



# Christian Campus Fellowship

## Fall 2022 Newsletter

### A Life Lost, A Life Saved.

This semester did not work out how I planned it because my plan was to simply ace nursing school (piece of cake, right?). There was just one problem: I'm not in control of my life!!! I have wanted to be the one to hold it all together but I have come to realize I cannot even hold myself together. When scripture says Christ holds all things together I feel my life this semester is living proof of that.

God had other plans for my semester and part of what I discovered this semester is that He had wired me differently and gifted me a different skill set than what I needed to succeed in nursing school. As others around me succeeded in classes and I didn't, I felt like such a failure. I would cry daily and I blamed God, a lot. I kicked and screamed against my loving Father God. Romans 9:20 says, "But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" And yet, God has been so patient with me. And in His grace and wisdom, the Lord knew the deeper desire of my heart was to go into full-time ministry. He also knew the deep-rooted fear and doubt holding me back. The Lord never forced me to follow Jesus or forced me to surrender my own plans for His greater purpose but He gently invited me to something more.

But this shift in my life's plans did not come without a cost. One thing you should know about me is that I tend to be a BIG people pleaser. Finding approval in other people's opinions meant I could do what they wanted me to do and therefore feel better about myself. But making this choice to pursue vocational ministry has meant tension in some of my closest relationships and often feeling like I am going out on a limb alone. But I am never alone. Jesus is always with me! Galatians 1:10 says "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." I have never felt my faith feel weaker yet God has continued to meet me right there. Without God, I would not have had the strength to stick with my decision to switch to a different major and follow a different path that leads me in an entirely different career direction.

**In all of this, here is what I know without any doubt: following Jesus is better than my own way and it is better than all the false security that I have desperately clung to for my 20 years of life.** I do not want to be on the wrong side of what Jesus promised in Mark 8:35: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it." Christ is worth it whatever the cost. If it was up to me I would still be living in so much fear and shame but thanks be to God that He had other plans for me!

— Grace O'Neil, Junior (pictured below)



# Deep Burdens

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” I have often heard this command from Galatians 6:2, but until recently, I never really thought about what needs to happen before this command can be carried out. **Often these burdens go uncarried due to a lack of transparency and vulnerability between brothers and sisters in Christ. I am proud to say that this year, I have seen huge amounts of growth in the vulnerability of our students at CCF.**

Throughout the year, we have read some tough passages that even the most mature Christians still wrestle with late in their spiritual journey and sometimes vulnerability can be as simple as a student admitting that they struggle with a certain passage or theme in Scripture. It would have been easy for our students to sit through Bible studies, nod along, and never take a risk of asking any questions. However, they came prepared each week to ask questions and demonstrated a willingness to wrestle with the answers given to them. In these conversations, the students exposed more and more of their deepest desires and fears about God and life.

Almost all of our students opened up in one way or another. Their increased vulnerability led to us being able to understand, counsel, and pray for them more intimately. I hope to see this pattern continue in the coming semester as they continue in their walk with God. My prayer is that as our students mature, we will not only see ourselves bearing their burdens, but them bearing each other’s burdens as well. In this way, we will see the law of Christ fulfilled through the students at Florida State University.

— Alex Watson, Intern



WHERE WE ARE  
\$133,518



WHERE WE SHOULD BE  
\$147,500

I AM SO THANKFUL TO BE LEADING AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS SO MANY FAITHFUL MINISTRY PARTNERS WHO GENEROUSLY GIVE OF THEIR OWN PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THAT OUR MISSION AT FSU CONTINUES UNINTERRUPTED AND WITHOUT HESITATION. YOU ARE DEEPLY LOVED AND APPRECIATED BY ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

-KANE MILLER, DIRECTOR OF CCF

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