

Prayer, A Solution For A Problem Of Academic Proportions **College Students Around The Nation Make Prayer A Vital Part Of Their** **Education**

May 1, Orlando FL- May 3rd marks the 50th annual National Day of prayer, and during the same week, many college students are preparing for final exams. There is a familiar saying that many evangelicals quote when it comes to the issue of prayer in school, “As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools,” but does that statement ring true for College students?

Barna research shows that 83 percent of Americans pray during the week, and 82 percent believe that prayer has a direct affect on life. Sixty percent of Americans pray for specific requests. Nine out of ten agree that there is a God and that he watches over his people and answers their prayers.

Students at colleges around the country are organizing prayer rallies such as the one at Dartmouth College. Chris West, the Director of the Campus Crusade For Christ at Dartmouth said, “We will be coordinating a public event that focuses on prayer with other campus ministries, including a faculty group, where the students and others will gather on the green at high noon and pray for the issues facing the nation, our leadership and for the issues that the students themselves face in their daily lives.”

In the April 23 issue of Time magazine, Author Bruce Wilkinson of the *New York Times* number one best selling book, “The Prayer of Jabez,” states that while most Americans believe in prayer, they save it only for emergencies.

“There is defiantly the mentality to start sending up emergency prayers during exam week,” said Dartmouth student Jennifer Conrad. At a recent event called “A wing and prayer,” Campus Crusade students handed out hot wings to students passing by and offered to pray for them. “The main request we had was for help on upcoming tests,” said Conrad. “It is very evident that students are looking for a little more help when it comes to exams, but for me, prayer is a way that I keep connected, no matter what time of the year. It helps me remember that I don’t need to be stressed out about classes and all that entails the life of a college student, it reminds me that the outcome is not ultimately left up to me.”

Students are forming prayer groups to encourage and support one another like the one at University of Washington.

Ashley Howell, a student at the university, said that she and a group of friends have been praying with each other for several weeks. She noted that the upswing in the amount of students taking time to pray on her campus is very noticeable. “We are definitely praying for each other, especially during finals time, that’s when we need it the most.

Campus Crusade for Christ was founded by Dr. Bill Bright in 1951 at UCLA. The ministry now has 22,000 full time staff and 489,000 trained volunteers worldwide, serving on campuses and in community-based ministries. The goal of the college ministry is to help reach the world’s 60 million college students with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Currently, Campus Crusade is on more than 1,000 campuses in the U.S. and around the world.