



Further Up and Further In

University Christian Outreach Alumni Association

On (the Joy of) Preparation

In November's newsletter, Chris Luea wrote that the following passage from Luke's Gospel helped him to make sense of the Lord's then-recent work in UCO-Ann Arbor: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch" (Lk. 5:4). The Lord, Chris noted, had blessed our chapter richly with, among other things, service-oriented members and exceptionally anointed times of prayer, teaching, and life together. Even now, I echo Chris's late-fall assessment of the Lord's goodness to us. Since that publication, moreover, the Lord has used these blessings in two important ways: (1) to build us up by participation in them and (2) to prepare us, all the while, for what lies ahead.

The Lord has allowed us recently to partake of very edifying fruit that he began to reveal in the fall of last year. Our membership has improved, for instance, and we experienced the joy of this in taking over 80 attendees to the winter conference!

A Seeking Sophomore Sings Halle-Luea!

I returned to campus this past fall for my sophomore year, hoping to find a few good men who were truly devoted to the Lord and who desired to serve Him and to know Him, whatever the cost. I was searching for fellowship with such men after a summer of intense growth, when time with my family strengthened my own convictions and encouraged me to flee from superficial social activities in favor of God's best. I had no idea how or where to find God's best, but God had something for me that only He could have planned!

My first contact with UCO was meeting Chris Luea at the UCO table at Festifall. During our hour-long conversation there I was very inspired by the ways he had followed God's calling in his years during and after college, and by his eagerness to live every aspect of his life in surrender to God's will. I accepted his invitation to attend UCO meetings and joined his men's group right away.

When I began to attend prayer meetings and Bible studies, I was amazed by the love for the Lord evident in all of UCO's members and by the sincere way they approached worship. These people wanted to be there because they each knew and loved God! Through said meetings, prayer services at 716 Catherine St., and worship in my men's group, I was introduced

We've enjoyed great fruit in our corporate prayer and teaching, too. Our meetings—highlighted by enduring, three-hour Advent and Lenten vigils—have been consistently strong, and our recent lineup of guest teachers is formidable, including Dr. Mark Whitters, Jeanne Kun, Phil Tiews, and Sr. Sarah Burdick.

In addition to fortifying us, though, the Lord wants to use his blessings to prepare us for the summer and upcoming year. For we approach days when more than a few familiar faces will don their caps and gowns, leaving UCO younger and less experienced than it has been in several years. But I think I speak for our chapter when I say that this upcoming time of transition is a cause for hope, because the Lord has strengthened and formed those who will remain. And the next catch, we trust, will be good.

-Zach Mabee, *UCO Mission Staff*

to an entirely new type of worship that has brought me closer to my Savior than ever before.

My men's group has also been very significant for me, because in it God has shown me the real joy of relationships focused on building one another up as men before the Lord. Through these times of delving deep into one another's strengths and struggles before God, we all have grown immensely. I personally have discovered the true meaning of the oft-used phrase "brother in Christ," and will always treasure such fellowship. Next year I will be a member of the men's household, and am very excited about the opportunities it will bring for even closer brotherhood and greater growth.

God has answered my prayers to replace shallow acquaintances with genuine Christian brotherhood, and He has done it through the men of UCO. The friendship of these brothers has impacted every part of me as a son of God, and I will always be grateful to Him for it!

-Ross Leavitt

Ross is not your run-of-the-mill UCO-er: he hails from Oregon, studies at the music school, and, as far as the chapter is concerned, plays the meanest classical sax in Washtenaw county.

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This is Ross against a natural backdrop. (We considered using a picture of him playing his sax, but then worried that that'd be too distracting!)

"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."

-Isaiah 1:19

Life “Behind the Scenes”

For my fourth and final year as a member of UCO, I was faced with some interesting challenges. Last August, after committing to live in the women’s household and accepting various roles of service in the outreach, I decided to change degree programs and commute to the Dearborn campus every evening for classes. Initially, I was afraid that this would prevent me from living a full life within the context of UCO; but, sure enough, the Lord provided for me.

He blessed me with the opportunity to serve as a member of the mission corps, a group of students working closely with staff to lead the various functions within UCO. The organizational structure was new this year: veteran members of UCO

were divided into different teams like worship, service, and Life in the Spirit.

I primarily served on the Life in the Spirit team, tending to logistics for each session, which included dinner, a talk, and small group discussion. We also had a dedication night of prayer for (re)commitment to living for Christ and for a fuller release of the Holy Spirit. Serving “behind the scenes” was extremely rewarding. It was the perfect way for me to remain involved in outreach, as I planned sessions and participated on Friday evenings, even though my class schedule didn’t allow me to attend UCO meetings and events regularly.

Also, as a member of the mission corps, I was kept abreast of all other projects that needed support and was able to problem solve and

pray with the rest of the team. I felt humbled and excited by this quiet service, which didn’t usually mean standing up in front of others.

Certainly, as the academic year draws to a close and I reflect upon my service, I am again reminded that the Lord will use whatever gifts and time you offer him; and I’m thankful for the way he fit me in to this incredible ministry.

-Andrea Holowecky

Andrea’s being charismatic and Italian contribute, as you might expect, to her having a remarkably vibrant personality. Needless to say, her presence and service the past few years have been an asset to our chapter.



Don’t be fooled: despite her commute for class and quasi-staff work, Andrea did make it out to UCO events, like the opening country-club party.

Brothers at the Hall’s End

The beginning of my college career was not a time of deep spiritual growth. Now, I didn’t fall away from my faith, but I wasn’t really going anywhere: my faith was stagnant. On top of that, I didn’t really like the church I was attending at the time; so it was an all-around bad experience.

A couple months into the semester, I was starting to get really frustrated. I felt like I was one of the only Christians on campus. Shy as I am, I wasn’t one to just go out in search of friends or Christian groups on campus (although that probably would have been a good idea). Thankfully, God had a plan for me, and I started to become friends with some of the guys at the end of my hallway. Before long, one of them told me about

this group called UCO; soon thereafter, I attended my first prayer meeting.

This first prayer meeting was a pretty weird experience for me. I grew up going to a small Catholic church way out in the country; so the whole charismatic style of worship was very foreign to me. The main thing that I did take away from that prayer meeting, though, was how nice the people were. I didn’t really know any of them, but they immediately made me feel right at home. After break I came back and started attending UCO on a regular basis, and I slowly became accustomed to the way they worshipped. I had never really prayed out loud before I attended UCO, but when I really opened up and started to sing and pray out loud at the prayer meetings, I found out that it had a huge impact on my prayer life in general.

I quickly realized that this UCO was a good thing and so started to become more involved.

This year I joined a men’s group, which has been a great way to grow deeper in my faith along with my brothers in Christ. This summer I plan on living with a bunch of my UCO brothers in summer household.

All in all, the thing that struck me the most about UCO was the amazing amount of love that we have for all people (and their various traditions). I am so blessed that God has made me a part of this amazing organization, and I’m excited to see in what ways the Lord is going to work among us in the next few years.

-Alex Kilpatrick

Alex’s stamina is not just spiritual: he wears shorts for much of the year, even into the early months of winter!



Alex (right) and his brothers earnestly stand at attention, awaiting orders, at the men’s tomato war in the fall.

Prayer Requests

Our Father in heaven delights when we come to him with our requests. Please join us in praying for the following areas:

- The Conclusion of this Semester—that we finish this term with strong, expectant faith and transition well into the summer months.

- Our Graduating Seniors—that the Lord blesses these brothers’ and sisters’ conclusion to their UCO years and their lives wherever they serve him next.

- Summer Households and Life—that the Lord leads us prayerfully into the summer and blesses and guides the life of our households,

our members who are away, and all our summer prayer meetings.

- Future leaders—that the Lord continues to raise up new leaders and servants within UCO and inspires them, especially in the fall, to become laborers in his fields.

Want to help? All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Gifts can be sent to the address below; checks should be made payable to UCO-UM. Address or name changes can be sent to Zach Mabee at the same address or via e-mail

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