



November 30, 2015

Dear Friend,



FAITH CALLING CULTURE
= ANNUAL CAMPAIGN =

The Biblical concept of calling is often overlooked today in Christian thought and practice, especially on college campuses. Unfortunately, by neglecting the rich history of “calling,” we often experience a fragmented faith and a diminished impact. But a proper understanding of God’s various callings provides the foundation for a faithful, fruitful, and coherent life.

God calls out to all of creation in a universal call to worship, prompting us to ascribe glory and worth to Him. God calls unbelievers away from sin and death and toward repentance and belief in Him. God then calls believers to lives of obedience to His word and faithfulness to His purposes. God further calls believers into the world as salt and light in and through our particular spheres of work, family, church, and citizenship. Though we may view these particular callings as separate, distinct efforts, they are theologically and practically connected. In his book, *The Call*, Os Guinness writes:

Calling is the truth that God calls us to Himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to His summons and service.

Much of the heart behind our vision at the Oread Center (O.C.) is wrapped up in this concept of calling. The O.C.’s motto, “faith – calling – culture”, embodies our passion to see individuals grow in thoughtful consideration of how the Christian faith deeply informs our particular callings in the world, and how those callings can, in turn, influence the culture around us.

In faithfulness to this vision, we are prayerfully seeking to raise \$160,000 by December 31, 2015. In the pages that follow, we are excited to give you a glimpse of our commitment to call others to new life in Christ and to explore the implications for the whole of life.

Thank you for considering partnering with us in this ministry. **Your generosity would enable us to proclaim the gospel to undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff at the University of Kansas.**

Your fellow laborer in the gospel,

Chad Donohoe



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FAITH CALLING CULTURE
Annual Campaign

Executive Summary

In order to respond to the most critical needs, our goal is \$160,000 by December 31st, 2015.

Your gift will enable...

- outreach on campus and hospitality at the O.C. to new students
- freshman - seniors to connect their faith with their particular callings
- young professionals and community members to connect their faith with their work
- the gospel to go out on campus through the O.C. Forum

Ways to Give

1. Fill out the enclosed response form and mail in the provided business reply envelope.
2. Go online to make a gift at www.oreadcenter.com/give
3. Call Chad Donohoe at 785.312.4926

To Make a Gift

Please postmark your gift by December 31, 2015.

Initiatives for New Students

“...most teens are on a quest during their first year out [of high school], but that quest is to successfully navigate interpersonal relationships and manage everyday life (like eating, working, attending class, doing laundry, and having a little fun). Religious and spiritual identities are peripheral to that quest and stowed in an identity lockbox for a later point in the life cycle.” – Tim Clydesdale, from his book *First Year Out*



Freshman with their 1 John Bible Study materials, Fall 2015

THE ISSUE

Over 4,000 incoming freshman arrive on campus every Fall and are searching for community. The college years are a time of significant instability which leaves emerging adults asking the questions “where’s home?” and “who’s there for me?” How students answer the questions of home and community during the first year will radically impact the direction of their faith and practice.

THE RESPONSE

Many freshmen are coming from Christian homes and churches and are looking for Christian community. Our desire is to be proactive. Beginning in 2016, the O.C. will seek to reach future

incoming freshmen while they are still in high school through promotion and visits to various regional churches and youth programs.

Each Fall we effectively reach new students through outreach on campus, Bible studies, socials, retreats, etc. Also, because we have a literal home in close proximity to campus, we offer warm hospitality through our student gatherings.

THE IMPACT

The O.C. provides a community of structure, support, and challenge where staff, student leaders, and mentors invest in new students so that the treasure of the gospel is not “stowed away in a lockbox” (Clydesdale).

“The Oread Center and Grace were influential in my decision to stay at KU after my first semester... Being a student has, at many times, been very stressful. I’ve often felt like giving up, but I am constantly reminded through the OC’s programs of our calling to faithfulness to God in every area of life.”

- Liz Hixon, undergraduate in Graphic Design ‘16

“The OC has significantly impacted my two short years at KU. The counsel of wise staff and programs such as Waffles and Worldviews and Tuesday women’s bible study has grown me tremendously in my maturity in Christ. The people I’ve met at the OC are continuously intentional, real, and personal people to walk alongside. The encouragement and teachings of the Oread Center has taught me how to be a more faithful person and servant in every aspect of my life.”

- Blair Martindell, undergraduate in Communications ’18



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Curriculum of Coherence

“The years between adolescence and adulthood are a crucible in which moral meaning is being formed, and central to that formation is a vision of integrity which coherently connects belief to behavior personally as well as publicly; the conditions of modern consciousness, especially as they are manifest in the modern university, make it increasingly difficult for young people to come through those years with the habits of heart required to develop and sustain that kind of integrity.” – Steve Garber, from his book *Fabric of Faithfulness*



Large group teaching and discussion at Waffles & Worldviews

THE ISSUE

Most college students simply have a fragmented faith as they enter college, with a shallow understanding of how Christianity speaks to every dimension of life, including their fields of study. Unfortunately, Christians at secular universities often do not have access to Christian teaching and mentoring, which equips them for a coherent life of faith.

In a higher education setting, we need to challenge emerging adults with the rich truths and implications of the gospel, including vocational responsibilities and relationships in the world.

THE RESPONSE

The Oread Center guides students – both undergraduates and graduate students – through targeted curriculum, as they increasingly connect their faith and learning to their various callings.

We offer a “curriculum of coherence” (see appendix) – a four year rotation of theological and worldview training through Waffles and Worldviews, Examined Life, and Oread Center Commons, just to name a few of our programs.

THE IMPACT

Through our commitments to a broad spectrum of Biblical, theological, and worldview training, the O.C. continues to produce college graduates who are equipped to connect historic theology to every dimension of life, including their fields of work and study. This is how one such recent graduate, Erik Van Kampen, explains the Oread Center’s impact:

“[The O.C.] helped me realize that developing an understanding of Christian doctrine sets a foundation for not only how I view the world but also for how I live in the world...As a scientist who does research I have the opportunity to study His creation and see firsthand how the earth is full of His glory. And yet there are still instances where I find myself questioning if my work is making an impact and is being used to further his kingdom. During these moments I tend to reflect back on my time at the O.C. and the many discussions and lectures we had on vocation.”

- Erik Van Kampen



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THE O.C.
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Vocational Formation Program

"Moral meaning is always learned in apprenticeship, in the seeing over-the-shoulder and through-the-heart of those who have gone before us, of those who have something to teach us."

– Steve Garber,
from his book *Visions of Vocation*



College seniors, graduate students, and young professionals enjoy a potluck during the OC's Fall 2015 ReFrame course

THE ISSUE

Christian students and young professionals do not often have a place to turn as they think about how to connect their faith with the world of work. As a result, they are attempting to make sense of their academic studies without considering the value of these efforts in light of God's economy. They are asking the question, "does Christian faith have anything to say about my studies and my work?"

THE RESPONSE

Through Vocation Groups, the Reframe Course, and vocational advising, O.C. students and others are actively exploring how Christian faith informs both their fields of study and also the manner in which they work. The O.C. is also developing accredited theological courses that will transfer to the University of Kansas, as well as mentorships with professionals.

THE IMPACT

The O.C. continues to develop thoughtful leaders in all fields and occupations who are able to connect their work to their worship. Because they are taught a vibrant Biblical framework of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation, they are able to avoid elevating certain occupations above others and avoid splitting life into the sacred and the secular.

Oread Center Forum

"We are called to stand in the center of the University as prophets and pastors, and to engage the students, faculty and staff in the broadest ways possible. This includes evangelism and discipleship. And it also includes issues of social justice, such as racial reconciliation. But it also includes the world of ideas... someone needs to critique the thinking that is going on. Remind people what really matters. And to do so without being bashful." – Mike Woodruff, Of Mice and Ministry



Faculty, staff, and community members gather for the first installment of the Higher Education & Human Flourishing Lecture Series sponsored by the OC, Fall 2015

THE ISSUE

Modern state universities are in great need of Christian theology that is presented thoughtfully and clearly. Much of the total Christian ministry effort on college campuses centers on individual evangelism and discipleship of undergraduates. While this is necessary and commendable work, Christianity must engage the University as well. Articulate Christian voices are needed to address the ways that a Christian worldview informs all the elements of an institution of higher education, including students, administration, professors, and even the disciplines and departments themselves.

THE RESPONSE

The O.C. Forum addresses the issues in three ways. First, our public lectures function as a general call to the University of Kansas and all its departments to hear thoughtful Christian articulations of

theology as it relates to various fields of study. Second, our monthly local speaker series allows professors and administrators to explain how their current work is informed by a Christian worldview. Third, the O.C. is beginning an online academic journal exploring the intersections of higher education and theology called Bonhomie, which we hope serves all national stakeholders to institutions of higher education.

THE IMPACT

Though the O.C. Forum is relatively new, our efforts have already created opportunities for the historic Christian faith to be seriously considered. The 2015 Fall Lecture series on Human Flourishing in Higher Education has filled our space to capacity with professors and graduate students.

As Dr. Steven Epstein, Ahmanson-Murphy Distinguished Professor of Medieval History at KU, explained it:

“Without the OC, students and faculty might pass years and never learn that people like them are in Lawrence, searching for the same connections between their Christian faith and studies.”



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We need your help



Students listening to the gospel being preached during a worship night, August 2015

THE NEED

Our current financial needs consist of sustaining and expanding the above programs by adequately funding our current staff and adding new staff members. In addition, further funding is needed to support public lectures, purchase resources, and maintain the space we already have in order to reach the campus and its students.

CHALLENGE

Would you prayerfully consider responding with a generous financial gift to sustain and develop the Faith Calling Culture campaign? Your gift will allow the O.C. to reach new students during the critical transition into college, to provide a curriculum of coherence, to shape students for vocational faithfulness for a lifetime, and to winsomely and thoughtfully articulate historic Christianity in the university context. To respond to the most critical needs, we have determined a goal of \$160,000 for this campaign. Thank you for considering this ministry in your giving and in your prayers.