

## Co-ed quest

In 2004, the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute surveyed 112,000 entering freshmen at a nationally representative sample of colleges and universities. This spring researchers followed up with a subsample of 15,000 of the same students and charted changes in their spiritual development. First the good news: Three-quarters of college students say they are on a spiritual quest to find meaning, purpose and God, according to a UCLA Higher Education Research Institute survey. Now the bad: Many students who say they frequently attended worship services in high school rarely attend in college. By their junior year, the number of students who say they never attend a worship service doubles.

“College is a critical moment in students’ lives,” said Mark Gauthier, U.S. Campus Director for Campus Crusade for Christ. “College can be either a spiritual greenhouse or a spiritual graveyard. It’s a place where a student’s faith blossoms or it dies.”

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## Practical Community at MOPC

- *Ephesians 5:1-2*

### **SECTION I - Introduction**

- *The Scriptural Background*
  - Psalm 68:5-6: "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."
  - James 1:27: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
  - Romans 12:9-13: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."
  - Galatians 6:9-10: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."
- *The Concept*
  - Create familial connections for all the solitary members of the Body of Christ expressed here at Memorial Church
  - Examples
    - Shut-ins - separate discussion
    - New attendees - separate discussion
    - Single college students and professionals - current discussion
  - Challenges
    - Difficulties and challenges of this kind of relational expression of love
    - Breaking out of cultural comfort zones

- *The Goal*
  - Create a plan that will utilize existing families within Memorial Church in order to provide the benefits of family for each of these students and professionals
  - Reciprocal nature of the relationships within a family environment
- *Some Helpful Models*
  - Andre - Counsel and Prayer Support
  - Kelly - Adoption of students

## SECTION II – Discussion

- What does Scripture indicate about the expression of love within the Christian community?
  
- What are the benefits of family in a relational sense? (Create a list)
  
- What are the difficulties of extending this concept beyond the immediate family?
  
- What are the ways in which we might overcome these difficulties and create an active, practical and Biblical model of this family concept at Memorial?

## SECTION III – Conclusion

- How does this look in a practical working model that we can put into action today?
  
- How do we get started?
  
- Who is willing to do this?

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[This “sign-up” was put on the board for participants to identify needs and/or areas in which people may be willing to commit some of their time.]

| I want a prayer partner who is older and more mature. | I am willing to commit to pray for/with someone else. | I want to be “adopted.” | I want to “adopt.” | I can do food. | I have my own idea<br>(e.g., email, transportation, etc.). |
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