



Compassion Coalition

Ways to Connect with Higher Education

“Most students are actually seeking to have some spiritual component in their life. The only way that’s going to be met in a public university setting is if the churches make themselves available to support our students.”

~Jim Hamrick, University of Tennessee’s English Language Institute

Make a Difference Through Prayer

- Pray for growing student involvement with Christian campus ministries and local churches. Pray that all students -- and educators -- will hear the gospel, embrace the Truth of Christ, and be transformed by God’s grace.
- Pray that the staff of various campus ministries would be unified in purpose and effective in outreach.
- Pray for the protection of students and staff from campus violence.
- Pray for students going through a time of financial, emotional or spiritual crisis.
- Pray for international students and their families. Pray especially for the faith of students from countries or families that oppose Christianity.
- Praise God for the success of efforts to reduce binge drinking and other high-risk behaviors among UT students, and pray for continued movement toward health and wholeness.

Make a Difference Through Your Life

- Become a host family to a college student from out of the Knoxville area, or from another country. Invite your student to family meals, holiday celebrations, special outings and church services. Remember their birthday, and offer your house as a "home away from home."
- Seek to have a positive influence on students by sharing truths from God's word, and living them out in your own life as an example.
- Business leaders: Provide internships or apprentice programs with a discipleship component, to help students gain direction in their career and life choices.
- Become a mentor to a college student. Sign up through Project GRAD (525-4030, www.projectgradknoxville.org), or KnoxAchieves (215-2002, www.knoxachieves.org), which helps low-income, first generation students succeed at the college level.

Make a Difference Through Your Church



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Encourage and embrace college students:

- Connect a college student with a Sunday school class or small group, as a dependable and friendly "extended family" the student can go to with prayer concerns or other needs.
- Make existing ministries of your church available to college students – i.e., ministries that address physical or mental health needs, crisis pregnancy counseling, or budgeting classes.
- Think of creative ways to meet student needs while building relationships. How about a Laundry Day, inviting students to members' homes to do free loads of laundry? A Cookie Cook-Off at Christmastime, offering students the use of the church's kitchen and the ingredients to bake their own gifts for friends and family?
- African American and Latino churches can play a special role in supporting students of color on mostly white campuses. Reach out to students to hear their stories, surround them with support, celebrate their achievements, and encourage them to persevere.
- Match professionals in your congregation with students in their respective fields looking for career mentors.
- Offer scholarships that help make it possible for low-income students to enroll or stay in college. For example, KnoxAchieves (215-2002, www.knoxachieves.org) helps high school graduates pay for community college tuition, with support from mentors. Project GRAD (525-4030, www.projectgradknoxville.org) awards college scholarships to qualifying high school graduates.
- Provide child care for parents attending classes — young married couples in graduate school, students determined to stay in school after an unplanned pregnancy, or working parents taking evening classes to finish their degree at a community college.
- Invite college students to share in your church's compassion and justice ministry, and give them meaningful opportunities for service. (See the list of targeted volunteer opportunities for students below. Also, look throughout this book for hundreds of ideas for how college students can serve and bless our community.)
- Invite students to participate in panel discussions to share their perspective on faith, social issues, and the future of Knoxville. Students will feel valued and validated, and your church will gain insights on reaching the next generation of leaders.

Connect with a college campus:

- Link with a campus ministry listed below to learn more about opportunities to encourage students:
 - University of Tennessee Office of Student Activities: 974-3179, <http://web.utk.edu/~stuact>
 - Knoxville College: 524-6500, www.knoxvillecollege.edu



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- Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Student Life and Recreation: 694-6681, www.pstcc.edu
- Connect with a student organization. The University of Tennessee website (www.asa.utk.edu) lists 335 student organizations—27 of these are faith-based. Find an area where the special interests of students and church members intersect.
- Develop or partner with a ministry for international students. See the description of volunteer opportunities with Christian international student ministries below.
- To connect with international students on the UT campus, call the International House at 974-4453. See also a list of international student associations at UT at <http://web.utk.edu/~ihouse/associations.shtml>.
- Campus Renewal Ministries is a campus outreach that brings together ministry leaders and students across the body of Christ for united prayer and collaborative mission. Their University of Tennessee campus headquarters is a House of Prayer for the entire campus and community. See their website, www.campusrenewal.org, or contact them locally at 250-4313.

Area Colleges and Universities

- Fountainhead College of Technology: 688-9422, www.fountainheadcollege.edu
- ITT Technical Institute: 671-2800, www.itt-tech.edu
- Johnson Bible College: 573-4517, www.jbc.edu
- Knoxville College: 524-6511, www.knoxvillecollege.edu
- Pellissippi State Technical Community College: 694-6400, www.pstcc.edu
- South College: 251-1800, www.southcollegetn.edu
- Tennessee Technology Center at Knoxville: 546-5567, www.ttcknoxville.edu
- The University of Tennessee: 974-1000, <http://www.utk.edu>

Campus Ministries

Recognize the great outreach opportunities that we have here in Knoxville and find out how you or your church can plug in. Many of the following student ministry organizations welcome volunteers. Ask about opportunities to:

- Host a Bible study for college students.
- Arrange opportunities for one-on-one mentoring and discipleship.
- Offer workshops for students on topics relating to financial, emotional, physical or spiritual well-being.
- Offer confidential counseling to students.
- Help plan and participate in special events.
- Pray for students.
- Provide administrative help, fundraising, and other behind-the-scenes support.



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- Donate food, Christian literature, and other items.

Student ministries at the University of Tennessee:

Adventist Christian Fellowship: 522-3193, www.adventhouse.org

Campus Crusade for Christ: 748-1326, www.utkcru.org

Catholic Student Association (John XXIII University Parish): 523-7931,
<http://web.utk.edu/~csasso>

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: 216-3413, <http://www.chialphautk.com>

Christian Student Center/Church of Christ: 523-4796, <http://www.cscutk.org>

Christian Student Fellowship: 523-7216, <http://www.csfutk.com>

Church of God Campus Christian Connection: 803-5038, <http://web.utk.edu/~collconn>

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship:

- Undergrad Division: 633-9002, <http://web.utk.edu/~ivcf>
- Graduate Student/Faculty Division: 558-5773, <http://www.ivgfm.org>
- Collegiate Black Christian Fellowship: <http://web.utk.edu/~ivcf/cbc.html>

Knox Area Baptist Collegiate Ministries: 546-8272, <http://www.knoxareabcm.org>

Lutheran Campus Ministry: 524-0366 ext. 4, <http://www.utklutheran.org>

The Navigators: 690-2121, <http://web.utk.edu/~navs>

Orthodox Christian Fellowship: 482-0088, <http://www.Utofc.com>

Presbyterian Center: 525-7475, <http://www.pcutk.org>

Reformed University Fellowship: 300-2077, <http://www.utk.ruf.org>

Tyson House: 637-2031, <http://www.tysonhouse.org>

Volunteers for Christ: 694-4356, <http://web.utk.edu/~vfc/thechurch.html>

Wesley Foundation: 522-2728, <http://web.utk.edu/~wesfound>

Service Opportunities for College Students

Many college students have the desire, the energy and the talents to make a difference in their community. Help students connect with church-based ministries and nonprofit organizations, or invite them to serve with one of the following programs.

Academic Mentoring Academy (AMA): 806-5184, graceandmercier@aol.com

Provides individual tutoring for urban youth in elementary through high school in

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reading, math, and language arts. College students serve as mentors to help students develop academic skills, good study habits and an "I can do it" attitude. The program also serves meals to area youth, which students help to prepare and serve.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: 216-3413, <http://www.chialphautk.com>

Connects college students looking to "adopt" younger students to minister to them, help them, love them, and be a family to them.

Christian Student Center: 523-4796, <http://www.cscutk.org/outreach.html>

Connects students with community service opportunities, such as serving lunch at KARM, helping with the "power towel" fundraiser for Second Harvest, and spending time with kids living in public housing.

Extra Helping (Campus Christian Connection): 803-5038

Encourages students to participate and volunteer outreach opportunities, such as serving a meal to homeless individuals weekly through Lost Sheep Ministry, or sending household supplies to internationals living on campus.

Friendship Partner Program (UT's International House): 974-4453,

<http://web.utk.edu/~ihouse>

Pairs international and American college students in order to develop friendships and make everyone feel "at home" at UT.

Knoxville Fellows Program: 250-5479, <http://www.knoxvillefellows.com>

A 10-month Christian leadership development program for recent college graduates, including theological reflection, graduate-level classes, internships and service opportunities, equipping participants to apply their education to well-being of the city.

Pellissippi State Services for Students With Disabilities: 694-6751,

<http://pstcc15.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/index.html>

Serve as a scribe to take class notes for students with disabilities.



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Connect with International Student Ministries

Many international students and their families welcome help overcoming barriers of language, resettlement, culture shock and isolation. Involvement with an international student can lead to a meaningful friendship and a unique window on the world.

International students have many of the same needs as any other college students, along with some unique challenges. Ways to reach out to international students include:

- Be a friend: visit them, invite them to your home, share meals and fun activities together, offer to pray for them.
- Tutor them in English and provide opportunities to practice conversational language skills.
- Provide transportation to errands and appointments.
- Donate household items, toiletries and other necessities.
- Teach them about American culture by introducing them to a variety of local foods, music, and cultural events. Be equally interested in learning about their culture.
- Include them in holiday celebrations.
- Invite them to learn about your faith in Jesus, but be sensitive to their beliefs, and gentle and respectful in your presentation.
- Offer to bring them with you to worship services and other church activities, while being clear that your friendship does not hinge on this.
- Help them find meaningful ways to use their experience, interests and skills to serve the community.
- Reach out to the spouses and children of students with activities that involve the whole family.

Connect with the following special ministry opportunities for your church, small group or family:

Bridges: 748-1326, <http://www.utkcru.org>

An international student ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Reformed University Fellowship International: 292-3439, www.rufinternational.org

A ministry to international students and visiting scholars at the University of Tennessee that seeks to welcome them with Christ's hospitality, engage them with Christ's gospel,

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and equip them to be ambassadors in Christ's kingdom.

- Families: Host or provide food for our Sunday evening "Dinner & Discussion" events in local Christian homes, or host a student for a holiday celebration.
- Participate in one of our monthly outreach and fellowship events (e.g. fall festival, movie night, Christmas party).

InterFACE (International Friendship Activities & Cultural Exchange): 673-4418,

http://www.iface.org/tennessee_Knoxville.htm

Serves international students and their families at University of Tennessee and Pellissippi College. Sponsors friendship activities including dinners, English as a Second Language programs, Bible Studies, Sunday Schools, holiday activities, and outings. Helps students with resettlement in Knoxville; conversational English opportunities and workshops; and referrals to community resources and churches.

- Tutor students in English and help with resettlement challenges.
- Families: be matched with an international student through the "American Friends" program for friendship, meals and cultural exchange.
- Women: Join the International Women's Club, and share tea, craft classes and interesting conversational topics with women who otherwise may get few chances to practice their English and develop friendships.
- If your church is interested in starting a program for international students, the Conversational English Workshop offers teacher training.

HIS Mission: 521-7890, HISDonya@aol.com

Shares the Gospel with international students and scholars, recognizing them as future leaders and potential missionaries in their home countries. Outreach includes help with language skills (with special attention to accent), temporary housing while students are in transition, help with transportation, and an introduction to Christianity in a context of appreciating their culture.

- Lead Conversational English sessions.
- Teach English as a Second Language, using the Bible as a text.
- Provide driving lessons, guidance in buying and repairing cars, and help securing auto insurance.
- Help lead shopping trips to purchase traditional and imported foods from students' home countries.



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