

A group of people in a dark room, likely a church or concert hall, with their hands raised in a gesture of worship or praise. The scene is dimly lit, with several spotlights illuminating the participants. The ceiling features a grid pattern and recessed lights. The text "Abide IN ME" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Abide
IN ME



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From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It's been an exciting year of mission for us as we launched a new Outreach at the University of Kentucky! As many of you know, this has been a goal and focus for us for the last couple years and it has been amazing to see a combination

of vision, training and a lot of prayer culminate in 7 staff landing in Kentucky in July. Throughout the journey of recruiting a team, finding housing, moving down and launching our outreach, there were a lot of twists and turns. Through it all there has been one consistent theme - God's faithfulness and provision! I invite you to be inspired by reading more about God's work in Kentucky later in this report.

Another substantial change worth mentioning is that University Christian Outreach became its own 501(c)3 this year. In the past, our non-profit status was shared with the Sword of the Spirit and other partner organizations dating back many years. With these partner's blessing and encouragement, we have launched and moved our operations to the new *University Christian Outreach*. We hope this will bring many blessings including a dedicated Board, operational efficiencies and the ability to own our own houses, which has been a goal for many years.

One of the things the Lord has spoken to us comes from John 15:3-4:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

I find these words to be comforting and challenging at the same time. What a comfort and strength to know that the living God desires to abide in us. He desires to work through us and with the power of his Holy Spirit, all things are possible! However, as hardworking and dedicated staff, we want to control our fruitfulness and are tempted to be self-reliant. It's a strong reminder that apart from God, we can do nothing. Our prayer this year has been for God to teach us to abide in him and he has done that in many of us. Please join us in praying that we learn to rely more on him!

In closing, I want to thank you for your partnership in our mission this year! While there are many challenges on our campuses, our vision is for our students not only to survive, but to thrive in their faith! With your help, we are planting seeds of faith and making invitations to follow Jesus that will bear fruit for many years to come. I am hopeful for the future and excited for how God will continue to work in our students and staff as he calls us to himself.

Thank you for your prayers, support and friendship. Yours in Christ,

ANDREW DAVIGNON



BETSY MATTSON

UCO at Michigan State University

I grew up in a Catholic homeschool family, so I learned a lot about my faith growing up and my family was active in our church. I learned a lot about the theology, teachings, and traditions of my faith, but I never knew about having a personal relationship with God. I encountered the Lord's love for me for the first time at a youth group retreat in high school, but I still didn't know how to respond or how to develop this relationship.

Coming into college, I heard about UCO through my brother who was a missionary in Lansing at the time. Through him, I got to know a student who was helping lead the women's household, and she would invite me and many other college freshmen to dinner at their house before UCO events. It was at those dinners that I began to see the genuine friendships in UCO and the unique way that they loved one another. I joined a discipleship group and attended Fan Into Flame in February, and then chose to commit to joining Formation.

The following year was very challenging. It was 2020, I was commuting, and I was doing both work and online school full-time. I was still confused about how to grow my relationship with the Lord, so I was relying on myself to figure out my problems instead of bringing them to God. During all of that, my UCO small group was an amazing help and support to me.

Hearing the Lord speak through these women provided real comradery and encouragement as I navigated one of the most difficult years of my life.

I made it through that year by the grace of God, but my prayer life had taken a hit. Then came Campus Mission Academy, a week-long student missionary training that UCO hosts in the summer.

All those months of not seeking Him caught up with me. I was tired of it - tired of things failing when I tried to take control, tired of not feeling His presence, tired of giving all I could and not seeing any fruit. So, at the prayer meeting on Tuesday night, I just let it all out. I told the Lord how upset and tired I was, and I gave up trying to do it myself. In that surrender, I heard the Lord's voice again, and I felt His deep longing for me to come to Him. I felt His acceptance of my brokenness, my anxiousness, of every part of me that I was frustrated with and ashamed of. In that moment, I realized the Lord truly desired for me to know Him, and for the first time I wanted to know Him more.

Coming back from that retreat, I moved into the UCO women's household, where I was surrounded by women who were seeking the Lord as intentionally or more intentionally than I was. We had morning prayer three times a week, and we'd often end up taking our personal prayer times together. Just by seeing these women taking their relationships with the Lord so seriously brought about a revival in my own prayer life. I received advice and tips from my mentor, my house leaders, my small group, and my friends, and I found inspiration in the different ways all of these people were seeking the Lord.

Since last year, my relationship with the Lord has strengthened and deepened. I cannot say that it has been easy, but I can say that it has been worth it. The Lord has shown me how deeply He loves me, and how faithfully He is with me. He has put the men and women of UCO into my life to be His instruments - His hands and feet - to be the people who speak the truth into my life and the lives of every student they encounter.

Before I came to college I did not know God personally, but there had always been a spark of desire inside me to know Him more.

I came to college with a couple of different competing mindsets. There was a part of me that wanted to live the "normal college experience": to spend most of my time partying and maybe go to class from time to time. But there was also this part of me that wanted to investigate my desire to know God more. My first week on campus, I was roaming around our student group fair and found myself in the religious section. I had checked out a few groups, but then something gravitated me towards a table with a poster that said UCO. I walked up to a guy named Josh, who invited me to check out a bible study.

The bible study was pretty good! I kept going and became close with some of the guys in the group, but I still didn't feel like I knew God personally yet. Little did I know, God's work had already begun.

One of the guys from the Bible study, Nate, asked to get lunch with me. While we were eating he asked me about my personal story and my relationship with Christ. He ended up sharing with me the basics of who Jesus is and how he overcomes the gap of sin that is between us and God. In that moment, Nate helped me offer my life to the Lord and accept Christ as my savior!

It was an important moment, but afterward I still didn't feel like my relationship with God was very different.

Where things changed was at the Fan into Flame Retreat. On Saturday night at the retreat, there was a prayer time where we could be prayed with to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit. A group of guys prayed with me, and I verbally confessed, once again, Jesus as my Lord and Savior. The group kept praying and began speaking in words I could not understand - but somehow I also could. I felt an immense wave of joy come over me, and the only way I can describe it is that I felt more loved than I could ever imagine. Afterwards, ***I couldn't help but praise the Lord loudly in worship, and I declared to him once again that I wanted to give him my whole life.***

After this past year, I have grown so much in the Lord! I have been going to Small Group, Alpha Group, Mission Community, and helping lead Men's Events. The community and accountability UCO has provided has no doubt contributed immensely towards my faith, and I would not be where I am right now without them.



KYLE JORDAN

UCO at Grand Valley State University



ACTS 3:6

I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

Rise Up and Walk!

OUR MISSION

University Christian Outreach is a strategic response to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ: changing campuses to change the world.

Rise and Live

In the beginning of Acts chapter 3, Peter and John meet a lame beggar on their way to the temple. He asks them for money, as he had been doing for many years, but instead he receives what he really needed—healing and new life.

“Then he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”

In UCO, we cannot offer students the “silver and gold” of worldly success that so many of them are seeking. But we can and do offer them what will actually satisfy: a relationship with Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Our outreaches echo Peter’s words in an invitation to all students—Rise and Live. Rise from your fear, from your loneliness, and from your sin. Begin to live in peace, joy, and freedom. And then join us in proclaiming him to the world!

OUR STRATEGY

We want to bring students from various places in their faith journey and form them into mature, lifelong, missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. To do this we engage students through a four-part strategy:



REACH

Evangelism is most effective in the context of relationships. So that's where we begin! We're on campus every day connecting with and cultivating friendships with students through:

SOCIAL EVENTS

FREE FOOD

SPORTS

BIBLE STUDIES



CALL

The Lord never ceases to extend the invitation of discipleship to each of us, but his call is often missed. So, we remind students of this call and invite them to respond with their whole lives as we share the gospel through:

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

EVANGELISTIC PRAYER MEETINGS

HIGH-IMPACT RETREATS



FORM

The goal of Christian maturity is not easily achieved alone. So, we invite students to join our Formation Communities where we train them to be radical missionary disciples through:

SMALL GROUPS

LEADING BIBLE STUDIES

DISCIPLESHIP COURSES

ONE-ON-ONE MENTORSHIP

HOUSEHOLD PROGRAM



SEND

We send students out into the world to be missionaries and leaders in their churches, workplaces, and communities. We invite them to help us continue our mission as well, by:

SERVING WITH UCO

JOINING AN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

OUR CULTURE

Our mission and strategy are carried out in the context of vibrant campus communities. These communities have strong cultures characterized by:

EVANGELISM

Together, we actively reach the lost on our campuses and call them to respond to the Gospel with their whole lives.

DISCIPLESHIP

We aim for mature discipleship, following the Lord and seeking to give him “all of our lives, for the rest of our lives.”

SHARED LIFE

We believe that the life of discipleship is a shared life: we share our joys, burdens, and the bond of steadfast love.

LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We invite college students to live lives full of the Holy Spirit's power, earnestly desiring and using the spiritual gifts to build up the Christian body (1 Corinthians 14:1-5).

CHRISTIAN ECUMENISM

We have members from Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Messianic traditions. Given the breadth of what we hold in common, we seek to share as much of the life of discipleship as possible and encourage one another in our participation in our own churches.



OUR IMPACT

1370 
Students Reached

389 
Students in Bible Studies

162 
Students at Retreats

120 
Students being Formed

43 
Students in Households

61 
UCO Missionaries

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

General Contributions	\$966,000	41%
Ministry Program and Event Income	\$120,000	5%
Missionary Support	\$1,293,000	54%
Total Income	\$2,379,000	
Development	\$256,000	11%
General Administration	\$160,000	7%
Ministry Programs	\$1,873,000	82%
Total Expenses	\$2,289,000	





KENTUCKY PLANT UPDATE

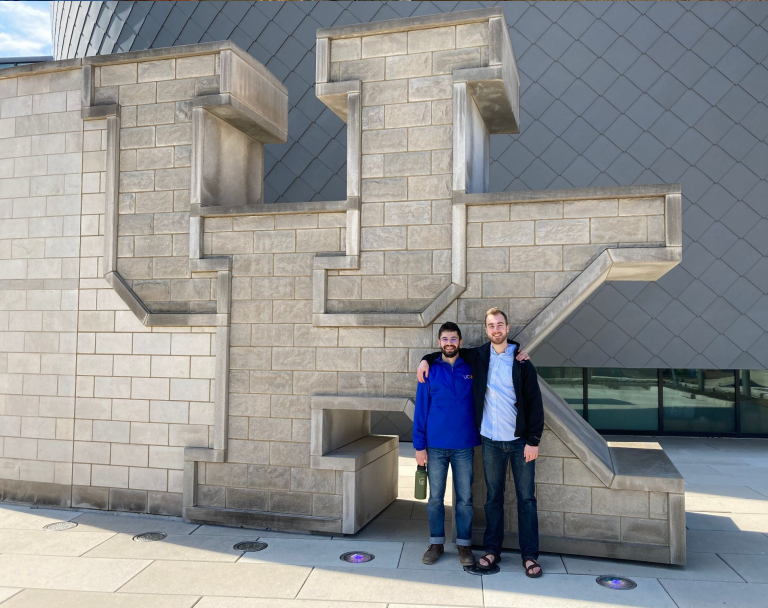
Our UCO team has only just finished its first year serving at the University of Kentucky, but already God has confirmed to us - he brought us here for a great purpose! Our plan for the year was simple: meet as many students as possible, learn about this new place that God has brought us to, and present ourselves to God to see what he might do. God has responded, quite frankly, by blowing our expectations out of the water.

The Lord has enabled us, with four full-time missionaries, to have evangelistic conversations with more than 250 students in the first month of the year. He's building a vibrant Christian student community as we meet weekly in a dingy-but-endearing campus sub-basement. We've quickly become a part of God's people here as he connects us with other ministries who have supported and offered us their friendship. We've been able to form both men's and women's discipleship small groups that meet weekly.

We've also seen his profound concern for each individual student. Many of those who come to Bible Study are new to faith in Jesus Christ or are turning away from serious sin for the first time in their lives. Students are learning how to share openly with others and how to pray. They've expressed to us what a difference it makes for them to be connected to a God who loves and provides for them. One student we met told us that he had just recently asked God for help in giving his life to him, but that he just needed connection with Christians and didn't know where to turn. He later told us that he knew, as soon as we started speaking with him, that this was God answering his prayer.

God's timing is perfect! He has placed us on this campus to join the work he has already begun. There's a sense shared among God's people here in Lexington: that God is putting the pieces together to do something incredible for his glory. With spiritual awakenings and revivals breaking out all over the country, including at Asbury University just 15 miles away, we know that God is going to show his victorious arm. We are glad to have been called here to be used and to see what he will do!

◀ **STEVEN AND SARAH MAIER**
UCO Missionaries in Lexington, KY



UCO HOUSEHOLDS

UCO Households are at the heart of many of our mission communities. In a household, missionaries and students live together, share a common schedule, and work side by side for the sake of the Gospel.

Members of a household commit to praying together, sharing regular meals, and hosting chapter events. They also keep the house "guest ready" for when members and friends of UCO stop by. These commitments allow the house to serve as a hub for community, discipleship, and mission.

Despite the many thousands of students on campus, loneliness and isolation are a common experience for college students. Our UCO households are a place where participants can learn essential relational skills and develop meaningful friendships based on things that last. Because of these rich, Christ-centered relationships, UCO households also serve as a place of welcome and refuge where other students on campus can experience the love of Christ.

What's a household like? Here's a sample schedule:



Monday

HH MORNING PRAYER
HOUSEHOLD DINNER

Tuesday

HH MORNING PRAYER
OUTREACH DINNER

Wednesday

HH MORNING PRAYER
UCO PRAYER MEETING

Thursday

PERSONAL PRAYER
DINNER/HH MEETING

Friday

HH MORNING PRAYER

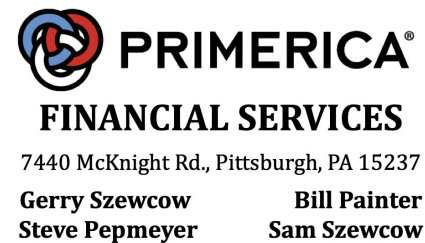
Saturday

PERSONAL PRAYER
HOUSE CHORES!
LORD'S DAY

Sunday

PERSONAL PRAYER
BRUNCH AFTER CHURCH
W/ GUESTS

THANK YOU SPONSORS!





2023 MISSION REPORT

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