

# Campus Ministry Connection

Protestant Campus Ministry at Youngstown State University

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[www.yrucampusministry.org](http://www.yrucampusministry.org)

"Keeping the Faith, Sharing the Faith, and Creatively Challenging Students to Live the Faith"

## From the Director

The cover story in the April 13 issue of *Newsweek* magazine is entitled, "*The Decline and Fall of Christian America*." The article highlights a survey showing that the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation has nearly doubled since 1990, rising from 8 to 15 percent.

"A remarkable culture-shift has taken place around us," Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, writes. "The most basic contours of American culture have been radically altered. The so-called Judeo-Christian consensus of the last millennium has given way to a post-modern, post-Christian, post-Western cultural crisis which threatens the very heart of our culture."

*Newsweek* writer Jon Meacham points out, "There it was, an old term with new urgency: *post-Christian*. This is not to say that the Christian God is dead, but that he is less of a force in American politics and culture than at any other time in recent memory."

He adds, "Christians are now making up a declining percentage of the American population."

I believe that these facts and figures are not surprising to the majority of pastors and priests serving churches of all denominations in our country. Sunday mornings are opportunities for people to go grocery shopping, attend a sporting event, or simply work around the house. It is no longer primarily a day when people gather at the church for fellowship and worship.

Churches all over the United States have had to deal with this cultural shift. Many churches have closed, some have merged and others are looking for new ways of "doing church." They are asking how they can be responsive to the unique needs of their community.

Some churches have created food pantries to assist the large numbers of people who find themselves unemployed and struggling to keep food in the cupboard.

Some churches have created after-school programs for children who are eager to become part of a faith community.

Many people point to times in world history when the Christian faith did more harm than good. We need to focus on today, and today the church is the best place to go if you want to find people making a difference in their communities and in their world. Churches are the most effective way to help those in need by providing bread for the body and food for the soul. Christian denominations have well-organized and successful methods for sending relief to developing countries, staying and investing in the local communities long after government programs have ended and left.

Lastly, the Christian church is the only place you will find hope for today and a new vision for tomorrow which embraces peace and justice for all of God's children. The church may be in decline, but the good news it offers those who enter it is priceless.



## Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break

This was the eighth year a group from our campus traveled to Jacksonville Beach, Florida over YSU's spring break to participate in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge Alternative Spring Break! Twelve YSU students and three chaperones spent their break working hard helping to build safe, decent and affordable homes for God's people in need. Pictured below is YSU student Derek Emch.



"I went on the Habitat for Humanity trip originally to get out of town for Spring Break. **The trip ended up being a life changing experience that I will never forget.** The trip was a fun way to help people in need. A wonderful thing about Habitat is that you are able to work with the families who will own and live in the home you are building. They were grateful that we had come, and hearing that made the trip that much more rewarding. I was able to push myself to do things I never would have unless I had made this trip."

**Megan Cartwright** (below, left)  
Sophomore, Special Education



**Frequently, International students arrive at YSU without winter coats.** These students come from hot climates where owning a winter coat is impractical. When the north-east Ohio winter arrives these students need a coat. We keep a supply of coats at the PCM office where International students can come and pick one out. **If you have a gently used winter coat that you would like to donate, please contact the Campus Ministry office,** and we'll be happy to pick it up! 330-743-0439/Kathrynpem@aol.com

## From Russia with Love

**A Protestant Campus Ministry Volunteer-In-Mission team**, which included four Youngstown State University students, traveled to the town of Vladimir, Russia, over winter break. The team of 14 provided Christmas gifts, clothing, toiletries, and school supplies to 60 children in two orphanages. The team also played games and made crafts with the children, who were delighted with the presence of the visiting Americans. Below are team members **Patty Reese** (left) and **Sarah Hennessey** (right) with children from the Sobinka orphanage.



"The mission trip to Russia meant a lot to me. I have always wanted to put my faith into action by going somewhere far away and helping others out. **My perspective on everything changed.** I now have a different outlook on our country and our way of life, and respect what goes on overseas. I loved every minute of being with the kids and staff at the orphanages. If I had the chance, I would go back any time."

**Joshua Lattanzi**  
sophomore, Religious Studies



## Road Trip to Washington, D.C.

Fourteen YSU international students and two chaperones visited Washington, D.C., over spring break. In addition to seeing the memorials and monuments, the group visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Cathedral.



# "To Russia With Love"

**A volunteer-in-mission trip to  
The Renewal Orphanage in Dmitrov, Russia,  
December 28, 2009 – January 11, 2010**

- Deliver gifts, supplies and clothing to 70 physically handicapped children and young people, and take them on excursions.
- Celebrate the New Year and Orthodox Christmas with the orphans.
  - Spend three days sightseeing in Moscow.

For more information, contact Rev. Kathryn Adams at  
330-743-0439 or email at: [Kathrynpcm@aol.com](mailto:Kathrynpcm@aol.com).



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