

# A.C.T. NEWS

April, 2001

## Prayer brings unity to campus

*The following is a reprint from the BG News, the campus paper at Bowling Green State University. We thought maybe you'd like to hear from an outsiders perspective, what some ACTer's are doing for the kingdom.*

With his spiky hair and Far Side T-shirt, Senior Luke Gilkerson may not resemble anyone's idea of a spiritual leader. And only a few hours into the prayer meeting he presided over last Friday night, an unexpected problem arose.

But it was a problem he said he was glad to have.

"We do have a lot more people here than we planned, praise the Lord," said Gilkerson as he stood before a gathering of more than 100.

Mostly members of the various Christian organizations on campus, chose to spend their Friday evening praying together instead of partying or bar-hopping.

From 11 p.m. Friday until nearly 5 a.m. Saturday, they prayed for their friends and fellow students, their world and each other. The prayer times were preceded by a video presentation and worship songs, and punctuated by snack breaks. Near the end of the evening, they split

into smaller groups and walked the campus, praying for the residents and professors in the different buildings.

"There are things God has for us that we have not yet received because we haven't asked for them in prayer," Gilkerson told the assembled group early in the evening.

He defines prayer as drawing close to God for the purposes of intercession, thanksgiving and petition. "In short, it's communicating to God our needs and praises," he said.

The importance of prayer to Gilkerson and roommate Mike Merz, both in Active Christians Today (ACT) is such that they decided last November to organize the all-campus prayer meeting. A second meeting is planned for Friday, April 6.

"We noticed that the Christian groups on campus don't particularly do a lot of things together," Merz said. "We brought the idea to the leaders of ACT, and they liked it."

In preparations, besides a lot of prayer, they contacted every campus Christian group they knew of as well as about 20 area churches. These groups helped with providing leadership, donating re-

sources and advertising.

Beforehand, Merz and Gilkerson spoke of their reasons for organizing the event.

The two main reasons the roommates had for coordinating the prayer meeting, according to Gilkerson, were that they wanted to see more unity and communication among the different on-campus Christian groups. They also want to see more prayer in general, both by individuals and groups.

Gilkerson also said beforehand that they won't gauge the success of the evening by the number of people who attend, but by what God does in response to their prayers. After seeing the turnout, he said, "God surpassed my expectations. Another lesson is for me not to limit God and what He can do."

Merz said there are both short-term and long-term effects he envisions. "In the short run ... We expect the prayers would begin to move things on campus, and the groups would see more spiritual activity. In the long run, we hope this would lead to other people organizing more of these types of events."

The last time a campus-wide

### What Can You Do?

- Pray for us!!!
- Become an A.C.T. Prayer Partner
- Send us names and addresses of students.
- Partner with us for a special outreach event on campus such as the food giveaways or tailgate parties.
- Invite us to your church to share A.C.T.'s ministry.
- Have an A.C.T. day at your church.
- Use A.C.T.'s worship band for a special event at your church like a youth rally or a Saturday Evening worship time.

### Now Scheduling Church Visits

We are currently in the process of setting up church visits for the fall of 2001. As a matter of fact, we have already booked a few. If you would like A.C.T. to come and talk to your Sunday School, present a drama for a special program, lead in a worship service or present the work that we are currently doing, now is the time to set up that date. Let us know if you have anything that we could help you with and we'll be glad to work with you whatever the event.

Prayer brings unity to campus Cont.

meeting was held, Merz said, was about three years ago. The main challenges that are encountered in organizing such an event are busyness and communication, they both said.

"The groups have only a few full-time staff, in charge of the spiritual well-being of 40 to 50 people ... they're awfully busy," Gilkerson said.

Gilkerson said of the evening, "I don't want it to be just two roommates' meeting or just the group's meeting. It's everybody's meeting."

A few of those who participated in the

night of prayer gave comments.

"I think it's a fantastic idea, absolutely wonderful to have this variety of groups together for this purpose," said Dana Steele, a member of ACT but not a student. He also said he'd like to see more prayer meetings in the future with even larger turnouts.

Jamie Reed, a senior with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, said, "One thing I think the night demonstrates ... is that, while each group serves a different function, they have a commonality of purpose. As we focus on what it means to

follow God, hopefully our actions will be able break down some of the stereotypes and misconceptions about Christianity.' He said he was glad everyone had the chance to pray together, and that he thought it was needed.

Freshman Kristin Anderson, who recently became a Christian through Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), commented on the variety of people who attended: "Each focuses on the same thing in different ways. People at all different levels: staff, new Christians, any denomination, anywhere they're at, even seeking. They're all welcome."

Active Christians Today

A.C.T. News



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## A.C.T. to Haiti... Again

As in several years past, A.C.T. will be taking a team of students to Haiti this summer. We will be working with a brand new mission in the city of Port De Paix, on the northwest shore of the island. Eventually the mission will have an orphanage, and a church on the property.

Plans are being laid for a great week of outreach and evangelism in Port De Paix. The students will be teaching in the VBS programs, performing dramas at various places around the city, and visiting in the

homes of the Haitian people. Some of the students along with Dave and Jeff will be sharing during the revival. We are currently awaiting news of what type of work project we will complete while we are there.

Please pray for A.C.T.'s Haiti '01 team as they leave on May 25 and return on June 2. Pray that God will bless their efforts on His behalf and that the effort put into this trip would return 100 fold for the kingdom of God in Haiti.

Also, if you would like to help financially with the costs of this trip, you can send in an extra gift and mark it "Haiti 2001". The cost per person for the trip is \$1300.00, and we are trying to raise some extra funds so that we can help out with the ministry once we are there. All funds received for this purpose will go to the ministry that we will be performing in Haiti and are tax deductible as is any gift to A.C.T.