

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

Somerset Community College

June 16, 2011

Dear Pastor/Ministry Leader:

We wanted to take a moment to thank you for your involvement in the missions work at the Baptist Campus Ministry at Somerset Community College! We are a missions organization made up of only one part-time staff person and a volunteer base of two semester missionaries, students and church partners (like yourself) who carry out the bulk of our ministry. So, again, thank you for your involvement! Without people like you, our ministry to Somerset Community College wouldn't even exist.

As you know, our Free Lunch Ministry has been one of the staple ministries of our program. During the last year 2430 meals were served to students and staff of the college by about 12 different churches from our association. In the Fall Semester, our churches served 1648 meals with an average attendance of 82 people per lunch. In the Spring Semester, our churches served 782 meals with an average attendance of 71 per lunch. These lunches are a vital part of reaching out to the over 8,000 students enrolled at SCC.

In case you aren't aware of why this ministry is so vital, let me give you a few statistics. Recent surveys show that the vast majority of people make a decision to follow Christ prior to age 18. After this age, the number of people who commit their life to Christ drops dramatically. This is coupled with the with the disturbing fact that as many as 70% of Christians stop attending church and actively following Christ after they leave high school. What this means is that the student population at Somerset Community College is probably the largest unreached people group in Pulaski County.

Given this, we first want to encourage you to continue to partner with us in this vital ministry. Second, we want you to consider thinking about how you can use this ministry as a means for your church to reach young adults for Christ. The BCM is not a church in and of itself. We simply assist churches in sharing the gospel and need churches involved who can take these young adults under their wings and disciple them. As you plan for your next lunch, we would like to encourage you to put as much (or more) time into planning your ministry to these young adults as you do in planning the meal. Below are some ideas that might be helpful in doing this:

Pulaski Baptist Association
and



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- Schedule people to come serve the meal, but also schedule people to come and interact with the students as they eat. Bringing drink refills, napkins, etc. around to the tables can give opportunities to have conversations.
- Bring materials from your church with directions and service times to pass out to the students. SCC is a commuter campus and students come from all over the county to attend.
- Bring tracts, Bibles, scriptures to pass out to students as they eat. Don't be afraid to talk with them about Christ! Some churches have used holiday or seasonal opportunities to present scriptures (like verses on love during February).
- Plan to hold a special event for young adults at your church and pass out information to the students during the lunch. We can also e-mail information to students for you or help pass out the information on campus.
- Schedule lunches frequently enough to build relationships with students. This is the single best way to win students to Christ. You are also welcome to come eat with students during other lunches that are being served. Scheduling a time to follow up with students during other upcoming lunches is a great way to reach out.
- Pray with students during the lunch. It is great to ask if there is something you can pray with a student about, but it is even better to stop and pray with them at that moment. If you need privacy, you are always welcome to use our office.
- Consider offering something that students need such as tutoring, transportation, a job referral, or even just a phone number of someone who cares (such as yourself). Many of our students are isolated and have limited resources and support.

If you have other ideas or would like to talk more about this, we would love to help. Please call us anytime at (606) 679-6406. If you haven't already scheduled a lunch for the upcoming semester, call us or e-mail us (somersetbcm@windstream.net) and we will work out a date with you. You can also check our calendar at our website (www.somersetbcm.com) for available dates.

Again, thanks for all you do for helping us advance the gospel on the campus of Somerset Community College!

Yours in Christ,

Dusty & Melissa Phelps
Campus Ministers

Roger & Rachel Riquelme
Semester Missionaries

A partnership of the
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