

WITTENBERG DOOR
---CAMPUS MINISTRY---

HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

www.wittenbergcomo.com



January 2024 Out with the Old – Except It Still Works!

Several of my family members spend time before Christmas (and a little less before their birthdays) giving things away – to family, friends, Goodwill, anywhere but home. They want to make room for new things that might show up. I can understand this, though I usually end up with some of the things that are being moved out, and I choose to use them until they are no longer usable. Yes, that's why I was writing notes to myself on index cards earlier today. Someone didn't want them and though I don't use index cards, I couldn't say no. Down to three of them before I move to scrap paper I prefer!

There are some old things we move out. Others we keep around, using them. There are a few things we keep around even though they aren't useful, but we treasure them anyway. It's no different in Christian ministry.

What's moving out? Several people are moving on to new phases of their life. Though December isn't the prime time for graduation, a number of people I have provided care for as a campus chaplain, theological coach, and all-around mentor who is willing to buy coffee are heading out into business, graduate programs, or fellowships. It's always hard to say good-bye to these people. We'll try to stay in touch. Hopefully that will happen, as friendships can remain without physical proximity.

What do we keep around? Every year, around November and May, I evaluate ministry activities we've been doing. It isn't that I'm a pragmatist, not at all. However, sometimes a program needs to be revised or even retired. This year, the dinner and conversation evenings have blossomed into new vigor. I had honestly thought last year about retiring the activity. But it's staying around after all! The daytime and evening Bible studies have been flourishing, and would be available regardless. Study of Scripture



is central to the Christian life. Even if nobody will come to a Bible study, you offer it anyway. It's of great value and use. Another activity that wants to stay is my constant offer of being a conversation partner for internationals. This is a great way of meeting new families in the community and helping them get their feet on the ground. They always end up learning that there are Christians in the United States who care about the Bible and the Christian life, and who care about them just because they are here!

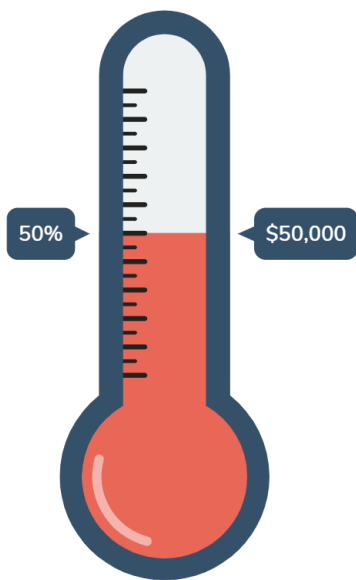
Is there anything we're keeping around just because we treasure it, even though it doesn't seem to be useful for anything? I'm really not sure. All the interactions we have as Christians in our culture contribute to making Jesus and His kingdom known. I can't think of any that are purely ornamental. However, my prayer is always that the lives we live, the relationships we have, our very presence in our society, serve to adorn the world with Jesus' love and care.

As I write this, we're a few days before the start of Christmas. We'll be several days into Christmas by the time it goes out in the mail. I pray that you will have a blessed Christmas season, and that as the season of Epiphany begins during January, you will find it a wondrous time of realization of the person and work of God in Christ! The Lord bless you in all you do.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

One of my long-term goals for Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is that by the time I need to retire the ministry and its support base will have grown so that we're ready

GOAL: \$100,000



to issue a call to a full-time campus chaplain who will not only work full-time but be paid full-time! This year has raised my hopes that it will be possible. Giving has been up significantly compared to all prior years. With just over a week left in the calendar year when I am preparing this newsletter for printing, it's a reasonable projection that we will be almost exactly at 50% of our stated budget for the year.

That doesn't seem like good news on the surface. However, when we realize that we have never before been above 25-30%, it becomes good news indeed. Thanks to your faithful support, through prayer and finances, we have been able to do more in terms of hands-on, face-to-face ministry than ever before. With a few more years of giving increases, there's a very reasonable hope that the long-term financial goal will be realized and the next campus chaplain won't have to

build the program very much. The ministry will enter into financial maintenance instead of necessary growth.

Our budget for 2024 will remain essentially where it was for 2023. We expect a few categories will be tweaked a little bit, as some of them had fewer expenses than anticipated and some had more. But for now, we'll say a really big "thank you for your partnership" and plan on trying to get the overall ministry income to be a little closer to our stated budget than it was in 2023. If you have family members, friends, or church congregations who would like to join with us in this work, please help them be well informed. I hope you'll let me know of any people who should be receiving this newsletter and following our website and other programs as well!

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Apple Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us" to learn more.

Please Pray

- for more new contacts and for those people we have connected with so far,
- for Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry to successfully build a community identity rather than an identity focused on me,
- for safety for all our participants, especially those from places hostile to the Gospel,
- for increased trust in God's Word and promises,
- for opportunity to build lasting and purposeful relationships, especially with our international scholarly community,
- for God to raise up native English speakers who will assist our international ministry,
- that the Lord will draw people into discipleship relationships,
- for increased ability to care for and bring Christ's mercy to all our community,
- that the church congregations of The AALC will thrive and grow together,
- that we may be diligent about the many vocations the Lord has given us.

Upcoming Activities:

Pastor Spotts will be on a writing retreat from January 1-6. He plans to return to campus on Monday, January 8.

Mondays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center

Mondays at 7:00 pm Pastor Spotts teaches Greek 2 at www.ALTS.edu

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (tentative time) “That You May Know” Bible study at Beta Sigma Psi

Remember to get your church on my calendar!

Watch the calendar at www.wittenbergcomo.com, follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to wittenbergcomo.com to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!