



THE CAMPUS VIEW

an update from Christian Campus House at Eastern Illinois University

Issue: June 2009

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meeting times:
 Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30 am
 Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 7:00 pm
 Small Groups throughout the week

christian campus house at Eastern Illinois University

ABOUT CCH GET CONNECTED PEOPLE RESOURCES FIND US

New Website

by Matthew Thomas www.campus-house.com

The Campus House website has recently gotten a face lift, and if you haven't been there in a while maybe you should check it out again.

One of the major goals of the website overhaul was to make the very first page useful and ever-changing. We started by putting our meeting times right on the front page, along with direct links to directions and contact information. We feel it is important to give newcomers the information they are looking for right away.

For students that already know what Campus House is all about, the next most important information is probably the answer to the question, "What's going on this week and when?", and so we put a link to our calendar as well as a current list of upcoming activities with quick descriptions.

And to keep the front page fresh, each week a new story about something in the ministry, a spotlight of a new student, and a new 'staff blog' entry all appear right where visitors can see them immediately.

But that is only the beginning of the changes and new information. Each main category of navigation (*see sidebar to the right*) contains something to help students, alumni, and supporters get involved with the life and ministry of Christian Campus House.

We at Campus House want this site to be more than just a presence on the web. We want to interact with our students. We want to interact with our alumni. We want to interact with *you!* What would make this a more useful tool for *you* as you partner with us? We really want to know. Visit us online at www.campus-house.com. Listen to some of the sermons, check out the student ministries that are reaching young people here on campus, and go to the "Contact Us" page to send us an e-mail telling us what we can do to help YOU be involved with us here at Christian Campus House.

We *really* do look forward to hearing from you soon!

Check out what's new on campus-house.com

Here are just a few of the things you will find in the various sections of the new website.

ABOUT US: As you might expect, here you will find information about our history, what we believe, when we meet, and how you can get involved financially.

GET CONNECTED: This is where students trying to "get plugged in" should start. Family group options, ministry teams opportunities, mission trips and more!

PEOPLE: This is the place to find contact information for every leader in the ministry, whether that is full time staff, family group leaders, ministry team leaders or our great office assistants.

RESOURCES: A great place on the website to find tools to help you grow spiritually. From online bible study tools, to sermon podcast. From book recommendations for spiritual growth to an information packet on the study of baptism, there is something here to aid anyone visiting our website.

FIND US: Look here for our address, our phone information, directions and maps to help you find us on campus.

Reflection on the Year

One year has brought on a lot of change. I've moved back home after completing my first year of college, and I am different from who I was a year ago. I have grown and have gained so much experience in the past 365 days, and that experience came from the decisions that I've had the opportunity to make at Eastern. From my first day on campus, I was in a completely new world compared to what I was used to. I had so many things to do, people to meet, and places to explore. I chose to go to the Christian Campus House, and that has had a huge impact on me and the course of my first year away from home.

I first heard about the Campus House from my older brother. After witnessing his experience and hearing his stories about CCH, I thought I would also give it a try. On my second night at Eastern, I went to an open-mic concert held there, and I was immediately introduced to a family of college students who, like me, had decided to check out this place. I was concerned about meeting people, but the people there that night, who were already a part of this close-knit community, were concerned about meeting me. The first couple of weeks of school, I was a little overwhelmed and struggled to remember the names of all the people I'd met, but I knew that there was a place where I was sought out, where I had a comforting sense of belonging. After spending a few weeks there, getting to know the people

involved, and hearing how their faith has been supported through their involvement with Campus House, I felt that it was right to continue being involved.

Throughout the year, the Campus House hosted several retreats, events, and service opportunities. Those events were all influential and I learned from them, but the bulk of the growth that I experienced came from the weekly routines. Every week, Campus House met on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and we would worship together and hear a message. Also, the Campus House offered the opportunity to join a "family group," which is a group that met once a week to follow a specific study plan. More than anything, the family groups and meetings provided accountability and a constant source of growth and support for my faith. Having a steady family of believers to be around every week made it easy to keep focused on my walk with God and check my faith. As that connection was nurtured with every week, I learned more and more and grew steadily throughout the year.

As I said before, the Christian Campus House has had a huge impact on me during the past year. It provided a great source of support for my faith, which was tested throughout the year. As it was tested, old questions were answered and new ones were brought up, and I learned much more about myself and about God than I would have if I had not found such a community. Eventually, I made the decision to be baptized, and I decided to go on a summer, short-term mission trip to Haiti that was sponsored by Campus House.



Tim Aberle

ANNUAL BANQUET 2009 CELEBRATING ROGER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH CCH

Our 2009 Annual Banquet proved to be unique in a number of ways. First of all, 2009 marked Christian Campus House's 39th year of ministry to the Eastern Illinois University Campus.

Also, at this year's banquet we celebrated my 25th year in campus ministry here. For me, personally, the tribute given me was both a great honor and a greatly humbling experience.

The past twenty-five years of ministry here at CCH have blessed me tremendously. I have been blessed to see our numbers of students steadily grow to the point that we were "bursting at the seams" in our old building.

I have been blessed to see us move into a multiple staff ministry, necessitated by our burgeoning numbers of students and broadening outreach ministries. Tammy Melchien, Ben Miller, Danah (Horner) Himes, and Matthew Thomas have all been more than just capable co-workers in ministry—they have been my great friends.

Our numerical growth first forced us to move our Sunday Worship Service on campus to Buzzard Auditorium... and

then, we were able to build this large addition on to our original Campus House. The new building has been such a tremendous tool for ministry it is impossible to overstate its value to our program.

And finally, our growth opened the door for us to initiate a program to bring on full-time graduate interns to serve as partners to our career staff. At this point I cannot imagine Christian Campus House without interns.

And, this year's banquet was the largest in our history! Over 360 students, parents, alumni, and friends from supporting churches enjoyed a great evening of fellowship, worship, and reminiscing.

Our offering this year (including gifts designated for the Annual Banquet that have trickled in over the past few weeks) totaled almost \$27,000.00. This offering (after expenses) will be used to help pay off our building debt (currently about \$159,000.00)

Mark your calendar now for next year's banquet to be held on APRIL 10TH, 2010. We will be celebrating CCH's 40th year of ministry!



by Roger Songer

Inductive Groups



Jessica Parmenter

An inductive Bible study is one that really tests how closely you read and understand a text. Through this study, I gained more understanding from scripture than I had in several years of reading it by myself. One of the most beneficial aspects of learning to break down scripture inductively is that instead of immediately jumping to the application of a verse (as in, “How do I apply this to my life?”), you first take the time to sit and chew on what the scripture is actually saying. By making this the first and most fundamental step of inductive study, misinterpretation is avoided and the application of scripture, when you get to it, is more practical.

I tend to be the type of person who, when learning new material, likes to get the big picture idea and then use little details along the way to support my thoughts. As a result, I often find myself in confusion, only partially understanding something that’s far more in-depth than what I allow it to be. After receiving several low scores on research papers and, often times, finding myself contradicting what I just said, it finally dawned on me, this method does not work very well! What I have loved about learning inductive study is that you start at the very roots, piecing it detail by detail, so when you’re finished, you have one fully-developed, complete picture of scripture. For the first time in a long time, I have felt confident in my understanding of God’s Word.

Hearing all this may make inductive study sound very academic, dry, maybe even boring, but it’s not! It’s not just words on paper, it’s the living Word of God himself, and to me that’s a few steps beyond exciting. Scripture is transformational, and learning to read scripture in an inductive style, to me, is invaluable to growing deeper in a relationship with a God who has compiled an entire book for us to know him more completely while we’re still here on this earth. I don’t want to miss out on or lessen an opportunity like that.

Nooma Groups



Emily Donsbach

This semester in some of our family groups we did a study based off of the Nooma videos by Rob Bell. Each week during our group we would watch a different video from the series and use the video to lead our groups in discussion. We would also give the students a few verses to read in preparation for the study. These scriptures would supplement the scriptures that Rob Bell would discuss in the videos. After we watched the video, we would discuss the ideas that each video presented. The videos focused on a new concept each week, so our groups were able to take a different direction after watching each video. The students liked the flexibility to cover a variety of topics throughout the semester. Most of the time, the groups would just flow along in conversation that stemmed from the video. Along with the scriptures for each video, we also had discussion questions to help direct our conversation. In addition to the topics that each video presented, many times our conversations would lead us into other topics that we often face during the college years. It was great to have a group of peers to be able to share our struggles with and discuss different questions that we had. This group was great for students that were looking for a more laid back type of study. The groups had less structure than other types of groups, so we were able to be open for whatever came up during our study. Overall, this study was a great option for our family groups. The students really enjoyed the videos and the discussions that came from them.

Arizona Trip Pics



Haiti Trip Pics



Alumni News:

- ❖ James and Jessica Drayton welcome a new baby girl, Abigail Drayton, born October 5, 2008. She weighed 8lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 3/4" long.

NEEDS...We Need it... You may have it:

1) A good overhead projector.

Now that your church is in the 21st century perhaps you have an overhead projector you no longer use. We still have a need for one in good condition (ours is on its last leg). If your church has a projector to donate to the cause please give us a call at 217-345-6776.

2) One of our two new interns needs a car.

Do you have a serviceable "jalopy" taking up room in your driveway and don't know what to do with it? Augie Kim could use wheels. Give us a call (217-345-6990) and we will gladly pass your generous gift along to Augie.

Reminder:

ANNUAL BANQUET (Saturday April 10th, 2010 at 6:00 pm):

Mark your calendar now for our 2010 Annual Banquet. The banquet will be celebrating 40 years of ministry at Campus Hosue and again will be held in our own building here at Christian Campus House, 2231 S. 4th Street in Charleston. This banquet is for people from our supporting churches, alumni, parents, and pretty much anyone else who is interested in our ministry to the students of EIU.

Financial Snapshot

General fund:

Our current fiscal year began on August 1, 2008. For the current fiscal year to date (Aug. 1, 2008 through May 26, 2009) our income has been \$249,974.62. Our expenses (not including building loan payments) have been \$222,438.10. This leaves us with a net income of \$26,536.52 for our current fiscal year. We are in a healthier place than we have been for the past few years.

However, Summer months always are slow financially, and we often see a large dip in our reserves. Please consider becoming a regular financial supporter of CCH.

Building Debt:

Current debt stands at \$159,000.00. We still need people who will actively help us pay down our indebtedness. If you would like to help out, make your check to CCH and designate it to "Building Fund." Thank you.

217.345.6990

www.campus-house.com

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