

# Chi Alpha



Kent McCorkle

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Dear Family & Friends,

## **The Chi Alpha Family**

One evening after our main weekly meeting, Tony\* stopped me to talk. I could tell from his posture that he had something difficult to say so I just smiled while he found the courage to begin. After a brief pause, he started telling me about his life at home and how his mother and he could barely relate anymore because of the bitterness and unforgiveness between them. Another day I was having lunch with Frank\* who related a similar story to me about his family. Though he's still a teenager, his life has been one of bitter fights, unending arguments, and unforgiveness. Every conversation with his mother opens up old wounds, and his grandparents have gone from hateful words to not talking to him at all.

It's after conversations like these that I realize how much of a family Chi Alpha is to these students and others. Everyone wants to be accepted. If they can't find the love they need at home then they'll look elsewhere. Some search for love in immoral relationships, some look for happiness in drugs or alcohol, some try to fit in by joining an endless string of parties night after night. But nothing else satisfies like Jesus. It's the ones who meet Him and become part of the family of God who know what real, unconditional love is.

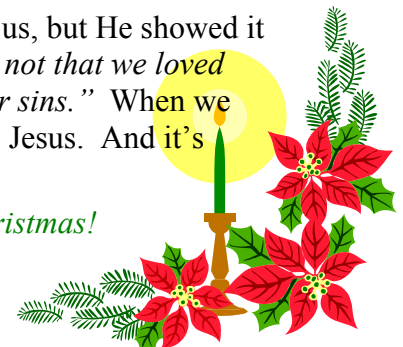


**We ended the semester with a Christmas banquet. Here I am with the guy small group leaders.**

The more I do campus ministry the more I realize my biggest job is just to love students. Whether it's teaching them how to be a disciple of Jesus, encouraging them in their faith, praying with someone going through a tough time, or just being a friend, it's all done because I love them. Even though I may not have all the answers, true love is not just *"with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."* (1 John 3:18)

God gave us the ultimate example of this. He didn't just tell us He loved us, but He showed it by giving us the precious gift of His Son. 1 John 4:10 says *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* When we couldn't do anything to save ourselves, God did everything by sending us Jesus. And it's because of His great love for us that we celebrate Christmas!

*Merry Christmas!*



\* Names changed

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