

The Guenthers @ Central

Your missionaries to college students across the Pacific Northwest



October–November 2023 news

Hello team,

It's a full, exciting season and we'd love to catch you up. Jesus is doing some great things on campus!

Casting the nets

Our Chi Alpha students always have a #1 priority in the fall: go out onto campus and invite new students to our Bible studies (“Cores”), social activities, and worship gatherings. Students are very creative in this task. But two themes are a constant: physical activities and food.

This fall, Dan joined with some CWU students and hosted a couple outreaches. In October, we climbed “The Tooth” with some new guys in the Cascades... a rocky crag with an easy backside climb. It looks worse than it is. In the photo (right), we've got several students who are new to faith in Jesus. Also in October, Dan hosted a late-night bonfire with a dozen types of sausage and hotdogs. Since this was right after the Chi Alpha meeting, on campus, we met a lot of new students!

Here's an encouragement from Melissa Nguyen, staff at CWU:

God has really blessed our outreach and we've already seen four students come to faith in Jesus! Beyond those four, there are so many others involved in Core groups, attending worship services, and seriously exploring the claims of Jesus. One of these students is a friend of Kennedy, who is our intern. Kennedy's friend calls herself an atheist, but is curious about Christianity. She has attended every Chi Alpha worship service so far. During the worship time she journals intensely about what she's

thinking. She writes down the questions she has from the sermon and brings them to Kennedy to talk about. Her approach is humble, thoughtful, and sincere; she truly wants to know if she can believe and follow Jesus.

We also just hosted Fall Retreat, where we saw 90 CWU students come spend the weekend in the mountains—studying the Bible, worshipping, building friendships and having fun! Two of our fellow Chi Alpha missionaries from University of Idaho came as our guest speakers, and taught from the book of Proverbs. During the retreat, a young man named Luke came to faith in Christ, and it was a privilege to get to know him.





Campus growth

Dan: Becky and I did something new as we care for ministries across the region. We attended every Fall Retreat that we could in September and October!

Every Chi Alpha group has a fall retreat and it functions as a galvanizing moment for students. It's the first time they fully understand they are part of a bigger community. And they see that Chi Alpha is intent on reaching the campus and world.



In **Alaska**, the room was crowded with students every night, praying for each other and responded down front at the “altar.” We were at a campground in the woods (no snow yet). And God’s presence was visible in student responses. We had about 110 students present from Fairbanks and Anchorage. I (Dan) was also privileged to teach a breakout session on science and God’s Creation.

At the **WSU / Idaho** joint retreat, we met north of Coeur d’Alene at a Christian campground with 100 students. Becky and I enjoyed connecting in the group prayer times (see picture below). And 14 students showed up at our XA Internship breakout session! These students are praying about God’s calling to ministry, considering whether to serve for a year in Chi Alpha.

On one particular weekend, there were four Fall Retreats happening all at the same time: Bellevue College, Western Washington University, and Central Washington. Becky & I chose to attend the statewide Oregon retreat. But in a fun twist, our daughter Hannah was at the WWU retreat (in her freshman year), and son Caleb was attending the CWU retreat (as a high school junior). So in one weekend there were Guenthers at three different locations!

In **Oregon**, God was working powerfully as I saw students and staff sharing prophetic, encouraging words with each other during the Sat night session. This was a huge blessing to me personally (Dan). We were also able to see God is blessing our staff families. Several young people had volunteered to do an “MK” program with the kids — activities over the weekend which free the missionary parents to be with students.



At **Bellevue**, instead of fall retreat I (Dan) was able to visit their weekly worship gathering. This is a campus that is minority white, and majority Asian or African. In fact, more international students, including 25+ from the Congo, attend Chi Alpha than any other ethnic group. Worship times are fun, energetic, and students are always bringing friends with them.

Please continue to pray for Chi Alpha to grow and extend the gospel on campus!



Asia Vision Trip

Becky: Guess what? We took a group of XA staff from Washington/Idaho on a “vision trip” last week with us. It was a spectacular trip, we visited some new Chi Alpha ministries in Tokyo, Hanoi (Vietnam), and Jogjakarta, Indonesia. These are all prime destinations for our Chi Alpha groups to take teams of students. They are places where may be called to go long-term.

And we got to talk—in English—with college students everywhere! It was amazing. So many young people are eager for conversation with a native English speaker. It’s a great opportunity.

Outreach to international students, Tokyo



Muslim students learning about the Bible, Indonesia

In **Japan**, we were privileged to see the fruit of outreach in Tokyo, with 35 million people. Young people come to the “Chi Alpha Center” on the subway, which is a converted church space. Several brand new students who didn’t know Jesus latched onto our group as we did prayer walks on different campuses (Univ. of Tokyo and Weseda University). They followed with us everywhere and it was such a joy to see them connect with the missionary. A week later, one of them gave his life to Christ!

In **Hanoi**, we saw the first phase of a new campus ministry. Vietnam isn’t an easy place for believers, but fortunately it’s easy to meet students all around campus. English language centers are a great entry point. This was also true in **Jogja, Indonesia**, where a Chi Alpha ministry sponsors English lessons every day. This creates opportunities to invite students into Bible studies, and ultimately to attend a weekly worship gathering or a church. (Most students involved in Chi Alpha don’t know God yet!) Indonesia is a Muslim country, but interest in the Bible is high. In the photo (*above*), Becky is talking with students wearing the *hijab* head covering during Chi Alpha “conversation” night. We loved their curiosity about Jesus.



Family weekend at WWU

Family updates!

Hannah is doing well at WWU this year. She’s been adopted by two Chi Alpha student leaders and is part of a weekly Core group. They actually meet in her dorm/residence hall. What a blessing! We saw Hannah on “Family Weekend” and brought Hannah’s best friend Shyloh, too.

Back at home, Caleb is taking two college classes at CWU as part of Running Start, and staying involved in Chi Alpha. His robotics team looks as strong as ever... with competitions every weekend this month.

Thank you so much for your partnership!

Dan & Becky