

40 Days of Prayer
August 23-October 1, 2010
Praying *for* and *with* our college campuses

Each fall, over *17 million* American students head to college and university campuses. Millions more will head to college when you include universities around the world. These students are making decisions, learning lessons, and being shaped into the next generation of teachers, accountants, mothers, fathers, doctors, CEO's, journalists, and ministers, among others. Shouldn't it be our prayer that as they make these decisions, learn these lessons and become these people that they do so having been shaped by Christ?

This fall, we invite you to join us as we pray for the next generation of Christian leaders as they head to college and university campuses. Starting August 23, we are calling the Church to prayer for our college campuses for 40 days. We have a two-fold purpose: to call the Church to pray for college students and to help college students learn to pray. The 40 days is not a conclusive time period when we simply say our prayers and wish our students the best, but it is a specific period of time in which we can expressly pray for a group of people who so desperately need our prayers. The "40" also comes from Isaiah 40 to "prepare the way of the Lord". This is a chapter of Scripture where we see God calling his people to hope from despair, to understanding from futility, and to strength from weariness. This is our prayer for the generation of college students who populate campuses around the world...that they would come to trust in the One, true God and be strengthened to run the race that is before them.

The prayers have been written by campus ministers, college students, bishops, authors, pastors, and other leaders. Collectively, they express a heart for God to inspire, challenge, and transform the lives of college campuses and individual students. As you pray the prayers offered by these fellow Christians, may you see how God is calling you to minister to those future Christian leaders who may not yet profess the name of Christ.

As we seek to call forth prayer from the Church, we're following the words of Psalm 71:24, proclaiming God's righteousness all day long and offering three opportunities for prayer: morning, noon, and evening prayers. The morning prayers are written by pastors and leaders who support the work of shaping the lives of future Christian leaders. The noon prayers come from campus ministers themselves who have often prayed these prayers on their own, but now open up their own call by sharing their prayers with the world. The evening prayers come from college students themselves, whose prayers reveal the passion they have for ministering to others in their generation.

We have several ways in which people can join in our prayer efforts:

- Daily Emails—Receive an email morning, noon, and evening with the prayer for the day.
- Downloadable Prayer Guide—Download and share a book of prayer with the daily prayers that can be shared with your family, your church, your prayer group, or prayed alone.
- Twitter prayers—Follow us @CollegeUnion and we'll send you a link to the prayers online.

- Text Messages –Receive part of the prayer as a text message and be reminded to pray for college campuses and get a link to the prayers online. Sign up by texting “pray40” to 41411, standard text messaging rates apply.

In order to join this group of pray-ers, please check in on us regularly at www.Pray40.com. The website has some basic information now but will officially launch on August 2. Please check back regularly and help us spread the word about the upcoming prayer efforts for campus ministry.

Campus Ministers, Wesley Foundation directors, and those who minister to college students in other ways are going to be encouraged to connect several ways:

- By joining the prayer effort by praying themselves and inviting their students, board members, and partnering churches to do the same
- By signing up for a 24-hour period of continuous prayer within their ministry
- By teaching about prayer in their ministries this fall or utilizing some recorded teachings on prayer that we are providing at no cost
- By considering signing up to have students pray as a part of the Living Prayer Center, a ministry of The Upper Room

The effort is a partnership between College Union, The Upper Room, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Foundation for Evangelism, with special thanks to United Methodist Communications.

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