



Transforming MU NEWS FROM UWE



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2004

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is a community where we love people, care for people, are passionate about Jesus Christ and the things of God.

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I am back from my travels to Germany, Chicago and Haiti for over a month now. Chi Alpha is going strong again this semester. There are around 10 to 15 new students who joined this January already, and we are excited about the remaining months. All of those new students have great testimonies, but I do not have the space to print them all. I do not want you to miss on two testimonies, though; they are just amazing in how God is doing an awesome work.

Since I have not had a chance to report on Chicago and Haiti yet, I am taking the back side of this newsletter to tell you how God moved over the break. He sure did not take a break. Again, I will only be able to let you know about the highlights of those trips. Unfortunately, I do not have any pictures available at this time, but feel free to contact me if you want to know more or want to see pictures that I will receive hopefully soon.

Thank you so much, dear supporters, for supporting me financially and in prayers. Prayer precedes everything. Without intercession God would not have done a major miracle in Haiti (see back). At our two last prayer meetings in Chi Alpha, we had 37 and 40 students praying. God has no limits or boundaries in what He can do. He is preparing something un-imaginable and un-expectable. I am excited in anticipation to see more of God and to be able to serve Him at such a time as this. I pray that this year started as well for you as it did for me, and that God has tremendous blessings for you during the rest of this great year. As always, let us stand in the gap together for the sake of Christ.

TESTIMONIES

Hektor Ciftja is from Albania.

He was an English professor there and involved in politics. **Hektor** is in the United States for a year studying journalism on a graduate level at MU. Last semester we were inviting him to International Student Friendship (ISF) events and he cautiously checked us out, coming to only a couple ISF activities. This semester he told us that we are his pastors now, he wants to learn more of God, grow closer to Him, and evangelize Albania when he goes back.

Hektor Ciftja

Hektor now comes to all Chi Alpha services, Chi Alpha activities, and ISF events. He also joined my cell group (Bible study) learning about the gifts of the Spirit. Here are some quotes by **Hektor**:

- Everyone in Chi Alpha - you guys are special people.
- It is great to come to Chi Alpha - I see so much love, acceptance, and devotion in you all.
- Thank you for all your resources, and your Bible studies: They really make me think. They are a good challenge.
- God is working in me. I experience Him.

Ivy Taylor came to MU this school year from Colorado.

Three weeks ago—her third time at Chi Alpha—she testified: For five years she was stuck in an abusive relationship and a life filled with loneliness, fear, and rejection. The reason of her transfer to MU was to follow the guy in her relationship. At the end of last year, when she was abused once again, she sat down and read her Bible. She decided to come to Chi Alpha - she saw our posters and flyers. Before our first service this semester she needed to collect some courage and she asked her downstairs neighbor to come with her. Reluctantly she agreed. They both went to our regular meeting place — Jesse Wrench Auditorium — only to find signs directing them to Mark Twain Ballroom. The university had moved us that week. Scared they followed the signs. They almost decided to not enter the room; after all, there are so many people in Chi Alpha they didn't know. **Ivy** feared that she would be judged because of her past, and that was the least she needed. But she saw Jessica and me at the sign-in table, smiling at her and inviting her in. At once she felt more comfortable and joined worship. Then Pastor Winston shared the message. At one point he asked "What is holding you back? I challenge you to lay it at the altar tonight and to run the race for God." That's when **Ivy** knew that God was providing liberty for her. **Ivy** told us that she found a supportive, loving group of friends in us, following a loving and fulfilling God. "The last two months of last year appeared to me like two years. The last two weeks with you guys have gone by like two days. I feel like a brand new person. I feel like I have a home!"

Ivy Taylor

Praise the Lord for transformed lives. That's why I am on campus.

“For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime” (Psalms 30:5)

Germany

Between Dec 9 and Dec 26 last year I visited Germany. I had a good time meeting with friends and celebrating Christmas with my parents and family for the first time in six years. I also had the opportunity to join with about 20 prayer warriors who cover the 24-hour prayer in Germany once a month in Cologne. A prayer focus is that the European nations will include a reference to God in the new constitution that is worked on this year.

SALT in Chicago

Between Dec 27, 2003 and Jan 1, 2004, 52 students and staff of Mizzou Chi Alpha attended the SALT conference in Chicago. Students left the conference re-energized and with a new fire to live 100% for God. God used the speakers to challenge and encourage students. Here are two comments from our students

- “I was the biggest skeptic of speaking in tongues and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but God has been working on me for four months. Last night I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and finally I understand! Also, worship really helped me to surrender and give my life, past, present, and future to God's service and His will.”
- “He has shown me how I have let a cloud hang over my head, forming a ceiling that was making it so difficult to hear Him. He has given me the courage and strength to rebuke 'clouds' and to rejoice in Him - no matter what!”

Haiti

In Chi Alpha we believe that "every student prays, every student gives, and every student goes" on missions trips at least once during their studies at a university. And indeed, a team of 15 Chi Alpha staff and students went to Haiti between Jan 4 and Jan 15. It was an extreme missions trip and by far the greatest one yet.

We went to Haiti during their 200 year anniversary of independence from France. Although there were news reports on demonstrations and violence in Haiti, we did not experience any problem; in fact, this seemed our least hostile and calmest trip. Our missionary, Pastor Bob, told us that there were many mosquitoes around our orphanage up to the day before we arrived, and we heard they came back after we left. God took care of us in any aspect.

While being in Haiti, we played soccer with the kids, helped with the feeding program and children's ministry, preached at churches, and went to houses praying for people. We saw many salvations at those activities, for example, we presented the gospel and prayed a prayer of salvation with about 20 kids after a soccer match. All these things are praiseworthy, but there are two events that were really special and that showed God's power to everyone.

One of the days we made a very special day for the Haitians. We decorated for Christmas and prepared a huge meal. Instead of them serving us, we made everyone sit down at the tables and we served them. Then we joined them and ate together. After the meal and dessert, we passed out presents - and lots of them. When they were all distributed, everyone was told they could open them. The kids dove into the mounds of gifts piled in front of them, uncovering toys, clothes, radios, watches, school supplies and backpacks. In Haiti, where most people earn less than a quarter a day, it was unbelievable for them. It was the first time anyone had done something like this for them.

In previous trips we had seen a voodoo priestess saved, and people that were highly involved in voodoo come to Christ. But this time, God had a major miracle for us. On one day that we went out visiting people, one of our teams ended up stopping at a house of a voodoo priest. As we found out later, he was the high voodoo priest of the whole region. Pastor Winston talked with the man named Gerald and at the end of the conversation, he agreed that Pastor Winston could come back the next day at 4 p.m. At about 3:30, our team got together to begin interceding for Pastor Winston's visit, Gerald's salvation, and that he would be willing to leave behind his only source of income: payments for voodoo chants, potions, etc. Winston returned after about 15 minutes with the news that Gerald was in the middle of a voodoo ritual. Someone had come to him with a situation, so he was contacting spirits on their behalf. Gerald's wife had said that Pastor Winston could come back in an hour and see if he was done. We made the plan that we would always have at least two people interceding until we saw Gerald saved. We declared the roof of the orphanage to be the place of prayer for us. After a few people had dinner, we all joined together as Winston headed down for a second visit. After intense intercession and five visits by Pastor Winston, Gerald renounced voodoo and prayed for Jesus to be his Lord and Savior at about 8:30 that evening. The Haitians rejoiced with us when we heard the news. Pastor Bob compared the magnitude of Gerald getting saved with us holding a thousand church services. This was the biggest stronghold Satan had in the area, but now it is broken. We prayed by faith in the name of Jesus, and God rescued Gerald.

In January 2003 we had a morning worship service, singing "Let the river flow." In the ensuing prayer session, God gave several of us a vision of how our place will be a well for the area, how the river will flow stronger and stronger in our area, in the valley, and how it will spread from there. We are seeing this vision start to come to pass, but it is not complete yet. We are going back to Haiti May 17 to June 1, 2004, with very specific plans and an open heart to God's plans that we can't even begin to imagine.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please be led by the Spirit whenever you pray for me. I believe that God will show you my prayer needs clearer than what I can ever ask for. The main prayer requests that came to my mind this time are these:

- further growth in Chi Alpha, in number and spiritually; people touched and transformed
- smooth preparations for our return trip to Haiti
- Thank God for resolving the political situation in Haiti just a few days ago. Please pray for further calming down of the situation, so that besides us many other Christians can go back quickly
- success in increasing my support team