



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

WESTERN PA CATALYTIC

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(INFO)

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The Scene...

It's dark, the air is smoky and approaching 80 degrees and it's definitely not a dry heat. Looking around, everyone is sporting facial piercings, tattoos, and black shirts bearing images of skulls, guns, and phrases like 'Bury Your Dead', 'The Killer' and 'Unearth.' At the front of the hall, five guys on stage flail and play instruments at decibels that can rival a jet takeoff, while one screams into a microphone; meanwhile, 10 or 15 guys pace an opening in the crowd, *appearing* to be taking swings at one another. This is hardly the place most people would expect God to be working.

To me (Jayson), this place is a mission field, even a second home. In these friends of mine I see Saul; not Israel's first king, but Saul who would later write much of the New Testament. Toward the end of his life, he reflected on what he had been, "a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man." But, like God did with Saul, I see more...

The Source...

We've recently been reading a book called Searching for God Knows What by Don Miller. Familiar with his humorous, unassuming style, we expected a refresher. As I read, I was struck with the feeling that this book would be radical for those who would *never* darken the door of a church or ministry meeting! I imagined them getting a glimpse, possibly their first, of a real relationship with Jesus rather than a set of rigid rules and tidy formulas to make someone a "good person."

Many of these friends of mine, as well as much of the younger generation have a distorted view of Christianity. They've seen televangelists misuse money, priests or pastors abuse children, and well-meaning & genuine Christians whose support of war doesn't make sense to them. But show them someone who has a faith is genuine and thought out and a willingness to wrestle with social issues and you'll see respect, even where opinions differ.

The Strategy...

Our staff team has been talking a lot about students reaching their spheres of influence, and this is one of ours. This week, we're ordering 15 books for these guys and girls who have agreed to do 2 things: read the whole book and give us feedback.

Miller (who honestly addresses our human tendency to use our faith to promote our own ideals, politics or image rather than our Lord) breaks down the Gospel to a concept foreign to many of these young people – restored friendship with the God. The issue is not their political views, their music, their friends, or even their tattoos or piercings – they can simply come broken to Jesus Christ and open their lives. He'll do the "housecleaning."

- Pray that these books would have an impact on the underground music scene in Erie.
- Specifically pray that people would have an encounter with Christ and begin a relationship with Him.
- Pray that our students would also be creative and bold to reach their friends who don't know Jesus Christ.
- Pray that we would see this time of raising our prayer and financial support as a time set aside by God, and that we would make the most of it to learn what He is trying to teach us!

Please pray for these guys and girls, we'll keep you posted– we're excited about what God will do!

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:12-14

Grace and peace,

(PRAYER NEEDS)