read Joshua 5:13-6:21.)

Other suggestions:

- * Morning prayer meetings
- * Prayer in cell groups
- * Contact local churches to ask them to pray for your campus

In any event, prayer is essential for the advancement of the kingdom.

Evangelism

Powerful biblical motivations for evangelism are found in Luke 15:1-6 and Colossians 4:2-6. It is to find ways of doing evangelism that are both effective and student-friendly. We need to unleash the power of the believers’ witness in natural relationships. You have a natural network with students in classes, clubs, with students you meet where you live, and other places. Your network of these friends, as well as family, neighbors and co-workers provides the most natural and potentially powerful context for evangelism.

You can also move well outside of your relational networks by using simple tools such as freshman surveys, which enable you to ‘cast a big net’ and gather critical mass (Christians) as well as spiritual seekers. Implementing a freshman strategy will enable you to build the base for a future transformational community.

Beyond that, you can literally expose the entire campus to the message of Christ through broad sowing strategies such as Freshman Survival Kits (a giveaway of quality materials presenting Christ in multiple ways) and Every Student’s Choice (media campaigns on significant campus issues).

Several years ago, a student in Boston named Steve Sawyer was led to Christ by a guy who got involved in the ministry through a poster campaign at a campus. Even though he had AIDS,



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Steve traveled to campuses around the world, sharing Christ with large audiences. When he died in 1999, he had led thousands of students to Christ. And all of that started with a poster.

Discipleship

Building transforming movements require more than just prayer and evangelism; it requires the spiritual growth and discipleship of both new and mature believers. At times, our view of discipleship is mistakenly limited to only using a one-on-one approach. However, much of the New Testament describes life change happening in the context of relationships and biblical community (Ephesians 4; Colossians 3:12-17). God uses a variety of means to transform a life, and this often occurs in small groups where there is an environment of grace and truth.

In a student-led cell group, believers can study the Bible, pray together, experience biblical fellowship and be trained for outreach. The cell group should also be committed to church involvement. Training and vision can also happen as you bring students with you to retreats, conferences, and summer projects. With the growth of the Internet, you, as a student leader, have immediate access to a wide range of discipleship resources. For example, a student anywhere in the world can download copy-ready Bible study from the GodSquad Web site.

In addition to the church, cell groups, and online resources, student leaders can seek personalized discipleship from a trained volunteer.

Sending

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” He went on to say that we need to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

College students like you can be used by God to change the world. A global culture of common technology, mobility, and even language makes this a time of great urgency and potential for the worldwide spread of the gospel. Student-led ministries often send laborers into the harvest. They are part of a growing movement of students who want to follow Christ wherever He leads.

At the Indianapolis Student Missions Conference over Christmas break, more than 700 students signed the Millennial Pledge, a commitment to God to serve at least one year as a missionary between now and the end of this century. At the Northeast Winter Conference in Springfield, MA, 120 students signed the pledge. More than 2,500 students nationwide have signed the Millennial Pledge and have served as a missionary overseas or in the States.



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With the increased opportunities available through one-year internships students now have more options to serve Christ and investigate using their skills in full-time ministry after college. In Philadelphia, one staff member is taking students on a two-week mission trip to Spain to distribute the “JESUS” film.

Our dream is a student-led ministry team, not only for every campus, but also for every movement on every campus. As we trust God to raise up leaders such as you, and as we help you develop transforming movements, we can imagine a day when every student will have the chance to be transformed by Jesus Christ.

Thought Questions

1. How would we describe each component of a transforming movement in our own words?
2. What do we want to see God do on our campus?
3. What is our campus like?
4. What is the level of spiritual interest?
5. What keys will open doors for the gospel?
6. What is the ethnic diversity on campus?
7. What do people do for fun?
8. Who is going to lead this effort to transform our campus?
9. Do we have critical mass yet for our campus? If not, what do we need to do to get it?
10. What are the next appropriate steps to take in our ministry in the area of:
Prayer Evangelism Discipleship Sending