



Our Influence in the Lives of College Students by Steve Ratliff

I love serving in a church in a university town. One reason is because Faith has the privilege (and responsibility) of influencing college students who will be leaders in the body of Christ for coming generations. In addition to providing worship experiences on Sundays, we want students to gain an appreciation for and understanding of the local church. Actually, we want them to *love* the local church and spend the rest of their lives serving God. The transition from college to “life-after-college” can be very difficult. We have a strategic role to play in helping them make this transition well.

We try to engage college students in a variety of different ways. For example, Owen and Becky Carnes lead *Ignition*, a Life Group for college students. *Ignition* is a place for students to connect with other students as well as a bridge to the rest of the church. For instance, Owen and Becky recently facilitated having college students into our homes for meals. Thanks to those of you who participated in this!

Quite a few students serve in various ministries at Faith (e.g., children’s ministry, Alpha, community ministry, etc.). Some students take advantage of opportunities that are available to everyone: training courses, general Life Groups, etc. Many students have told me how much they value the relationships

they’ve developed at Faith with those with more life experience and wisdom. Please don’t underestimate what God might do through the relationships you develop with students.

In addition to the opportunities we provide all students, we occasionally provide internships to students who sense God might be calling them to vocational ministry in the local church. These internships are designed to help people discern their gifting as well as their suitability for such ministry. The local church is uniquely suited to help students discern these things. An internship can be very strategic in this regard.

Two students will be doing internships at Faith this summer. Jesse Huffman will be doing a pastoral internship. Jesse grew up in an Evangelical Free Church in St. Louis and is a Pastoral Ministry major at Manhattan Christian College. Hannah Johnson will be doing a more general internship with an emphasis in youth ministry. Hannah is from Lenexa and is majoring in chemistry at K-State.

The church staff and leadership will provide input and feedback in a variety of different ways. But we would also like for you to take initiative with our interns. We’d like you to have them into your homes, share your

lives with them, and encourage them in their walks with God. Let me know if you have questions about how to do this.

I remember when I was in college and wondering if God might want me to be a pastor. The experiences I had in churches in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Hattiesburg, Mississippi were very instrumental in clarifying my giftedness and calling. I’m thankful for pastors and others who took me seriously and who encouraged me along the way. I look forward to how we might play the same role in the lives of Jesse and Hannah.

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A Higher Quest
Men’s Retreat
April 30-May 1
Living Water
Ranch
Register Now!

Worship Notes by Micah Peacock, Worship Pastor

Some recommended listening from Micah:

Robbie Seay Band - 'Miracle' album

Josh Wilson - 'Life Is Not A Snapshot' album

Matt Redman - 'We Shall Not Be Shaken' album

Matthew and Lizi (Bailey) E.P. and 'Meaning Of It All' album

Sojourn - 'Over The Grave' album

I hope that this is proving to be a season of refreshment and a fresh sense of life in Christ. I know that the formal Easter celebration has past, but the story does not end with a passing calendar day. The fact that Christ has risen from the grave, that He has conquered sin and death and it's grip on our lives, that He is alive today and active in this world... these are truths that I pray would be written more deeply on our minds and hearts, so that we can become more aware of the movement of the Kingdom - through us, for His glory.

There are a few opportunities I've been wanting to let people know about. **Hymn arranging sessions:** I've been looking into some hymn texts that I think could be really meaningful to include in our times

of corporate worship. I'll be spending some time working with these texts from a musical and lyrical standpoint. If you're interested in being a part of this creative process, please e-mail me micah@faithmanhattan.org.

Sound technicians: We'll begin working through some material as a team that I think will improve our understanding of sound, sound equipment, gain structure theory, etc. Be on the look-out for an e-mail from me with more details.

Looking for visual technicians: Our visual tech team is somewhat stretched thin at the moment. If you've got some experience with serving from a technological standpoint, or a willingness to be trained with some particular soft-

ware, please contact me or our Visual Tech. team leader, Tracy Emery (tlemery@gmail.com).

Worship leader/artist gathering: On March 19, we hosted our first gathering of worship leaders/artists from Manhattan and some surrounding areas. Our hope is to allow for some open encouragement and collaboration among worship leaders and songwriters in this community. The next gathering will likely be in late April. If you'd like more information regarding this gathering, please let me know.

Grace and peace to you all,
Micah



Compassion Fund Nearing Empty!

We have a compassion fund that is used to help meet needs within the church & within the community. From this fund we help people with power bills, rent, gas money, etc. Many have been blessed because of this fund. We wanted to let you know that this fund is currently depleted. If you would like to contribute to this fund simply designate an amount for the "compassion fund" on the memo line of your check.

Thank You! By Russell Soppe, Youth Pastor

Thank you so much for your generous prayers and kind support for our trip to New Orleans over Spring Break. It was a great group

of kids and they jumped in and worked very hard. I was quite proud of them. And you would have been too. We all learned a lot

and came back challenged and changed. Thanks again for all you've done.

Unlikely Heroes By Chris Barker, Children's Pastor

Have you ever noticed how many of the heroes in the Bible are unlikely ones? This Year's VBS will focus on how we can all be heroes for God if we are willing to be used by Him. Here is a quick description from Standard Publishing on this year's VBS:

At Hero Headquarters, kids will meet unlikely Bible heroes who are often over-

looked. In fact, we don't know a single one of their names! They were not famous leaders or called by God to perform amazing miracles—yet their small acts were used by God to do wonderful things!

We will host our VBS from June 7th through the 11th. It will be held in the evening following a family format similar to our past

VBS programs. Volunteer signups will start Sunday April 25th. If you want to keep updated on the needs and progress of this year's VBS check in often at faithmanhattan.org/emreport or signup for email updates from that same page. I am looking forward to partnering with you to show children of our community how they can love God and be used by Him!

Financial Update

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Giving (non-designated)	\$49,222.61	\$157,963.53
Other (missionary support, etc.)	5,038.74	21,254.62
Total Receipts	\$54,261.35	\$179,218.15

Two Types of Invitations by Justin Kastner

On behalf of the Alpha Course Team at Faith

With the Spirit of Jesus—Who lives within us and moves amongst us—there is enormous power, and it's exciting to see Him transforming lives. Since our last newsletter update, *Alpha* guests have found new life in Jesus, guests and team members have experienced spiritual renewal, and more have stepped out in service (and “had a blast!” as one hospitality team member recently remarked to another).

Our Loving Savior is at work. It's His work, but Jesus *wants* us involved in His work (perhaps because He calls us friends). Humanly speaking, we can make a difference for His Kingdom when we pray, invite friends to check out *Alpha*, or serve as a member of the *Alpha* team. Thank you for playing your part in this outreach work.

As the title of this article alludes, I'm mindful of two different types of invitations, both of which are important and both of which we can extend. One we extend to God, and the other we offer to a friend, coworker, or relative.

The first concerns invitations we extend to God. It is good and appropriate to invite the Spirit of Christ to move among us, for His glory and His eternal purposes. At *Alpha*, we're seeing people at all stages of faith development—seekers, young believers, even the mature—experiencing the love and power of Jesus in fresh ways. Although faith comes primarily from hearing and believing in the promises of Scripture, experience counts—and we're seeing many grow in faith as they witness more obvious movements and gifts of the Spirit. We're seeing this during many of the corporate worship and

prayer ministry sessions—times when we intentionally invite the Spirit to come and give us an increased awareness of His presence, pointing us to Jesus and His love for us. One Fall 2009 guest (now serving on the Winter 2010 team) said this (after week 9's prayer ministry and worship time), “Tonight was amazing; I have never ever experienced something like that before.” If you're reading this, please prayerfully invite the Holy Spirit to continue to move in fresh ways, to point the *Alpha* guests and team members to Jesus. As Archie Coates says, “We can't make something happen, but we can invite Him to do something.”

One opportunity for inviting God to move is at this weekend's (Fri-Sat, April 16-17) *24 Hours of Prayer* at Faith. With the approaching Spring 2010 *Alpha Course* in Aggieville and the possible two-course plan for the Fall (the Faith *Alpha* team is exploring hosting two *Alpha Courses*—one at Faith and one at Meadowlark Hills—this autumn), this weekend we're spending time “inviting Jesus to give us His heart for our city.” Jesus deeply loves Manhattan. Join us for corporate prayer and worship at the opening (6pm, April 16) and conclusion (5pm, April 17), or come for one of the “prayer periods” in between. Children are welcome.

God-willing, may our church emerge from the *24 Hours of Prayer* event with a heightened desire to extend the second type of invitation—invitations, of course, to the Spring *Alpha Course*! Please tell your friends, co-workers, and family members that *Alpha*'s headed to Aggieville (at the KatHouse, 1111 Moro). Guests can come to the intro-

ductory dinner party on Monday, May 3rd at 6:30p.m. Please share with your invites the cool Tracy-Emery-designed invitation cards (available in the foyer) as well as the fantastic website that Chris Barker designed and recently updated (check it out at <http://faithmanhattan.org/alpha>).

We do not know how many guests God is asking us to host for the next *Alpha Course*, but we are in need of team members so that we are prepared. We would love to have you involved with hospitality (serving food and cleanup), small groups, set-up, intercessory prayer, etc. If you're interested, please plan to come to training (Saturday, April 24, 9:00am-12:30pm) and note the course dates (Monday evenings May 3-July 26). Please contact Tracy Emery (tlemery@gmail.com; 565-0011) if you are interested; with the growing (exciting!) nature of *Alpha*-related efforts, Tracy is providing additional administration and coordination support for *Alpha*.

Thanks for reading this unusually lengthy *Alpha* update. Now is *not* the time to shrink back; with joy, let's continue to play our small part in advancing the Kingdom through prayer and action.



Upcoming *Alpha* dates:

Fri-Sat, April 16-17 (6pm-6pm) – *24 Hours of Prayer* at Faith (?’s call Julie 410-4624 or Justin 410-5792)

Sat, April 24 (9am-12:30pm) – *Alpha* training at Faith (meal provided)

Mon, May 3 (6:30pm) – introductory *Alpha* dinner party at the KatHouse (1111 Moro, in Aggieville)

Mondays, May 3-July 26 (6:30-8:45pm) – *Alpha Course* at the KatHouse

Questions? 565-0011

alpha@faithmanhattan.org

<http://faithmanhattan.org/alpha>

Check the foyer and E-Blast, too!



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life...helping others do the
same.

Habits of Maturing by Brian Anderson

We have two sons who play the violin. Philip has taken his violin training seriously for many years. He has invested countless hours in lessons and practice over the years. Our ten year old, Sam, on the other hand, is pretty new to the instrument. He has been taking lessons for only about a year. They both play the same instrument, but the sounds that Philip can make with his violin are very different from those Sam can make. The fruit of Philip's many hours of training is beautiful music. With a similar investment in training, one day Sam will be able to do the same.

There are many parallels between learning to play an instrument well and our spiritual lives. With an instrument, the goal is to play beautiful music. In our spiritual lives, the goal is Christlikeness. Both of these goals require training. In the same way that Sam cannot now play like Philip without training, so too we cannot live

like Jesus without a life of training. But here's the thing about a life of training: it takes intentionality. If one longs to live more like Jesus, he or she needs to be intentional about a life of training. It doesn't just happen.

To help all of us grow in a life-style of intentionally seeking to becoming more and more like Jesus, we are offering a new class called *Habits of Maturing*. This class will be offered on Sunday mornings during the month of May when our regular Sunday morning Life Groups will be taking a five-week break. In this class we will look at motivations and perspectives on developing habits of maturing. As well, we will look at several habits of maturing such as slowing (silence & solitude), prayer, reflection on Scripture, celebration and serving and how they can play a significant role in our spiritual growth. In the end, we want to help all who take this class walk away with their own "rule of life" - a personalized training plan.

This class, which will be facilitated by Brian Anderson and Brent & Jenni Watson, will be very practical in nature. To make it as accessible as possible we are offering this class during the month of May on Sunday mornings during both the 9:30 and 11:00 hours. To register for the class, please sign up on your Connections Card. If you have questions, please contact Brian Anderson (776-2086; brian@faithmanhattan.org).

The Library— Check Us Out!

We have several new DVDs. The Drive Thru History series has been created by Focus on the Family. These informative, yet funny, videos visit explain historical sights. We also now have The Blind Side, a true story of a Christian family who takes a needy teenage boy into their home. Take one home for a movie night!