

CAMPUS CATALYST

a newsletter of Campus Christian Fellowship



Winter 2018 From Agnostic to Faith

by Steven Reed (NCSU Campus Minister)

You probably aren't thinking about Christmas anymore, but I want to share with you a story that happened over the month of December here with CCF at NC State. Technically, the story began the first week of August when a freshman, named Alex, came to our first worship night to support a friend of his who wanted to check out the ministry. During the beginning social part of our night, before we officially started our worship, Alex came up to me and asked if he could step outside during our worship time because Christianity wasn't his thing and he didn't want to be in the way.

I told him that CCF doesn't push our faith on anyone and that, if he wanted to, he'd be more than welcome to sit in our lobby area outside our worship room. But I also told him that since it was our first night, we had some icebreaker games planned that he might enjoy and told him we'd love to have him hang out with us for any and all of the night. Long story short, he stuck around for everything and even went to dinner with CCF afterward.

As we were leaving the restaurant, he came up to me and told me that he really enjoyed himself and that he's never seen Christians who were so welcoming and loving. From that day on, Alex came to just about every worship night, social event, and game night that CCF had!

Not only that, but he and I would meet weekly over coffee to talk about



Alex being baptized by Steven Reed in Lake Raleigh at NC State

different aspects of Christianity. When we started meeting, he told me about his Catholic background and how he stopped believing in God (basically becoming an atheistic agnostic) when his father walked out on him and his family at a young age. Every week, we were reading entire books of the Bible together and sharing what we saw about Jesus and God in them. For example, one week we'd talk about stories of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew, and the next week we'd talk about stories from Joshua that we read. Near the end of November, I challenged him to read the book of Acts.

At the beginning of December, he told me that he believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized! So we went to the lake on centennial campus during exam week, and despite the extremely cold water, I baptized him into Christ! What a great way to end the fall semester and begin Christmas break. Alex has been growing in his faith and is a joy to me. I wanted to share this story with you so that you can rejoice in what God is doing through you and your partnership with CCF.

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FYI!

UNC-CH Our intern led a team of three students to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip. They served with a ministry that works to plant churches and care for children.

UNCW Our students are really getting interested in discipleship and small group meetings! More are getting involved in international ministry and we have started planning for future outreach.

NCSU We had two students get baptized in December. We've also started a small group Bible study at Meredith College and Wake Tech Community College.

ECU Pray for God to provide 20 NEW students to get plugged in and connected to the ministry. Pray for the upcoming Mexico Mission Trip that will take place in May.

Prayer Requests:

Dean Owens (Campus Minister at UNC) is preparing to undergo treatment for a type of leukemia that has developed as a result of his chemo for lymphoma.

Lauren Schultz (Women's Minister at UNC) will be leaving CCF at the end of the school year. Thank you so much for your ministry, Lauren!

We are currently looking for the right person to fill the position of Women's Minister at UNC.

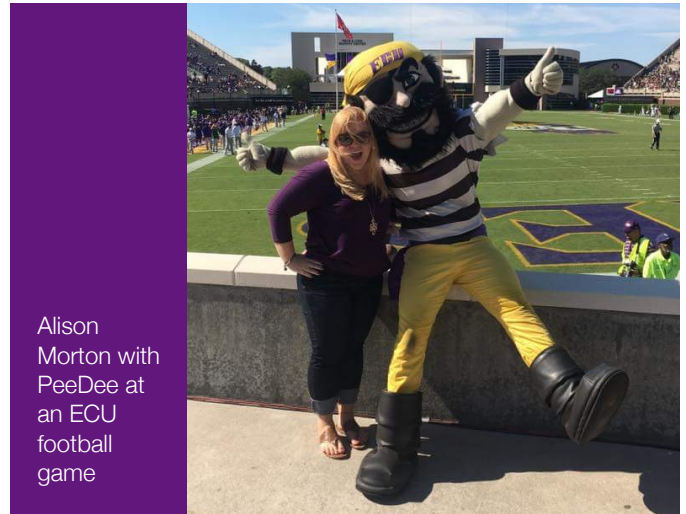
Alumni Impacting the World

by Alison Morton (ECU CCF, Class of 2016)

During my freshman year of college, I tried out different ministries on campus at East Carolina. It wasn't until the fall of my sophomore year that I attended my first Overflow and was sure that CCF was the ministry for me. This ministry felt like home because of the smaller size which was more intimate, like the youth group I was part of during high school. I loved being able to build relationships with people that were meaningful and easy to maintain. The relationships I built have turned into friendships that I know will last far beyond college.

Before being a part of CCF, I would say that I was more timid and the thought of leaving my comfort zone seemed extremely scary. My comfort zone meant being involved, but only to a certain extent. When I was asked to be a part of the leadership team, I was very anxious because I knew leading was outside of my comfort zone. I thought that I was not meant to be a leader, but I felt God was telling me this opportunity was the perfect time to take that first step out of my comfort zone. This was a huge step for me because being a leader not only kept me accountable, but made me so much more outgoing on campus and with other students in the ministry.

Another place outside my comfort zone was knowledge of the Bible. I did not start going to church until my freshman year of high school, so I felt like there were so many things about the Bible that I didn't know. One thing that helped me grow so much was one-on-one discipleship with CCF's Women's



Alison Morton with PeeDee at an ECU football game

Minister, Connie Taylor. In addition to our Bible study that met weekly, meeting with Connie helped me develop a deeper understanding of the gospel and the Bible.

As a high school teacher, I am thankful for the leadership skills that I learned in CCF. I am able to use them in my leadership role as a club adviser in my department. I am also thankful that I get to use my school as a mission field just as I did campus, sharing the gospel with students and coworkers even if only by my actions.

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