

# ADOPT-A-CAMPUS USER GUIDE

(for chapters that dare...)

by Kathy Haug

If just 1/2 of our current 909 chapters adopted a campus for the duration of this student generation, we could serve 1000 campuses by 2017. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Or are they? Our movement has 38,000 members and 1,025 field staff...that's a lot of missionaries poised to do something incredible right now!

In creation healthy things don't merely grow, they multiply. From the Genesis narrative on, living things are given what is needed to reproduce in like kind. We believe disciples should make disciples and perhaps even that mature small groups should produce new small groups. But do we believe that chapters are not fully vibrant until they plant a new chapter? What if this became a normal part in the life of every fellowship in our movement?

I know the objections; I've had them myself.

"I already have more to do than time to do it."

"My current fellowship might suffer if we're overextended."

"There are plenty of unreached people on my campus."

"Maybe when we hire more staff."

"Maybe when my funding is better."

There are likely campuses within an hour of you on which there is no witnessing community, where people are just waiting to hear the gospel. Would you start even with a tithe of your time to serve a nearby campus? Just 4 hours a week to see what might happen?

On the back of this sheet are a couple FAQs for each step on the journey of adopting a campus. Thank you for daring. Thank you for longing to bring your chapter to full vibrancy & health by starting something new on a neighboring campus.

## CARE

Q: What if we don't even care about our own campus enough?

A: We never do, right? You'll be amazed at how caring about another campus makes students care MORE, not less, about their own school.

Q: What if our chapter doesn't develop a burden to adopt?

A: Sometimes you just have to be there. Go to the next step; get on campus. Hear stories of people who long for what you have. Talk to students, parents or friends who already care about this place.

## EXPLORE

Q: What do we do as we meet interested people?

A: First of all, get organized. Keep track of every promising contact you make; follow up on each lead as soon as you can. Give a student "Start Something New" & see what they try. Invite to something on your campus, but be clear you hope to empower them to see a new group where they are. Pray together on their turf. Have them introduce you to their friends, classmates and professors.

Q: What do you mean by "Sister Org" groups?

A: If your students are in Habitat, try a group project with their chapter. If you have Greek Life & so do they, see if there are house connections. What about arts groups, athletes or cultural clubs?

## CONNECT

Q: How do we know if we've found someone with missional Christian qualities?

A: Check out the Chapter Planting Resources on the ministry exchange, especially "Recognizing & Awakening Missional Christians on Campus" by Chris Nichols

Q: Are students ready to share the gospel on a campus that is new to them?

A: Sometimes it's easier to be bold with new friends than old ones. Give them the Big Story gospel training and have them apply their learning on both the campuses they now care about.

## LAUNCH

Q: Do we need to make this official or something?

A: Yes! Be a recognized group on campus if at all possible to have full access for planting efforts. Start an in-process affiliation application with InterVarsity as well.

Q: How will we capitalize on momentum, especially if there's a lot to manage?

A: Try to give your core students on the new campus real influence early. They can lead GIGs, do follow-up & run d-cycles with students too! Supplement with you and your students as needed.

## MULTIPLY

Q: What if we're not sure they're ready? It's such a new chapter.

A: If it's not a part of the culture early, it's hard to add in later. New Christians make the best evangelists, right? Could new chapters make the best planters too? They need to be empowered to know they have all that is needed in their community to multiply too!

Q: What if things don't work out as we hope?

A: Whether your adopted campus has a chapter that lasts one year, one student generation or outlasts the life of your current chapter, I believe it is a risk worth taking. We can't know the future & nothing that grows on earth can last forever. May we still be faithful to go into the harvest field and see what God might do. For God's glory & 1000 campuses!