



Sons of Issachar

for the 21st Century

Dear Family and Friends,

December 5, 2011

Warm Christmas greetings from our nation's capital! SOI 21 has enjoyed a fruitful and busy fall semester, so fill up a glass of eggnog or your favorite holiday beverage, and be cheered by good news!

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

In addition to our twice-weekly **Prayer Table** ministry, SOI 21 also facilitated **Daylight Prayer** for three days in November. Students from Crusade, The Gathering, Chi Alpha, Salvation Army, and Catholic Campus Ministries joined in prayer under a tent on the main campus quad. Our goal was to cry out with one voice for Awakening at Mason. We also set up the Prayer Table nearby to pray for students' requests. We even shared the Gospel with a young man named Chamir! One student commented that seeing us pray for three days made her "feel safe."

"I really enjoyed coming out for Daylight Prayer. I felt the Spirit's presence....It was great meeting the students who came up to ask for prayer....Thank you for the important work that you and Bill are doing. It is great to see the impact of reaching out and praying for students on the Mason campus." -James

"The Holy Spirit has worked powerfully through Daylight Prayer. I believe it has shifted the atmosphere over this campus to bring a spirit of life and peace, to further the work of God's Kingdom. Gathering Christians from every ministry and stream has brought unity and agreement in prevailing prayer, which together, bear great fruit and open the heavens for God to pour out His Spirit." -Evan

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SOI 21 hosted the weekly **Prayer Table** ministry, two **Jubilee Prayer & Worship** events, as well as **24 Hour Prayer**. At each corporate event, students from InterVarsity, Campus Outreach, and WordUp gathered to worship the Lord and intercede for Revival and Awakening at GW. A special moment occurred during both Jubilee events when students spontaneously broke up into groups to pray for one another. Bill and I also had the opportunity to minister to one of the GW Basketball players who had recently suffered a second concussion.



This semester we kicked off 24 Hour Prayer with food, fellowship, and Jubilee. Students gathered to enjoy a spaghetti dinner and get to know one another. The congenial spirit fostered a good atmosphere for the corporate worship and prayer. It was powerful to see so many GW students taking turns praying for Revival and Awakening, sharing their hearts, and crying out for a great move of God on their campus.

"Corporate prayer = power." -Stephen

"I enjoyed 24 Hour Prayer as a time to simply sit and 'be'...not reading, writing, speaking, singing; just 'be-ing.'" -Jayne

"I heard God urging me to go to the prayer room....It was so wonderful to have a quiet place on campus where I could go to connect with God in between high levels of stress and busyness. Thanks so much for all of your hard work and planning that goes into that." -Quinn

"I came into the time feeling like I already knew what to expect - I've been to these events so many times...But God really worked on my heart as we worshiped and prayed and I think He really spoke to me that He provides energy and focus when we don't have it to bring to Him ourselves. It became a time of real restoration and peace for me." -Kendra

FROM ALLAH TO CHRIST

I hope you will be encouraged by a testimony from Aisha, one Mason student who has been significantly impacted by SOI 21:

“Three years ago I met Bill Lewis and Joshua Alcorn in the midst of a traumatic sophomore year at George Mason University. As a Muslim child, I questioned God and desired answers. When I was very young, Christ came to me in a vision and told me, “Give me your heart, and I’ll love you forever.” From then on I sought to understand this “love” God had for me. Months turned into years as I kept this vision a secret because of the fear of my family finding out that I loved Jesus, not Allah. I encountered God again in the midst of a depression. I was being forced into an arranged marriage, and I had lost my best childhood friend in a car accident. To say the least, all the bridges of my life had burned down.



In early 2009, I was introduced to SOI 21 through a video series called “The Truth Project.” One Monday night I met up with Bill and Joshua for the first time and told them all about my struggles, questions, and fears. They both prayed for me and promised me, “We will help you leave your house.” I felt so much doubt before meeting them; they were the first people who knew the pain in my heart and were willing to help me. For months we met in secret, exchanged secret emails, and prayed weekly for my family and for a way that I could embrace Jesus without fear.

April 17th, 2009 was the day I was set free from the bondage of Islam. Bill and Joshua helped me pack up my belongings from my house, introduced me to passionate Christ-followers, and have encouraged me to continue my walk with Jesus despite the sacrifices of leaving my family, friends, and extended loved ones--all for the sake of Agape Love. I pray for SOI 21 daily, and I know God is moving mightily in this ministry at Mason. They have been an encouragement to help me walk boldly for Jesus, just as Jesus boldly died on the Cross for mankind.”

PERSONAL NEWS

Amanda and I are excited to announce that on June 30, 2012 we will be married overlooking the Pacific at my alma mater, Point Loma Nazarene University. Afterwards we’ll celebrate with family and friends at Coronado Tidelands park. We’re thrilled that the Lord has already led us to a photographer and a florist, who are both friends of ours. We have enjoyed the first few months of our engagement--planning for the wedding, scanning items for the registry, and thinking about the future. In October, the Wade ladies and my mother traveled to DC to accompany Amanda in the traditional wedding dress search. By an act of Providence and with much rejoicing, *the dress* was discovered the very first day!

Thank you for investing in my ministry with SOI 21--I couldn’t do it without you. Your donations make it possible to minister to students like Aisha and many others. Currently I’m in a time of transition as I plan for the future with Amanda. I need to raise enough funds to support both of us. SOI 21 allows me to receive a larger salary as a married man. To meet my revised budget, I need to raise an additional \$2,500 in regular monthly support over the next year. If you would consider making a monthly, quarterly, or yearly pledge to SOI 21, Amanda and I would be sincerely grateful. Thank you for blessing us! Have a wonderful Christmas.

In excelsis Deo,

Joshua Alcorn

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