

# Campus Gleanings

November 2010

Welcome to Campus Gleanings! What are you reading? What are you watching? What would be helpful to share with other Campus Ministries? Please send us your great resources so we can include them in our next issue and post them on the new Google Site. Send to: [mdrenth@crcna.org](mailto:mdrenth@crcna.org)

## Web Resources:



Our very own Chong has started an interesting project and is inviting us to let our students know about it and encourage them to take part. Here's his description of it:

**The Open Letter Project.** What is it? Well, briefly, it's an idea by the CRC

Campus Minister Shiao Chong, serving at York U, Toronto, under the auspices of the student club Leadership, Culture and Christianity (LCC): **If you have a chance to write an open letter to the Church(es) today, what would you say?** What do you want to rant/encourage/complain/admonish/teach/remind today's churches? We always hear pastors, theologians and church leaders speak their minds on these things but we rarely hear the younger generation, the university students, to hear your voice in these matters.

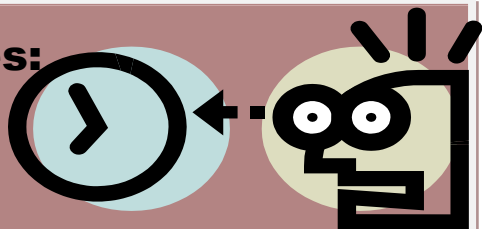
So, LCC's Open Letter Project aims to empower the voice of university students to speak to the church. We will publish your letters (within appropriate length and language) on a blog and invite churches and church leaders to read them. This is a brand new project for LCC, so the blog is pretty empty right now, requiring contributions/submissions. All submissions though are subject to editing, and we reserve the right to not publish any submission we deem inappropriate. You can check out the blog here:

<http://theopenletterproject.wordpress.com/> for details. It's for all university students - globally - not restricted to Canada.

[www.biblemesh.com](http://www.biblemesh.com) – Suggested by Michael Wagenman. According to their website “Bible Mesh is the new, interactive, learning platform that redefines how people comprehend, remember, and experience the Bible.” They are currently running an introductory special making membership free to pastors.

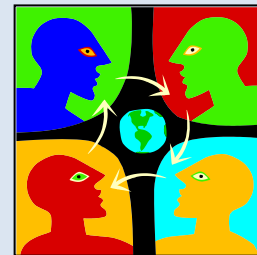
CNN: More Teens are becoming "fake" Christians <http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/08/27/almost.christian/index.html> News item sent in by Sara DeMoor and Michael Wagenman that discusses some of Kenda Creasy Dean's latest work: [\*Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church.\*](#)

## Deadlines:



HM Funded campus ministries next report due Dec. 1, 2010. Requirements: Newsletters and/or prayer letters, classis reports – any other documents which “tell the story” of your campus ministry. Please send to Margaret at [mdrenth@crcna.org](mailto:mdrenth@crcna.org)

## Upcoming Conferences:



Calvin Conferences and Seminars - You probably are aware of these, but here are the links just in case you've missed them:

<http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/CCFDA.html>

<http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2011/seminars/>

Wheaton Theology Conference:

[http://www.wheaton.edu/Theology/theo\\_conf/schedule.html](http://www.wheaton.edu/Theology/theo_conf/schedule.html)

This year's theme is “Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective”. The list of speakers looks quite good and the conference promises to be challenging and helpful.

Jubilee Conference: <http://www.jubileeconference.com/>

The Jubilee Conference is part of the mission of the Coalition for Christian Outreach. The CCO is a campus ministry that partners with churches, colleges and other organizations to develop men and women who live out their Christian faith in every area of life.

Several of you sent in a link to this article. It seemed to resonate with a number of students I've chatted with who seem to view this attempt to be cool as very much a 30- or 40-something phenomenon. [\*The Perils of Hipster Christianity and Why Young Evangelicals Reject Churches That Try To Be Cool - WSJ.com\*](#)

The current issue of *First Things* is focused on the American College scene and has an excellent article by Stanley Hauerwas. It is written as a letter to young Christians heading off to college. <http://www.firstthings.com/article/2010/10/go-with-god>

If you haven't heard of the [\*Ekklesia Project\*](#), they are definitely worth a look. Some good resources to be found there, along with a regular conference.

## Books, Books Books!

[\*American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us\*](#) has been recommended to us by Ben Becksvoort. Written by Robert D. Putnam and David Campbell, it promises to provide insight into the role religion plays in American culture and how the religious landscape there has shifted significantly in recent decades. You may remember Putnam as the author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.

[\*Letters to a Young Calvinist: An Invitation to the Reformed Tradition\*](#) is hot off the press by James K.A. Smith. I've heard Jamie speak recently from this book and it should be a helpful book in our work with students and with churches. It affirms and values what is good in the tradition providing a more solid grounding for "new Calvinists" and a reminder to the rest of us of some of the pitfalls. Could be a good small group resource.

[\*Drawn to Freedom – Christian Faith Today in Conversation with the Heidelberg Catechism\*](#) is a new work by Barth scholar Eberhard Busch. It is a fascinating look at freedom and faith through the lens of the Heidelberg Catechism. You may also want to check out Walter Brueggeman's review of it in the September 21 2010 issue of Christian Century (available [here](#) if you are a subscriber).

[\*Hannah's Child: A Theologian's Memoirs\*](#) by Stanley Hauerwas. This well-written biography will let you see a side of Hauerwas that you might have missed in his speaking and other writing. I found the sermon he preached at his Father's funeral, and the insights around it, to alone be worth the price of the book.

These are a few titles that have caught my eye lately:

[\*Religious Ideas for Secular Universities\*](#) - C. John Sommerville

[\*The Next Christians: The Good News About the End of Christian America\*](#) – Gabe Lyons

[\*Evolving in Monkey Town: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask the Questions\*](#) – Rachel Held Evans

Look for more resources, including full book reviews, on the Campus Ministry Google Site. To join the site contact Margaret: [mdrenth@crcna.org](mailto:mdrenth@crcna.org)