

WITTENBERG DOOR
-----CAMPUS MINISTRY-----

HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



www.wittenbergcomo.com

May 2024

Partnership and Growth

Please Pray

For Pastor Spotts in his teaching roles both within Wittenberg Door and at ALTS, the seminary of TAALC,

for Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry to grow in community identity around biblical studies and prayer,

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,

that the Lord would use our current participants to bring more people they know into our fellowship and to trust in Jesus.

for opportunities to reach out to people who are wrapping up high school and will be moving into the collegiate environment soon,

that the church congregations of The AALC will thrive and grow together,

that God's peace and truth will reign in the public square.

We had a great academic year of partnership and growth here at Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry! I say that in the newsletter. Those of you who are contributors have probably noticed that when I send a thank you note I often say something about appreciating the opportunity to serve as your chaplain on campus. I really do mean that – we work together with all sorts of people, on-campus and often off-campus, bringing the eternal hope found only in Christ to all nations. And we are glad to work together!

Last evening, in our dinner and conversation night, we had a total of 20 people present, representing five different nationalities. The after-dinner talk focused on the Christian view of the divine and human natures in Christ, and why it's important that he is entirely human and entirely divine. "How can he do that?" one person asked. It's a miracle. There's no way any of us could be both human and divine. We have to receive what we don't entirely understand, and receive it in faith.

A number of the people who have little experience with Christianity were listening, and following along very carefully. As our Lord and Savior draws humans to himself, we can know that he understands exactly what it is to be human, and that because he is divine, he is the one who can take our sin, shame, and failing upon himself, replacing it with his divine righteousness. This is the best news you or I can give anybody in this life!

When I think about the partnerships Wittenberg Door has made on the Mizzou campus, it becomes clear to me just how much of an impact we can have. Half of the people who came to our dinner and conversation evening were introduced to us through those relationships. I have been conversation partners with some, initially arranged through the Asian Affairs Center or the Mizzou International Center. Others have heard about our meetings through an email list

Did You Know?

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is not planting a permanent church congregation.

We are a mission outreach of The AALC to college communities.

Pastor Spotts is a called and ordained pastor of The AALC.

Pastor Spotts is not on faculty or staff of any of the colleges to which he ministers.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is committed to providing real live, face-to-face, pastoral care to students, faculty, staff, and administration, as well as their families.

The work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry mostly reaches to international scholars and their families. Most have very little prior knowledge of Christianity.

We depend on your prayers and financial support.

Behold, how good and how pleaseant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore

~~ Psalm 133 (KJV) ~~

operated by the International Center. One of the people I've met with for a long time introduced me and another of the international participants. One of our American participants was a student in the music department at the time that Martha and I were, many years back. Four other American participants attend the same church we attend when available in Columbia.

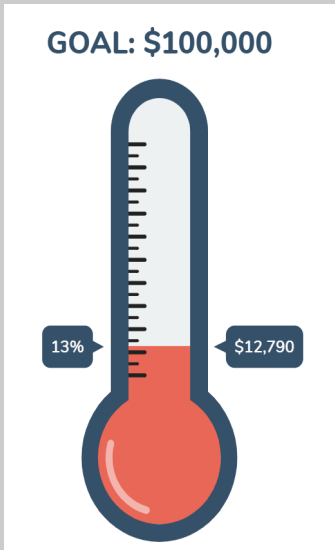
It's these networks of people that bring growth. It's through our human networks that we are able to show ourselves as Christians to be available to love and serve our neighbors, and the neighbors of our neighbors as well.

Jesus is building his church (Matthew 16). And it grows like a living thing (Ephesians 2), as we are his willing messengers of the good news of life from death, hope from despair, and repentance leading to forgiveness, life, and salvation.

What's next for Wittenberg Door? The academic year is wrapping up. Things are a little different during the summer. But I'm sure our Lord will bring many opportunities to love and serve our neighbors, to pray for them and with them, to encourage them in times of trouble, and to help them walk in the paths of righteousness for His sake (Psalm 23).

Where Are the Pictures??

Apparently I'm having a tech glitch I was previously unaware of . I'm not able to access pictures I've taken in the past couple of years. Is this part of God's work to increase my patience? Perhaps. I think the pictures are there . . . somewhere . . . in some format . . . visible sometimes but not others. Hopefully by the next newsletter it will all be easy again.



People continue to ask great questions! And we can bring them to our God who answers prayers – thanks be to God.



(old picture that I can display)

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

Thanks to all our generous supporters! With about 33% of the year gone, our budget is about 13% met. We're a little behind last year's overall pace. Please help us reach our longer-term goal of being able to call and support a full-time, permanent chaplain for this Christ-centered work. If you know of others who would be able to join in support (including prayer), please let us know.

I hope you'll think about joining those people in the Wittenberg Door 300! If we have 300 regular donors, our calculation says we are very likely to have a budget adequate to sustain this work in the long run.

Housing remains a significant issue, not only at Wittenberg Door, but in virtually every ministry family. Did you know that a pastor can deduct housing expenses for tax purposes? That's one of the reasons we track those expenses so carefully. They include mortgage or fair rent value of the house, utilities, repairs, and insurance. We still have a mortgage on the Intergalactic Headquarters (our home)! Unfortunately, the house has needed a number of repairs recently. Thankfully, we're able to be good and careful stewards. This house is a very good place to live and to host ministry events.

As you consider your giving, I urge you to think of what it means to open a door into the heart and life of a young family who need the hope of life in Christ!

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.

Upcoming Activities:

Weekly Schedule

NOW MONDAYS at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion, Student Center.

Our Lunch study will move into Matthew's Gospel soon – watch the website for information on how you can participate even if you aren't in Columbia!

Mondays at 7:00 pm Pastor Spotts teaches Matthew's Gospel at www.ALTS.edu

Thursdays at 5:00 pm Greek Club – studying John's Gospel just now!

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!

Non-Weekly Schedule

May 10-12, many graduations!

May 6-18 Pastor Spotts on a writing retreat, no regular office hours.

June 24-25 The AALC Clergy Commission Meets, St. Paul, Minnesota

June 25-28 The AALC General Convention, St. Paul, Minnesota

July 5 (tentative) Potluck Park Picnic (Place TBD)

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on X. 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!