



**HISTORY  
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[www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com)

## **December 2019 Newsletter Mere Christians**

Hello, everyone! It's been a busy time at Wittenberg Door! That may or may not have impacted my mental deadline of releasing a newsletter on the first of the month, but in any case, it gives me cause to remind everyone that Christ and His people have been active on the campuses in Columbia! That idea draws our attention to the reason we called ourselves Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry and to one of our regular activities.

In October of 1517, when Martin Luther posted some topics for debate on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, he was issuing a call for discussion of some topics which should have been important to Christians. His conviction was that biblical Christian doctrine can stand the test of vigorous debate. We at Wittenberg Door think that principle has never changed.



We chose to have a topical discussion on Tuesday evenings at The Heidelberg Restaurant, on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, adjacent to the Mizzou campus (pictures compliments of The Heidelberg). It's also an easy walk from Stephens College. This year, we've been discussing C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*. Most Tuesdays at 5:30, as well as enjoying some special menu offerings, we've been exploring issues that Lewis brought up. What is morality? Are there universal truths? How can we identify morality? How can we identify truth? Does biblical Christianity hold up to the reality of the world all around us?

The answer, as you might have guessed, is that biblical, historic Christianity makes sense of the intricacies of this world. We find we can live a very coherent and relevant life as Mere Christians, not just on Tuesdays, but all week long. We invite everyone to join us. It's no problem to jump into the discussion at any time. And the cajun fries are great!



## Wittenberg Door Financial Update

One of the hallmarks of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is that we put a called and ordained pastor into the collegiate community to be present, serving any student, faculty, staff, or administration member in need, as well as being present for their families. Apparently this strikes some people as revolutionary. We think of it as plain common sense.

That staff time doesn't come without expenses, though. It costs money to place someone in a critical situation like a college campus. We don't receive any funding from any collegiate entity. That would entangle us and could potentially compel us to agree with a college administration policy which is antithetical to the Christian faith. We'd rather try to serve as a trusted presence on campus, bringing wise advice and counsel, teaching and prayers, being biblical and, where it is possible, acting in agreement with collegiate policies.

Your contributions make this possible. We couldn't do what we are doing without a lot of help. And this year, people have stepped forward to put their money where their mouths are. Year to date giving is almost \$25,000.00, up about \$3,500 since last year.

As you can imagine, this doesn't actually go very far beyond the basic operational expenses we have. We're close to having the ministry pay for medical insurance and expenses for me and my family. We're nowhere near receiving a housing allowance to cover utilities and upkeep, not to mention fair market rent. A salary is still a distant dream. We've stayed afloat this long, and intend to do all we can to continue the work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry. But it won't go on without the contributions that make it possible for real presence to provide real care. Every hour I work at a different job takes me away from this primary calling for an hour. Every outside responsibility that I schedule means there's some opportunity on campus that will be missed. Please step up with your contributions so I can step up to care for our collegiate communities.

If your church congregation or other Christian group would like to hear more about what we are doing so as to consider financial and prayer support, please let me know. We'll make it happen. Together we can have a great impact around the world!

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 Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at [www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com) and click on "about" and "support us."

## Uganda Update:



Last month I told you that our friend Alice was scheduled for an MRI which could result in her release from treatment for her brain tumor. Frankly, I had mixed feelings about the possibility of a release from treatment. It would be a wonderful bit of news! Yet, a sudden release from such treatment can mean that symptoms of further difficulties would be missed.

I'm very glad to say that Alice's doctors were quite pleased with her MRI. They plan to monitor her and have her taking anti-seizure medicine for about two more years. It will not be as expensive (\$1,600 per month as opposed to \$2,200 per month) and is a sign that she seems to be well on her way to recovery. I spoke with Simon Peter and Alice in the past week. They seem to be doing very well.

In just one month I will be starting a journey to Uganda with my friends at Eleos Ministry ([www.themercyway.com](http://www.themercyway.com)). While in Uganda we will be working on an agricultural program which includes building a goat enclosure. We'll also be interviewing many young people who benefit from words of encouragement and the occasional small gift. One, Sarah, wrote me a letter thanking me for caring and praying, and asking me if I could keep sending her gum. Yes, I think I can spare a pack of gum every few months.

I'm really looking forward to preaching in Kaliro, Uganda on January 12 and 19, as well as teaching a compressed schedule seminary level course on Lutheran distinctives and Bible study tactics January 20-23. After a meeting with one or more Ugandan church leaders on the 24<sup>th</sup>, I head back to Missouri.

Next month's newsletter will have more of a focus on the ministry care we can provide in Uganda. I really didn't anticipate this being a part of a college ministry. Then again, we care for internationals who are here in Missouri, so we may as well care for some who are at their own homes too. I pray that the relationships will continue to grow and that we may reach a point of involving many members of our collegiate communities in intentional service trips somewhere down the road.

If you would like to assist in these opportunities to see God's people learn and grow in their faith, and especially if you would like to help with the expenses of bringing some of the resources needed by our Ugandan friends, please let me know. In any case, please pray for the work being done by these faithful servants of Christ. As Simon Peter told me, "I can bring an eternal hope to everyone through the Gospel, but if these people want any earthly hope at all, they need to learn to read, write, and speak as educated people."

## Upcoming Activities:

Our regular weekly activities are mostly on break until the end of January. Please make contact to confirm if a scheduled event is happening.

Tuesdays 5:30 pm – Mere Christians – at The Heidelberg

Wednesdays 5:30 pm – Biblical One-Anothering – at Beta Sigma Psi

Thursdays at 1:00 pm – Bible discussion at Mizzou Student Center

December 17 - Pastor Spotts at Missouri Synod Circuit Gathering, Sedalia, MO

January 1 - Pastor Spotts at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lohman MO

January 5 - Pastor Spotts at Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ashland MO

January 7 - Pastor Spotts at Missouri Synod Circuit Gathering, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia MO

January 10-25 Pastor Spotts goes to Uganda!

January 24 - Friday - In place of our regular dinner, we'll get together at a restaurant.

January 27 - We jump into the second semester of college work a week late!

January 28 (tentative) Pastor Spotts teaches *The Bible in Context* at ALTS.edu, 7-9 pm for 10 Tuesdays

January 30 Pastor Spotts teaches Greek 1 at ALTS.edu, 7-9 pm for 10 Thursdays

February 7 - Dinners resume

**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 <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!**