

2023

Annual
Report

CAMPUS OUTREACH CHARLOTTE



**Glorifying
God by
building
laborers on
the campus
for the lost
world.**

*Campus
Outreach*

Letter from the *Director*

Have you ever felt scattered? Like there were too many things going on in your life, too many things to do, too many people to respond to, too many obligations to fulfill? I'm sure everyone has felt scattered from time to time. Unfortunately, it feels like scattered is becoming the new norm in today's day and age. And normally, that's not a recipe for success in one's life. It's surely not a recipe for fruitfulness in ministry. The past several years have brought about many distractions in all of our lives. Church leaders have had to spend time focused on many things besides the message of the Gospel, not to mention the constant distraction of our phones and computers and screens. There have been some good distractions. There have been some necessary distractions. But no matter what, all distractions are just that... distractions! It is becoming more and more imperative for Christian leaders and ministries to have a renewed level of focus on their vision and mission.

For Campus Outreach, our vision is simple: we are all about laborers! That's our focus. That's our mission. We invest our lives on college campuses because we believe that it's among the most strategic places to see men and women transformed by the message of the Gospel and grow into lifelong laborers for the Kingdom of God. That's what 2023 has been about: focus. And by God's grace, we've seen His blessing on that. We are thankful to report that more students have been impacted because of that focus. More students have attended our conferences, retreats, and projects in recent years because our staff have had a renewed level of focus on building laborers. More have participated in Bible studies and equipping opportunities. More have been mobilized to serve Christ in the workplace and in the church.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful support of our ministry. Your partnership allows us to remain focused on sharing Christ with those who are far from Christ and investing in those who need to be built up into Christ.



In Christ,
Zach Fulginiti
CO Charlotte Executive Director

1,426
STUDENTS

33
STAFF

11
CAMPUSES

253

one-to-one Gospel
presentations by staff

**15 students
made professions
of faith in Christ**

23

students engaged in
committed discipleship

106

students involved in campus
leadership teams

**19 graduating seniors
engaged in intentional
mobilization process**

Multiplication on *the Campus*

Shelbi Santiago

UNC Charlotte Campus Staff

College students have a lot on their plates. On top of being on their own for the first time, figuring out how to juggle responsibilities, and adjusting to a whole new way of life, they are figuring out who they are, what they believe, and what they want to be about for the rest of their lives. They are really passionate about doing well in school, getting internships, setting themselves up for success, and investing in friendships and relationships they hope to carry into their post-grad futures, too.

In recent years, our staff have seen a decrease in the number of students who arrive at college with a relationship with Christ, while the number of students who do come into college with a Christian background continue to walk away from their faith, and the church, at increasing rates. Daily, we see evidence of increased mental health issues, suicidal thoughts, alcohol abuse, addictions, and more. In sororities and fraternities, all of these realities are further heightened. There are increased pressures to get the best grades, fit in with their peers, and even more opportunities to partake in activities that can lead to harm.



God has grown my vision for being used by Him in the lives of others by showing me how much potential impact there is right where He's placed me. I had no idea that ministry could happen with those closest to you who may not know Jesus. This vision has made me look at where I am completely differently. I see it as an opportunity to be used to share His love.

Gracie - UNC Charlotte '24

I have been on staff with Campus Outreach for the past 2 years and spend the majority of my time investing in the lives of sorority women at UNC Charlotte. The Lord is graciously at work in and through the lives of Greek students on campus. **The number of Greeks involved with Bible studies, CO events, and church continues to grow. I have personally seen three women give their lives to Christ and watched the Lord work through students to reach a third spiritual generation! Here's one of those amazing stories:**

When I first met Gracie, she was a sophomore in college who had just come to faith and joined a sorority on campus. She was learning how to walk with God and decided to attend one of our CO Summer Leadership Projects. Over the eight weeks she spent on the "LP" she not only built a foundation for walking with the Lord herself, but also grew increasingly burdened for her sorority sisters, many of whom grew up in church but did not grasp the truth of the Gospel for themselves. She left that summer asking for discipleship and wanting to invite her sisters to experience Christ and Christ-centered community. One of these sorority sisters was a student named Claudia, whom Gracie was faithful to invite to CO events, Bible studies, and church. Gracie was even strategic about helping me set up time with Claudia to get to know her myself. One day, I was meeting with Claudia on campus for a one-on-one and she brought up some questions she had from a Bible study I was leading. By God's grace, there was a clear opportunity to share my personal testimony and the Gospel with her. Through this conversation, Claudia realized that while she grew up going to church and believing God was real, she hadn't really surrendered her life to Him and repented of her sin. **Right there at a little table behind the Student Union, Claudia made the decision to do what she had been putting off for years, and gave her life to Christ! After that, Gracie and I both worked to help establish Claudia in her faith and teach her the foundations of walking with God.**

In the spring, with Claudia now joining us, our discipleship group grew to three and the Lord was faithful to use me and the ministry of CO to not only establish these ladies in their faith but equip them to start sharing with others. Although there were hard things going on in their sorority, they made the decision to stick with it in order to be all in on sharing their faith with their sisters. Together they prayed for their sisters, including a student named Ari. **They were intentional to build a friendship with Ari, study the Bible with her, and one day, Claudia took a leap and shared the Gospel with her using Romans 6:23 - replicating the same conversation I had with her just the semester before.** Through that conversation, Ari realized that she had been loving her sin more than God, and talked to Claudia about what it would mean to really own her faith and walk with God. Another sister they prayed for was Claire, who was already firm in her faith but who they were hoping would come and be equipped alongside them. Claire ended up coming to our 2023 Summer Leadership Project and came away eager and equipped to share her faith and pursue discipleship opportunities. Our discipleship group is now a group of four women doing life together, praying for the lost, and sharing their faith on the campus. Before meeting Gracie, I did not know a single girl in Sigma Alpha Omega, but by God's grace, I have now been engaged with most of the sorority sisters, have seen many grow in spiritual maturity and curiosity, and have even seen God change lives.

Claire graduates this December and plans to become a teacher. Gracie graduates in the Spring. Claudia graduates in two years. **Please join us in praying that both now and after graduation these women will continue to multiply their lives and be faithful to the call to be disciples that make disciples.** These are just a couple of the many stories of how God is drawing students to Himself and equipping them to reach their peers. We have seen over ten students profess faith at UNC Charlotte in just the past year, four of them in Greek life! God is truly doing amazing things.



International Ministry

Maria Cruzat

UNC Charlotte Campus Staff

There are over one million international students hailing from over 200 countries who have chosen to come to the United States for their studies. For the past year and a half, the Lord has given me the joy and privilege to show love and care to our international students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC). The university has welcomed about 2,200 students from 99 different countries. Of these 2,200 students, about 75% are graduate students, 13% are undergraduate students, and the rest are in the English Language Training program, an exchange student, or on other visa types. Almost 60% are coming from India followed by students from Bangladesh, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. The Lord is moving powerfully in their home countries, making Himself known. However, there are many barriers that have made for limited access to the good news of Jesus. The Lord has given us an opportunity to share Jesus with them in word and deed while they are in a country with high accessibility to the Gospel.

International student ministry is very rewarding and has effects on global mission. While it can take many years for a missionary to learn a new culture, students that are studying abroad in the US will be able to transition back into their home countries faster than a non-native. **The Lord has given international students, often coming from countries that are hardest to reach with the Gospel, the opportunity to hear about Christ, connect with Gospel-centered local churches, and read the Bible freely.**

Students have left behind what is familiar to them - their family, their friends, their homes, and much of their culture (language, mannerisms, religion, systems of belief) and have entered into a new context. Some come to the US with a posture of openness, acceptance, trust, and adaptability while others come with suspicion, fear, superiority, or prejudice. Regardless of their posture when they enter the country, cross-cultural living comes with much dissonance. As a result, they might feel frustrated, misunderstood, confused, tense, or embarrassed. There is a clear need to help them with this transition. This can be from welcoming them during their first weeks in the country and helping provide anything they need for their new home, celebrating their festivals with them and inviting them to our holidays, sharing meals with them, and becoming friends and family to them. International student ministry is a great opportunity for people of all generations to get involved with. Students often miss their grandparents, parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews. About three out of every four international students never make it to a US home during their time



in the States. As ambassadors of Jesus, we get to welcome them with the love of Christ, walking alongside them as friends and family.

At UNCC, the Lord has given much favor with relationships to many international students. Cultivating friendships and trust is important. **I remember in late December, one international student said to me "Maria, you are my first non-international friend."** It was hard to hear that it took four months for an international student to make a friend with a non-international student. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated instance. I have heard this multiple times from students. Just as Christ has been the ultimate bridge allowing us to move from enemies to friends of God, we can create a bridge of friendship between us and international students and show them what a relationship with God looks like.

While we can offer friendship and hospitality, international students have a lot to offer us that we can learn from. While some students might not have ever heard the Gospel, there are some that are strong in their faith that have stirred me in my faith. They have taught me how to be present in conversations, slow down, and how great God is through the diverse ways he has created us! We are blessed to have international friends in the US!



UNC CHARLOTTE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2163 STUDENTS
from
99 COUNTRIES

1640 GRADUATE STUDENTS
283 UNDERGRADUATE

TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. INDIA | 6. NIGERIA |
| 2. BANGLADESH | 7. KUWAIT |
| 3. CHINA | 8. VIETNAM |
| 4. IRAN | 9. GERMANY |
| 5. SAUDI ARABIA | 10. GHANA |

LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

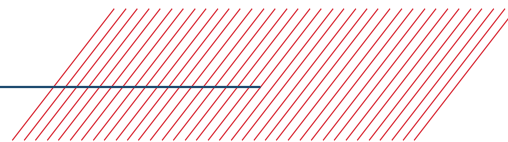
Philip Thomas
Greensboro Area Director

In February 2016, I vividly recall taking a day of prayer on NC A&T's campus. Joined by a few other guys, we walked and prayed, asking God, "Lord, if it be your will, open up the doors here on campus so that we might be able to reach more students with the Gospel at a Historically Black College and University." Though daunting to imagine something that didn't exist, we were hopeful. We knew barriers would arise, and so we sought the Lord for wisdom, courage, and faith as we sought to labor in a new context.

Two years later, God had provided a team of people to begin ministering at NC A&T full time. But we still needed a church and a community into which we could welcome these new students. As we prayed and explored, it became clear that King's Cross Church was the answer to both of these questions. From the beginning, it was clear that KCC was committed to seeing God work through Campus Outreach staff to reach students with the Gospel, even though it was likely going to take time for those students to commit to a local church. The church began praying that they would see four A&T students become members whenever the Lord would provide it.



In the fall of 2018, we began ministry on the campus. An initial connection to the football program led to a team lunch hosted by the church. As other ministry doors opened around campus we faithfully invited students to experience both the ministry of Campus Outreach and community of the church. Fast forward to almost four years later, and we finally saw our first two students choose to become members at King's Cross! **The relationships students formed with individuals, families, lay ministry leaders, and staff were crucial to their desire to commit more deeply to the church. Through the faithful proclamation of God's Word, life-on-life living with church members, and the on-the-ground ministry of Campus Outreach staff, God is growing a vibrant ministry at North Carolina A&T ministry and within a local congregation.** Since those first two students joined the church, many more have become members from across the Triad area, including nearly a dozen NC A&T students. Our God is so kind and generous, giving far more abundantly than all that we could ever ask or think.





Justin (Wingate '13) & **Mandy** (Elon '15) **Giersbrook**
King's Cross Church members and
Campus Outreach Alumni



We have seen college students come to our community group, sharing their hearts for their classmates, roommates, and friends and it allows us to pray alongside them as they share Christ on their campus. To see college students live out their faith within the local church has been a special encouragement that has provided rich conversation and challenged us to invest in our city/community as they are investing into others on their campus. We've just enjoyed knowing them and having them in our home, whether it be playing chase with our daughter after community group or sharing a meal. They have brought fresh excitement to the wonder of the Gospel.

Michael - NC A&T '25



My decision to become a member at King's Cross Church was influenced by the church's effort to show Christlike love in the most selfless ways. King's Cross has inspired me to live out Hebrews 10:24-25 in all categories of life and has impacted me to pursue Christ in the unity of the local body.



Jayla - NC A&T '25



There is not a Sunday morning that I leave King's Cross Church without learning something new. This Christ-centered church always increases my knowledge of Christ through His Word, which then stirs my affections for Him. The overflow of affections I have then carries throughout all aspects of my life, helping me live out the mission He has called me to on campus.



Amber - NC A&T '25



King's Cross Church has surrounded me with women who love the Lord and have a desire to share their love for the Lord with me. I've gone to several women for advice about different areas of my life, and I have appreciated how they've always pointed me back to Christ and the Scriptures. I've grown in my desire to make Jesus Lord of every area of my life, both the small and big areas of my life.



Clint Darst (UNC Charlotte '04)

*Former Campus Outreach student and staff and
Current Senior Pastor at King's Cross Church*



Partnering with Campus Outreach has helped bring an evangelistic vibrancy and joy that is impossible to quantify or qualify. We love seeing God work in and through this ministry at King's Cross Church!



ANSWERED PRAYERS FOR LABORERS

Prayer can feel like throwing salt on an icy walkway. It's a means of preparing a path for walking. In prayer we ask God to make a way, even as we walk forward in faith. At the start of this year, our Greensboro area staff prayed asking God "For More!" For more students to be reached, for more opportunities to share the Gospel, for more leaders to be equipped, for more staff to be raised up to join us in this work. And God responded in ways we could have never imagined. One of those was in growing our staff team in some unexpected ways.

Oftentimes, we hire students who graduate from the campuses where our current staff serve. But this year God saw it fit to answer our prayers another way. Serina, a soon-to-be graduate from Howard University in Washington D.C. was the first to come on our radar. As a student involved with our DC-based ministry, she expressed interest in coming on staff, but she was moving to Greensboro, NC. Could there be a need there? The answer was YES! And the Lord did the rest.

Around the same time, we got wind that our dear friends, former stateside staff, were moving back from Birmingham, England and had a desire to continue serving with CO. Having previously served at High Point University and UNC-Greensboro, Sam and Katy Barker felt called back to the area. Once again, it became clear that God was doing more than we could ask. We were excited to be receiving not just new staff in Serina, but an experienced couple in Sam and Katy.



But God wasn't finished. Hannah Williamson, was serving as a local nurse in Winston Salem during this same time period. While she loved what she did, as she continued to serve women within her own local church, her heart began to desire to influence more women through full-time vocational ministry. She reached out to a few friends who happened to be connected with Campus Outreach, and learned that just 30 minutes down the road, there was a ministry that had been praying to hire new staff to help reach students on the college campus. As we met with Hannah, it became clear that the Lord had been building a team all along!

It had been a few years since we had full-time staff at High Point. With the arrival of the Barkers and Hannah we were able to relaunch our ministry efforts there, while also deploying Serina to NC A&T and to serve our broader team through her administrative skills. God sent us staff, just as we prayed, which was far more generous than we could have ever thought possible. He prepared a way that we didn't know existed. May He continue to send out laborers into His harvest!

Ministry Adaptation and *Contextualization*

Reimagining Summer Growth Opportunities for Students

Thomas Deschenes

Raleigh Area Director

In the current landscape where one million young people are leaving the church annually, we are regularly compelled to consider how to effectively engage this generation with the timeless truth of the Gospel. Amidst challenges like pervasive anxiety that leads students to avoid commitment and relationships, there lies an opportunity to convey the message of finding peace through Christ amid life's uncertainties. This does not mean that anxiety will just disappear but the peace you experience in Christ provides you with hope in the middle of your fear. Similarly, the epidemic of loneliness presents a chance to create enjoyable spaces where students can forge connections and a sense of belonging. The prevailing mistrust in leaders and authority figures prompts us, as staff, to become authentic leaders by openly sharing our lives with students.

These opportunities have driven a reimagining of how we proclaim Christ to the next generation. Consequently, we revamped our key summer leadership program, opting for a three-week leadership intensive that fosters spiritual growth in a supportive and enjoyable environment. The Alpha Project was held in Sandbridge, VA with students from the Raleigh, DC, and Lynchburg areas. Students and staff lived in beach houses that created fun memories and depth in relationships. The shorter project helped the students not feel overwhelmed by offering them a "first step" commitment of three weeks instead of eight. This change helped us to reach more students and see many transformed during that time.

Kayla

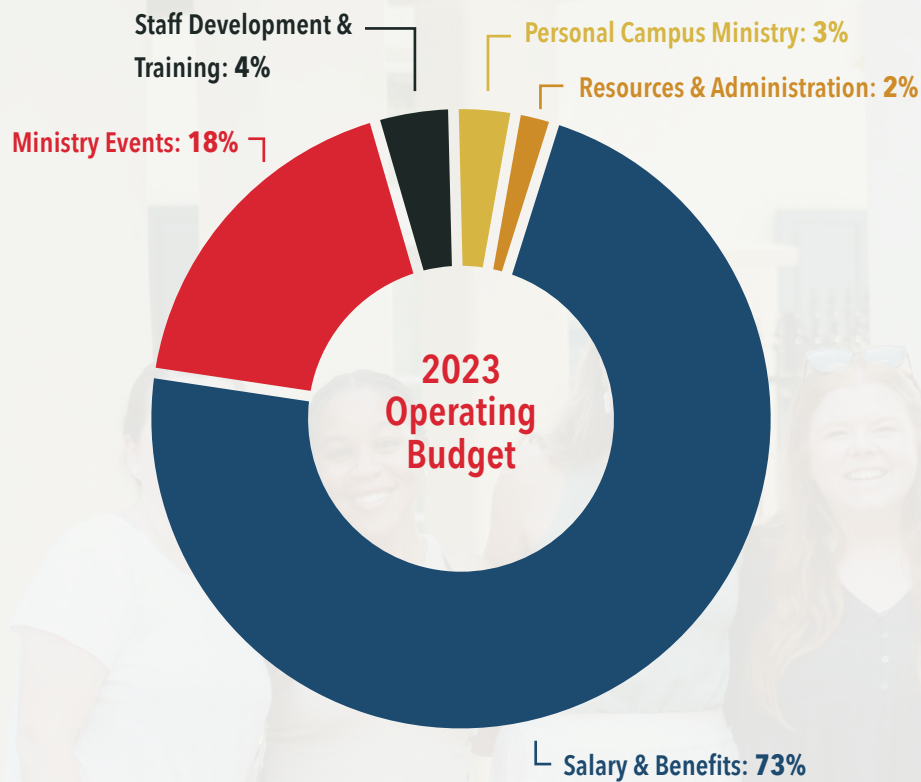
East Carolina University '24

The three weeks at the Alpha Project were some of the most impactful of my life. To be surrounded by a community of believers that all are pursuing a closer relationship with God was amazing. In these short weeks, I felt God move more in my heart than ever before. There's no way to describe how full my heart has been feeling because of this opportunity. So thankful. God is so good. 'You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' - Psalm 16:11

John

NC State '26

God used the Alpha Project to bring perspective to my life. To be surrounded by younger and older Christians who were all at different stages of their journey with Christ helped me see it's possible to walk with Christ for the rest of my life. God used this community significantly in my spiritual growth. Alpha was a place where I took a Neil Armstrong step in my journey with Christ.



1,445 Ministry Partners

12,261 Gifts Given

\$1,502,433 In Total Gifts

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Thank You

On behalf of our staff and the students we have the privilege of serving, thank you for standing with us as we seek to **glorify God by building laborers on the campus for the lost world**. We hope that these stories not only give you a sense of ministry on the campus, but also encourage your faith in our great God. As you read of the Gospel taking root and bearing the fruit of faith, may you be emboldened to continue praying for and sharing Christ with those around you who may be far from Him. As you hear of young Christians studying God's Word and praying for the first time, may you be refreshed in your daily walk with the Lord. As you glimpse students and staff entrusting themselves to God for the spiritual good of others, may you be encouraged to invest in the lives of those God has placed around you.

And in all of these testimonies of God's grace we hope that together we would be moved to gratitude for the ways God takes our prayers and our giving and our laboring and produces far more than any one of us could on our own. Thank you for sharing with us and supporting us in this calling. May God be pleased to continue to grow disciples of all nations through your partnership, to the glory of His Name!



Artie Van Sciver
Associate Director
Campus Outreach Charlotte

...the spirit
intercedes for
God's people in
accordance with
the will of God.

Romans 8:27





CAMPUS
OUTREACH
CHARLOTTE

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