



Ames/DesMoines City Church Reaching Campus

Opening Your Homes to Students



Hebrews 13:1–3 (NASB95)

1 Let love of the brethren continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

Opening Your Homes to Students

Even a superficial review of the first seventeen centuries of church history reveals the importance of hospitality to **the spread and credibility of the gospel**, to transcending national and ethnic distinctions in the church, and to Christian care for the sick, strangers, and pilgrims. p6

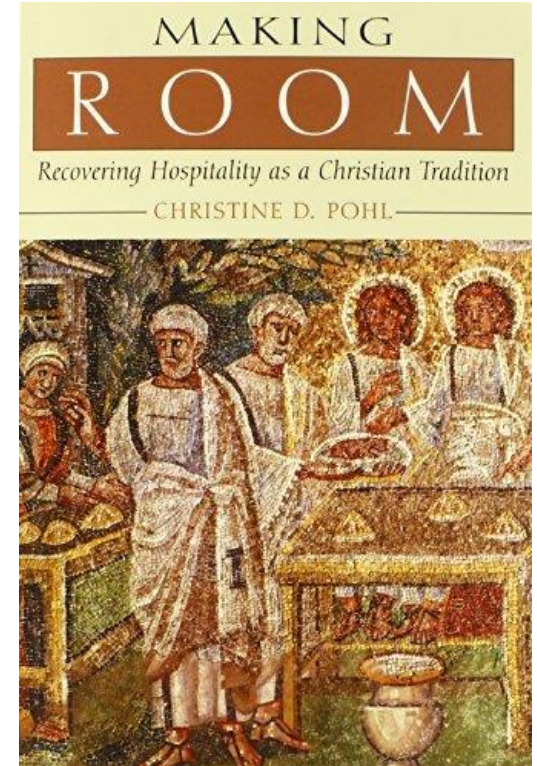


Table Discussion

- 1) Why is hospitality effective with college-age young adults? What is it about this life stage that makes it critical for us to open our homes if we want to have an impact on campus?

- 1) How might the forms of hospitality need to be different with students and young adults in order to be effective?

The Uniqueness of Students



- Your window of opportunity is short – 2-3 yrs
- The school year forces a rhythm – High availability and receptivity in early fall declines as the year goes on.
- Strong freshman/sophomore search for community
- They want peer community but are responsive to a home away from home
- There is an intensity around life-direction questions
- Opportunity is created by the unconscious sense of I'm-an-adult-but-don't-know-what-I'm-doing

How This Effects Hospitality



- Regular is better. A neighbor doesn't want a weekly invite. A student likes it.
- Don't lose the beginning of the school year.
- Early break-through efforts, particularly by our wives, can set up your home to be a gathering spot for students and their friends. Convey the sense of, "You are welcome...", "We want you to eat our food...", "Bring your laundry...", "We want you here..."
- Then use your kitchen table to talk...about the things that are important.

Axis

















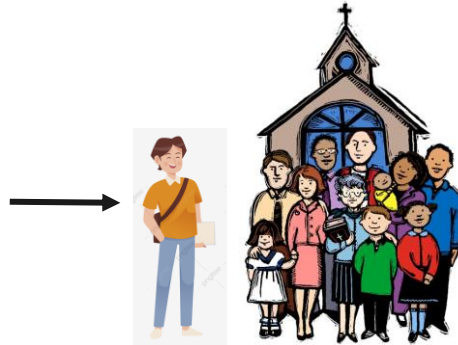








Life of a New College Student



Families- The Critical Piece



- Families are a critical piece to moving from ‘I like you guys’ to them ‘participating in the church’
- Will be true whether a student first connects with Axis or with one of our home churches.

Families- The Critical Piece



Families are needed to...

- **Regularly** open homes to interact with students
- Host students
- Would be asked to attend some of the weekly meetings and special events
- Host gatherings - Axis meetings, LifeN, First Principles







Mooooo!





Drawing From Experience



Nate Haila- Raised in church

Don and Macaley- Came into the church through Axis

Daniel Kroese / Duncan Wood - Living with a family

Table Discussion



- 1) What current connections do you have to college age individuals?
What would it take for you to develop a regular rhythm of having students in your home?

- 1) Students- How can families help you reach your friends?

My Experience



Naturally I was going on a bad path...grades, vandalism, theft, still have 10hrs of community service, I was hanging out with people similar to me.

- 6th grade- met a Christian family
 - Order, enjoyment, LOVE. A sense of purpose
- 8th grade met another family
 - Continued same thing, involvement in the church
- 11th grade met another
 - Continued same but showed much interest in me. Making sense of the world and how to do it
- Freshman of college- another family
 - Continued same thing but the ultimate experience- they desired for me to grow and helped me do it while loving me

Going Forward

- Everyone's participation is needed. Church leaders, Families, etc.
- We expect all families to participate but will be reaching out to families to play strategic role with Axis
 - Talk with me if you have interest to be one of these families
- Axis kickoff meeting this Tuesday evening

