

Western PA
A P R 20
2004

campus ministry

This Month's Prayer Needs:

--Jason and Maria Weimer and myself as we prepare for our summer assignment as staff in Hampton Beach, NH

--student leaders as they make plans to start strong and gather freshmen in the fall

Praises:

--the students scheduled to serve in Afghanistan were called back and will start classes again this fall!

--Jayson and I have set a wedding date for Aug. 14, '04

“But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some

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Body Piercing: The Concept...

What if someone on your campus told you body piercing had changed my life? You'd be naturally curious, since I don't sport any metal in my tongue or lip or a shirt short enough to catch the glitter of a navel ring. But now that you notice it, my t-shirt is a little odd—you can't quite read it through my stack of books, but you've seen the red logo and yellow fabric around campus a lot lately.

What if I then told you that it's not *my* piercing that changed me, but someone else's and asked what you knew about Jesus? After we talk a bit about our common church background, I ask if I can tell you more about how grasping Jesus' death moved me from dry rituals to a meaningful relationship with God...

The Outcome...

This semester, a similar scenario was set up on 3 of our campuses. Signs were posted, shirts worn, questions asked, conversations had. To close the week, an energetic meeting offered a final debriefing about the “Body Piercing” slogan, complete with several students' stories of personal change.

Door prizes, which lightened the mood and eased “bait n' switch” feelings, acted as incentives to complete the contact cards we later used to identify newcomers.

My individual meetings with new student contacts have revealed much positive feedback to the event. They've also given me chances to bring a more mature student disciple to model follow-up—how to ask and field spiritual questions, and ultimately, to gently lead someone to a point of decision about Christ.

The Ripples...

Now, I trust God to will bring long-term returns on what seems like just an event. In this, students are learning to depend on Him, becoming more natural in sharing the story of their spiritual journey *without* the crazy t-shirt.

They've experienced how to plan and publicize a more streamlined meeting—a place where they can invite non-Christian friends with confidence that the gospel will be clear and relevant.

And hopefully by this time next year, students like Steve at Edinboro and ??????? at Slippery Rock, both of whom accepted Christ through the “Body Piercing” follow-up, will be able to tell *their* roommates about this Jesus whose body was pierced in their place and how their lives have changed.

In Him,