



**NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE
WEEK OF
PRAYER**

Day 1

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) is the Southern Baptist program of collegiate ministry currently on 839 college campuses. BCM celebrates 85 years of continuous ministry! While BCM is our national name, several states use different terms for our campus ministry. Whether BCM, BSU, BSM, or Christian Challenge, our desire continues to be to lead students to faith in God through Jesus Christ, to guide students in Christian growth, and to involve students in the local church.

Today would you pray by name for the BCM Staff on a campus near you? These campus ministers are your missionaries to thousands of college students. Please pray for wisdom, vision, energy, key student relationships, and a fresh sense of God's call to share Jesus with their campus.

Also, pray for BCM student leaders. Pray for passion, commitment, time management, protection, and personal witness opportunities. Pray that these Christian students would live out the call of Christ on their college campus and lead others to also do so.

Pray for college students who do not have a relationship with Jesus. Pray that they would be drawn to welcome events, lunch programs, retreats, Freshman nights, etc. which are sponsored by BCM. Pray that they would encounter genuine friendship which would point them to Christ!

"The only thing that counts is faith, active in love." Galatians 5:6 Pray that your BCM would have many opportunities to actively love collegians and point them to faith in Jesus this year.

Day 2

LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

There is no better “mission team” than the local body of Christ that is made up of believers with the different talents, gifts, and resources it takes to creatively and effectively reach the most unique person – a college student! If a local church is in close proximity to a university campus, they can provide staff or volunteers to lead campus Bible studies, disciple college students who come to their church, train them in God’s Word through Sunday School or just feed students a meal- the greatest bridge builder there is! A church can also partner with campus organizations to provide resources that will help reach international students, athletes, or any other student group. Many Christian campus ministries are struggling for support and need financial help, many student groups are looking for business leaders to give insight and expertise to their members – both of which can be serviced by the local church body.

Whether a church is near a campus or not, prayer support is the greatest ministry there is. Our college students are bombarded daily with temptation, their beliefs are being challenged, and for many their faith is being undermined by the enemy. We as the local church must engage in battle through prayer on behalf of our students, and realize that spiritual warfare is a necessity when it comes to the task of protecting and guiding our students to seek and stand for the Truth. Organize your church membership to pray specifically for the students from your congregation, mail them notes of encouragement, and call them on a regular basis. This will insure a solid connection with a church family they can depend on for shelter in the stormy times of college life.

Pray that our students will “be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power, putting on all of God’s armor so that they will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil”. Remember that “we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places”. (Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT)

Day 3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An amazing opportunity has been afforded us as God's people. Besides the privilege of going into the entire world to share the Gospel, American colleges and universities are bringing the world to us! As of today over 500,000 international students are studying in the United States. It is overwhelming to think about the impact that could be made around the world if these internationals are reached for Christ. These students are the "best of the best" from their countries, and are the future leaders that could become the primary decision makers back at home. If we as a church take seriously the task of ministering to this population, we could very well see major impact that could usher revival into the uttermost parts of the world!

Christian student organizations, local churches, and many lay volunteers are answering the call to design ministries that help meet the needs of these students. As new friendships grow, these internationals are being introduced to the love of Christ. These students are open, eager, and willing to learn all they can about our culture, which makes them even more spiritually receptive than a typical American student. While U.S. students are becoming more open to New Age and mystic religion, these international students are coming from countries where they have followed these religions for years and are growing weary of them. They are searching for concrete answers, spirituality with consistency, and a religion that focuses their life, not one that confuses and leaves them thirsty for more.

Pray that Christian college students will become more and more burdened for the international students on their campuses, and be willing to nurture friendships and be intentional about exposing these foreign students to the Gospel in creative ways.

Day 4

STUDENTS REACHING THE LOST ON THEIR CAMPUS

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” I Peter 3:15

There are literally millions of college students all over the world that do not have a relationship with Christ which makes the college campus the largest mission field in the United States. The exciting reality is that this is the time they are searching for truth which makes “the fields ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35) Never before has there been such openness to spiritual knowledge on college campuses, and we must pray that the quest for knowledge will lead students to other believers who are prepared and passionate about sharing the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

The most powerful evangelistic tool on any campus is not an organization or program, but a Christian college student who has a burden for the lost and becomes intentional about reaching other students. The mission work takes place in the college dormitory, the classroom, and on the athletic fields. We must pray that our students learn to see with spiritual eyes so that they begin to love the lost with a purpose, play sports with a purpose, join a study group with a purpose, and campaign for student government with a purpose – all with the motivation to connect with as many people as possible in order to be the light that shows the love of God.

We have seen countless students get serious about the things of God simply because someone cared enough to pray for them, someone invited them to church or to a Bible study, or someone just decided to develop a new friendship which opened the door to spiritual conversation. Pray that our college students who know Christ will grow in their love for Him and become purposeful in reaching their peers for the Kingdom.

Day 5

Spiritual Growth

70% of young adults ages 23-30 who attended a Protestant church twice a month or more for at least a year in high school stopped attending church regularly for at least a year between ages 18-22. A 70% dropout rate is heart breaking. Students cite judgmental church members, moving to college, work responsibilities, busyness, and simply wanting a break as reasons for leaving church. *

Young adults who stay active in church during their college years do so because church helps guide their decisions, the pastor's sermons are relevant, and at least 1 adult from church has made a significant investment in them personally and spiritually between the ages of 15 and 18.*

We must pray! We must pray for the 70% who will leave. Some students are considering leaving right now. Some didn't mean to leave but are recognizing that it's been a while since they attended church. Your prayers and a simple note or call will mean much in a college student's life.

We must pray for the 30% of once involved college aged adults who will stay involved in church. Much growth takes place in a young adult's life between high school graduation and college graduation. A growing relationship with Christ is crucial as students are making life changing decisions during these years. Pray for collegians who seek to take their relationship with God to the next level.

"It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."
Philippians 2:13 Pray for those students who desire God to work in their lives and for those who do not.

*To read the entire study on the church dropout rate, go to www.lifewayresearch.com.

Day 6

The Faculty / Staff / Administration of Universities & Colleges

"I urge you to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority." I Tim 2:1-2

Hundreds of thousands of Americans find their callings and careers at institutions of higher education. They serve as professors, administrators, or support staff. The potential of their influence and mark upon each generation is enormous. They are shapers of student's lives. There is an opportunity unmatched in any other career field as hundreds of students come across their lives on a daily basis. The cultural environment they share with peers is filled with opportunity and tension as well. Please join us in praying:

- Pray that staff / professors are filled with wisdom and sensitivity as discern opportunities to share the love of Christ and truth of the Gospel with students as well as with coworkers.
- That students will have courageous and discerning hearts as they sift through information and teacher biases; giving effort to seeking truth.
- There would be an approachability between students and professors for the influence of God's love; an openness to relational exchange.
- That Christ-following professors / staff will stand firm in their witness and strong under persecution in secular (highly sensitive) environments.

Day 7

The Strength and Wholeness of Students' Relationships

"Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on." Hebrews 10:24, The Message

So much of answering, "How are you doing?" is connected to, "How are they doing?" Our entire lives revolve **around** and weave through the lives of others – our family, our friends, our loves. Please take this moment to pray for the two central relationships of students.

Family

Students are going through the defining of their adulthood. They are discovering new scenarios and understanding new dynamics of relating to parents and siblings. Many students begin to see their home in a more mature and objective manner. This often causes them to reflect on, question, and even challenge their upbringing. The question many seek to find the answer to is: *"What does it mean for who I am now and who I am going to be?"* Please pray:

- **For** a sense a blessing to be shared from parents to kids **at** they live their college years (over career paths, grade performance, finances).
- **For** forgiveness and grace to overcome disappointment, hurt, and pain.
- **For God's truth** to replace lies, especially in the formation of student's self identity and security.
- **For** student's **broken-home** situations to be restored **and dealt with**, not ignored.
- **For students** to continue to honor **their** mom and dad; **for parents to continue** to teach and train.

Girlfriend / Boyfriend

For most students, **there aren't many issues in life greater than the questions involving the opposite sex: *To date? Not to date? Who to date? When will I marry? What if I don't ever find someone to love me?*** Strong patterns of communication and sexuality are set during the college years. Ultimately, many students make engagement / marriage decisions during **these crucial years**. Please pray:

- **For** student's personal contentment in their identity in Christ and not in a mate.
- **For** students **to** be equipped to establish healthy marriages.
- **For students to have courage** and faith in God's plan for marriage even when they have lived through poor reflections and models in their parents.

- **For** healing and freedom from past dating failures and mistakes; a true sense of forgiveness and acceptance over their shame and guilt.
- **For** students to strongly embrace sexual purity and **chastity**.
- That their love will always protect, trust, hope, and persevere; may it be full of respect and honor.