



September 2019

## The Five Cores of Campus Ministry

*Kim Abernethy wrote this month's issue of Serve. Kim and her husband, Jeff, worked in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire before beginning their current ministry with Campus Bible Fellowship International (CBFI) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.*

She sat across the table from me, quiet but obviously worried. Though this student had been coming to our weekly Bible study for months, she had purposely kept to herself. In a blink, her life shifted drastically, and she needed help. She wanted to hear from God. But how? She reached out to the only ones she knew on campus that she felt could guide her. That is how campus ministry works. As missionaries to college students, we show up over and over, proclaim God's truth again and again, love on the students consistently, and pray unceasingly. Then sometimes we wait. We wait for the working of the Holy Spirit and a student's reaching out for help.



***Passion***

Does that story light a fire in your belly to be involved with something so unpredictable but yet so worthwhile? College ministry is unpredictable in many ways, but there are also predictable elements about this type of ministry that must be told. With **Passion** being a given in any ministry or life work, I would like to share four other core principles of campus ministry.

## ***Relationship***

Relationship is super important to college students. On most universities where we have CBFi organizations, enrollment is in the thousands, and in those large numbers, students can feel lost. So, we sit at outreach tables, we hand out snacks and plaster our CBFi events over campus media venues. We sit and drink coffee in the food courts. We help to bring substance and identity back to students in our conversations in and through the truths of God's Word. We simply are available.



## ***Mentoring***

Mentoring is the allowing of another person into our lives for the purpose of influence and guidance. Christians called it *discipleship*. CBFi missionaries will tell you that discipleship is one of our highest callings and has helped to change the life trajectory of students.

Mentoring also includes walking alongside a person. That means when things are hard for them, we are there. When things go well with them, we are there. We ask pointed questions instead of giving students a list of things to do. We edge them from the cliff and gently urge them to walk on safer paths. But above all, we must walk our talk.

## ***Community***

Community is quite the opposite of the trending phrase, ***You do you***. Ministry in no format should ever be done solo if possible. CBFi missionaries come together to make one amazing squad, even though we do not all work on the same campuses.

Encouraging engagement with biblically strong local churches is also a strong component of community, as is our commitment to build a family environment on campus. CBFi becomes ***home*** to many students.



## ***Consistency***

Consistency means being faithful to your word. By providing weekly meetings and engaging events, we speak of our commitment to the students. We consistently show up where we said we would be. These acts of faithful

endeavors speak loudly to college students who see an awful lot of inconsistency in their lives.

College ministry is both simple and complex. It takes creativity and persistence. But we know that it is exactly where God wants us! We love the students where they are, rejoicing in their victories and struggling alongside them in their need and lack. All the while realizing that the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives as He has always been in ours. We strive to exude hope in God and hope in life through relationship, mentoring, community, and consistency.

Kim Abernathy

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