

TELLING THE STORY OF THE CAMPUS EVANGELISM MOVEMENT

Campus Ministry Workshop – Harding University – July 5-7

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Appreciative for the opportunity.
- B. Amazing how Campus Evangelism has re-surfaced:
 - 1. Doug Foster and the taping at ACU
 - 2. The CE mini-reunion in Ft. Worth
 - 3. The Reconciliation Service at SMU in Dallas
 - 4. The resurgence of letters, articles and phone calls
 - 5. The CE blog.
- C. The real story has never been told by those who led Campus Evangelism

II. THE CULTURE AND TIMES IN WHICH CE WAS BIRTHED

- A. Rebellion and sometimes anarchy on the University campuses
- B. Unrest in the nation over the Viet Nam war
- C. Hostility and Heresy hunting – the prevailing mood in the Churches of Christ.
- D. Churches of Christ loosing the battle on the college and university campus.

III. MOTIVES BEHIND THE STARTING OF CE

- A. Our close association with the Bible Chair at Texas Tech and desire to “see more happen” there and elsewhere
- B. The Message of Wes Reagan at the ACU Lectures
- C. The Survey of Bible Chairs and the alarming statistics.
- D. To foster the creation of evangelistic campus ministries
- E. What might have been our unstated motives:
 - 1. To effect Change in Churches of Christ
 - 2. To enlighten the CofC students re: Grace, The Holy Spirit
 - 3. To see worship become a greater reality
 - 4. To promote the release of women in worship and ministry

IV. MISTAKES THAT WERE MADE INVOLVING CE

- A. CE leaders did not strongly pursue an alliance with existing campus ministries and Bible Chairs.
- B. The Hiring of certain personnel.
- C. The Failure to adequately brief Bill Bright before he spoke in Dallas. .
- D. The unwillingness of key Christian leaders to come out in support of CE.
- E. The moving of CE from Lubbock to Burke Rd. Church in Pasadena
- F. The CE leadership’s participation in the Freed-Hardeman hearings.
- G. The lack of a broad financial support base for Campus Evangelism

V. FACTORS THAT ENHANCED CE’S APPEAL TO STUDENTS

- A. An Open Atmosphere in the CE meetings

- B. The increasing presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- C. The acceptance of women as full participants
- D. The small groups where students could openly share and pray
- E. The inter-racial nature of all of the CE gatherings
- F. CE's willingness to address the burning issues facing students in the 60's
- G. CE gatherings always included labs as well as lectures
- H. Students were given the opportunity to testify to their faith and experience
- I. The excellence of CE publications that were on the cutting edge.
- J. The best defense is a strong offense. This was our intended posture.
- K. Worship was expanding and contemporary.
- L. The speakers and teachers were men who were in the forefront of what God was doing in the '60's.
- M. CE's willingness to go elsewhere, outside the fellowship, to find resources that could be utilized.
- N. Focus on relationships and reality rather than traditions and religion.

VI. RESULTS

- A. To some "relief and good riddance."
 - B. To some Christian leaders who stood with us.
 - C. To those who participated as our speakers and resource leaders
 - D. To those of us deeply involved
 - E. The blog may help us in determining lasting impact on people's lives, On campuses, on the church, etc.
- http://rexvermillion.typepad.com/campus_evangelism_40/ or contact Rex Vermillion at rexv@suddenlink.net

VII. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

- A. A new breed of Christian students
- B. A new atmosphere and attitude in the churches
- C. A renewed interest in revival and spiritual awakening
- D. A new willingness to take risks and do exploits
- E. The greater possibility of new paradigms.
- F. New Technology and Communications Media
- G. A greater understanding of the cost involved to students and leaders.

THE BOTTOM LINE – CHANGED LIVES

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