

## Taking the vision to our campus - Spring 2007 vtONE Talk – Chris Poch

### vtONE vision

Why are we here today?  
What do we want to accomplish?

The charge: to see the Christian body at Virginia Tech unite in worship and prayer, to repent before the Lord, and to beg God to change our hearts and the hearts of students on our campus for the advancement of the kingdom of God

Tonight, we're going to take a look at how we make that happen, both as individuals and all of us together. We're going to be looking at the book of Acts as our guide

What is Acts

The first place to look . . .

Acts 1:7-8

7He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"

9And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

These are the last red letters. Jesus says it, and he's gone  
The farewell letter

### Collective impact:

If we want to see the whole campus filled with God's light, we can't just huddle together

We can't even huddle separately

The kingdom is never going to advance if the only people we spend time around are other Christians

Not about Christian . . .

### Personal impact:

Fully devoted follower of Christ

Our culture says it's all about me

The cross says it's all about Jesus' blood

Often, we live like it's all about me even though we know it's not

Walking humbly and consistently to live a life that glorifies God

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

We can't know how to love people if we don't understand how God loves us

We need to take time every day to connect with God through  
Scripture  
Prayer  
Worship

That's not something that "just happens", so how do we get there?

Let's go back to Acts . . .

**Acts 1:12-14**

12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. **14All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer,** together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Living Prayerfully

The only weapon we have against the powers of evil is prayer

**Mark 9:29**

And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Our prayerlessness shows that we think we can do it on our own  
. . .but we need God as the source of life

Prayer is when we ask God to do the heavy lifting

*Jim Cymbala - Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*

Prayer is the source of the Christian life, a Christian's lifeline. Otherwise, it's like having a baby in your arms and dressing her up so cute--but she's not breathing! Never mind the frilly clothes; stabilize the child's vital signs.

If we're not praying, we're not seeing God the way we should be  
Are we worrying about what matters or the appearance?

Let's take a look at what God's mission for us is and then look at the needs of our campus

Great commission:

**Matthew 28:18-20**

18And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In scripture, the word "nation" means "people group"

Our charge: "go and make disciples of all groups of people"

On our campus:

27,350 students  
2,989 full time faculty  
8 colleges  
27 residence halls  
875 student organizations

We generally consider our campus 10% reached

Some of these people groups are 100% reached  
Some are 10% reached  
Some are 0% reached  
Some have never even heard the gospel  
And that's without even leaving Blacksburg

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

That's like saying

Start at home  
Go to the surrounding areas  
Keep going from there

Blacksburg first  
Virginia  
Rest of the world

So how do we reach people groups?

Pray for them! - we can't save anyone!

Acts 1:14

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer...

God's work in the world is a partnership with us

Build relationships with them - spend time with them

Real friendships - sometimes, I feel like people aren't really interested in any more friends

Be authentic - it's easy to smell a rat

Person who tries too hard to be cool

Be ready to share about Christ

1 Peter 3:15

. . . always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you

The Michael story

It's not going to be easy

It's going to take being intentional

It means stepping out of your comfort zone

"God is not safe, but he is good"

Saying "yes" before you know the question

Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

The rest of Acts is largely about seeing a need and meeting it  
How can we do that for VT?

Combined impact:

If we're really willing to live lives prayerfully sold out to God, nothing can stop this campus from changing for His glory

Today, **IT IS OUR DREAM** to see **ALL** of you walk out of Squires ready to make a huge impact for the kingdom of God

We don't want this talk or this night to be about passing information  
We want it to be about changing the way you're living

In Acts . . .

Acts 2:47

. . . And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

It doesn't matter how aware we are of the spiritual situation of this campus if it doesn't motivate us to action

We can see God moving just like in Acts here if we'll just let him use us

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

In just a minute, the band is going to come back up and lead us through some more songs of worship

- Reflect on your life
- How you can have a bigger impact in our Jerusalem
- Does your prayerfulness show reliance or unreliance on God?
- Are you willing to take the challenge to impact a group of people through prayer?
- Maybe you need to repent of isolating yourself from a lost world

Then, I'm going to come back up here briefly and we're going to look at some things that we can do to aid living a life that's focused on making God know in this place

**We want all of you to take out what we've talked about today and put it to work!**

PRAY

## Part II

### Expo

Ministry opportunities

Service opportunities

Prayer cards - giving a couple bucks is easy, praying is hard

Praying for boldness in Acts . . .

### Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

### Matthew 28:18-20

18And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

That's disciples and not converts

When you accept Christ, you don't instantly become spiritually mature  
The family is here to help you grow

What if we asked for God to work like that here?

Break into groups of 4-5 people

It's okay if you know them

Pray about putting our words into action

Pray that you'd be able to live fully devoted lives

Pray about how you can have a bigger impact for God's glory

Pray for boldness

Pray about serving on this campus

Pray about praying for a group for the next year

Hold each other accountable for what you pray for!

I'll be back up in 10 minutes to close us out in prayer