

Further Up and Further In

University Christian Outreach Alumni Association

Responding to Bounty in Grace

“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?” asks the Psalmist (Ps. 116:12, ESV). As a second-year UCO staffer, I often find myself posing very similar questions. Considering these fruits of the Lord, which I’ve watched blossom, should help you to understand why: a doubling, if not tripling, of our average Tuesday-night attendance to somewhere between 60 and 70 students; a renewal of the time-honored (within UCO, at any rate) tradition of an evangelistic, dorm-based mission; the development of a strong, student-composed core team that labors with commitment (and without pay) to keep our outreach functioning well. And—believe it or not—none of these fruits is specifically from this current semester!

More recently—in the past few months in particular—the Lord has continued to bless us in ways that make our “lips pour forth praise” (Ps. 119:171, ESV). He provided for us to host the inau-

gural Campus Outreach Academy (COA) in Michigan, at which we trained thirty or so UCO students in doing his work at their respective campuses. He has blessed us with a men’s and a women’s household, in addition to various students in the aforementioned dorm-based mission. He gave us the privilege of hosting a long-anticipated reunion of UCO’s forbears—those in the fabled “Dorm District.” He has just graced us with yet another fruitful *Life in the Spirit Seminar*, through which a dozen or students were prayed with for Baptism in the Holy Spirit. And so the list continues.

In the following two testimonies and prayer requests, you have an opportunity to see even more closely a few of the myriad ways in which the Lord is using our outreach for his glory. As for us, by his grace we will continue to labor for the sake of his kingdom, to “pay [our] vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Praise the Lord!” (Ps. 116:18, 19b).

-Zach Mabee, *UCO Mission Staff*

On Becoming a Trooper

I became involved in UCO during the fall of 2006, the fall of my freshmen year. I came to campus looking to connect with a Christian group on campus, and was specifically looking for a group that was comfortable with charismatic worship. I looked up the UCO opening party online and headed over to the party without knowing who would be there or whom I would meet. After talking to Chris Luea and getting introduced to a couple other UCO guys that night, I was intrigued enough to come to a prayer meeting on the following Tuesday. I thoroughly enjoyed the worship style and the freedom found in UCO. I was really taken aback as a new freshman on campus by all these great people coming together to love and praise the Lord!

I became more and more involved as the year progressed. I continued to participate and come to things like Tuesday dinners at the Catherine St. house, Tuesday night meetings, the Kairos winter conference, and other assorted events along the way. Towards the end of the year I made a commitment I was very excited about. I decided to live the following year in South Quad as part of a group called the Dorm Troopers. I decided to take my relationship with the Lord, all the joy and peace I find in it, and live in the dorms to spread God’s Word through outreach to all those living there.

When the spring rolled around I was excited about my life and the way the Lord was blessing me. I wanted to delve deeper and prepare for the dorm outreach in the fall; so I decided to participate in the men’s summer household. This household cemented a wonderfully firm relationship with the Lord in my life. It taught me a lot about myself and about living with other Christian men. It taught me in many ways how to prepare myself to live with guys in the dorms.

This past August I participated in an event called Campus Outreach Academy that was sponsored by UCO Ann Arbor. This event was enriching in many ways. I learned about how to evangelize and outreach on college campuses. I learned practical skills about how to go about living my life in the Lord and how to convey the love and joy I have to others. COA once again encouraged growth in my faith and brought me further into a wonderfully rich relationship with the Lord. The skills and the ideas that I picked up from COA have served invaluable in living in the dorms.

Through events such as prayer meetings, men’s nights, summer household and COA, I’ve grown richly in the Lord. I’ve also been incredibly encouraged to continue seeking after Christ and to find out what his will is for my life. The outreach that I am participating in within the dorms has been an amazing blessing. I’ve been able to develop wonderful relationships with so many people in the dorms and share the reality of what it is to be a Christian disciple on our campus. The dorms continue to teach me much about myself and how the Lord calls me to do his work.

In general, UCO has been a powerful blessing in my life. Through my activities in UCO I have found support and encouragement for my faith. I have been allowed to grow, develop and mature as a man of Christ. I hope that my enthusiasm and joy will not diminish over the rest of my undergraduate years. I also look forward to living a life in Christ as I graduate and move on in my life, always being thankful for the support and blessing that UCO has been and continues to be for me.

-Ben Gilbert

Ben is a many-talented brother. Among other things, he plays music in a rock n’ roll band and grows a top-notch mullet, which he sported at this summer’s UCO soccer tournament.

Volume 7, Issue 2
Fall/Winter 2007

Inside ...

A Staffer’s Story...

-Mary Nitkiewicz

Prayer Requests

-John Hughes and Zach Mabee



Ben prepares, as the local jargon would say, to grind his axe (i.e., play his guitar), at a UCO meeting earlier this semester.

This is what it means to know yourself, to recognize the God who made you; to know and to be known is the lot of the man called by God.

-Hippolytus of Rome

A Staffer's Story—Or, Away from UCO and Back Again

My first experience with UCO came from my Dad's stories about life back in his college days. He was involved with UCO's precursor in the 70's and would constantly tell my siblings and I of the amazing experiences he and my mom had. When I started college I was highly encouraged to join UCO, so I did the one thing any teenager would have... I avoided it at all costs! Yet despite my determination God had other plans.

In the spring of 2006 I graduated from Ave Maria College and came face to face with a housing dilemma; my lease at school was up and I needed somewhere to live! As I was calling around I ran into Ruth Gryniewicz, an old friend from church, who recommended I try the UCO women's summer household. I had never lived in household before, and the only two things I knew about it were the fact that it was going to be challenging, and it would require me living in a small house with 6 other women. Always game for an adventure I decided to try it out. The experience was not quite what I expected: in addition to

the challenge of learning to work together, I was also able to build up lasting friendships with several amazing ladies, and gain a deeper appreciation for the scriptures (thanks to our household's goal of memorizing the entire Sermon on the Mount)!

The following winter, I attended a massive conference, coincidentally titled 'The Winter Conference,' in Columbus Ohio. There I ran into a few friends from Ann Arbor, who mentioned that UCO was looking for someone to serve on staff in the upcoming year. I had not solidified any future plans as of yet, so I decided to pray about it, and through the Lord's grace was offered the opportunity to serve UCO on staff. My parents were amused to say the least; the one thing I swore I would never participate in was now the very thing the Lord was calling me to help with!

Two of the characteristics of UCO which have stuck out in my time within this outreach are our call to ecumenism and the life of Christian Fellowship engaged by the participants. Ecumenism is a word most people shy away from; however,

people in UCO have embraced the call, and the result is a life rich in different traditions as people work together to build the body of Christ. I grew up in a fairly traditional setting, so the opportunity to worship the Lord among fellow Christians of various backgrounds has been not only eye-opening, but profoundly helpful in understanding the universal Church. Similarly, the Christian fellowship within UCO is such that students actively seek to live a life of Christian discipleship, and call others on to the same. Not only do these people genuinely care about one another, but they are also ridiculously fun to be around! It is obvious the Lord is about a great work within this outreach, and I look forward to seeing where He will take us!

-Mary Nitkiewicz

Mary would be happy to discuss with you the following topics (in no particular order): the who, where, and when of the next UCO women's event; medieval warfare; Shakespeare; and swordsmithing.

Prayer Requests

Our Father in heaven delights when we come to him with our requests. Please join us in praying for:

- The dorm-based outreach: Please pray that the Lord continues to work in students' lives through those currently living in the dorms. Also, please pray that those now considering whether to live in the dorms next year clearly hear the voice of the Lord and respond to his call—

whatever it may be—with generous hearts.

- The men's and women's households: Please pray that the Lord blesses our households with peace and unity—in relationships with one another and in matters evangelistic—and with clarity of vision for the days to come. Please also pray that the Lord blesses those considering whether to live in our house-

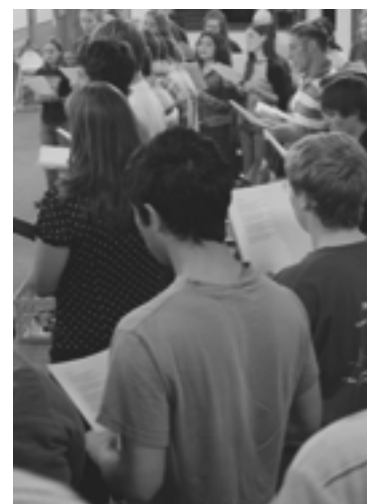
holds next year with his grace and light.

- Staff and financial resources: Please pray that the Lord blesses our chapter with new staff members and with the financial support that we'll need to do his work during the 2008-2009 year .

-John Hughes and Zach Mabee, *UCO Mission Leader and Staff, respectively*



Here, Mary engages a student on the Diag at UCO's booth at this year's Festifall.



Colin Miranda (foreground) and others praise the Lord at one of this semester's UCO meetings.

Want to help? All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Gifts can be sent to the address below; checks should be made payable to UCO-UM. Address or name changes can be sent to Zach Mabee at the same address or via e-mail (zacharymabee@gmail.com).

University Christian Outreach
Alumni Association

716 Catherine Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1506

Phone: (734) 994-3201
URL: www.umich.edu/~ucoum