

A newsletter from
The Point of Grace
May 2013



THE POINT OF GRACE
Milwaukee Area Campus Ministry
“Christ On Campus”

Of all the seasons, spring is my favorite time of year. Last year in Wisconsin, it started in mid March with temperatures in the 80s leading to a very early arrival of allergy season, but also early blooms of crocuses, daffodils, tulips, lilacs etc. This year, it has been so cold for so long that everything stayed underground. Easter came early without a bloom from our garden, nor the hint of spring on the horizon. But when the time had fully come and the temperatures warmed up, it was almost like all of creation was making up for lost time as spring just exploded into what we are seeing around us right now.

For those of you following and walking with us at The Point of Grace – Milwaukee Area Campus Ministry, perhaps that has been what it has felt like as well. If I'm really going to be honest, our best laid plans didn't seem to be playing out the way many had hoped and prayed. Students weren't as engaged as we had hoped. Support was beginning to dwindle. And with the sale of the building, the future looked bleak.

But just like a winter hanging on for too long with life just waiting for an opportunity to break out, so it was with campus ministry in Milwaukee. With the abundance of rain and the warming temperatures, spring exploded into life that we can SEE today. We're experiencing it everywhere we go and we praise God for what we see all around us. So at TPOG, we are SEEing new life exploding all around us.

A seed was planted in July of 2012 for a new idea in campus ministry. In September, we launched our first attempt at “The Gathering” with over 60 people, most of them students, in attendance. Inspired by this success, others followed. In February we found a potential buyer for our church space in a horrible economy through a connection of one of our former students who is now back in Nigeria. Because of our loss of a large facility like our church building, we moved our Gatherings to a rotation of campuses with great enthusiasm (you can see pictures at tpog.net). In April we even hosted two Gatherings, one at Marquette and another at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. In late April, we formed our first Collegiate Council for college student leadership at TPOG. Students are excited to be part of what is happening. They are hearing the stories of God's faithfulness in our culture and in their lives. They are joining their stories to the heartbeat of God's word, a word that says Jesus came to bring Life! Spring has come!

Our goal is to make God's faithfulness known on campus and through all generations. Join us in praising God for his faithfulness to Campus Ministry, a ministry that could not happen without your prayers and support. Please join us in prayer and consider becoming a supporting partner. For forms go to our website www.tpog.net and click on support, the third paragraph has links to the forms. While you are on our website check out the student stories and testimonials, and read about the Spring that has begun for campus ministry Milwaukee. Also, check out our new video which shows where this ministry is headed! God's richest blessings!

Mike Westendorf
Outreach Coordinator



in

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Visit TPOG on the web and find out more about our mission at www.tpog.net

A Student Perspective

— Amanda Zachow — Marquette University



Having been a part of WELS Campus Ministry for three years now, and serving as President of The Point of Grace's (TPOG) Student Org at Marquette for two of those years, I have seen TPOG change throughout the years. The biggest change to TPOG was in 2013. The church building at 2223 E. Kenwood., which had become the main focal point of the ministry, had to be sold. Initially, I was unsure of what would happen to TPOG and WELS Campus Ministry in the Milwaukee area with this huge change. But after seeing the changes that have taken place thus far, I know TPOG has a great future ahead of it. Members of TPOG, students in Milwaukee area colleges like Marquette, MSOE, and UW-Milwaukee, and WELS believers citywide, are eager to start a new chapter for TPOG, and I could not be more excited to be a part of the process!

The Gathering is the new focal point of WELS Campus Ministry, and on the night April 10th, I was able to experience it for the first time. The Gathering works to really connect with college aged kids. It takes pop culture to a whole new level. By intertwining themes of faith along with popular television shows, I was able to compare culture and God's Word in a way I had never considered before! The theme for the April 10th Gathering was "My Paranormal Life." Following a short introduction of Luke Thompson, the speaker for the night, the lights were dimmed, and clips of "American Horror Story" began to play. Luke Thompson did an amazing job connecting the horror of the unknown, that so many people seek in television shows and movies, to the hope that we Christians have in knowing that we do not have to be afraid of the unknown. As believers, we can instead have comfort in the knowledge that God is in complete control of everything, even the farthest parts of the universe that we cannot begin to fathom. Who would have thought that a movie like "Paranormal Activity" could reaffirm the solace that I can find in my Lord's everlasting love and omnipotent power? We can know with full confidence that God will protect us from even those things that are far beyond our grasp and comprehension, even the unknown. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39).

Thank you so very much for allowing the ministry of The Point of Grace to continue to thrive and grow, despite drastic changes. Without sponsors and donations, TPOG would not be able to reach out to individual campuses to hold weekly Bible studies or to bring students from various campuses together at The Gathering where we are continually amazed at God's greatness. I am so appreciative that I am a part of WELS Campus Ministry at The Point of Grace at Marquette, and I would like to personally thank you for this opportunity.

In Christ, Amanda Zachow
President of the TPOG Student Org at Marquette

Upcoming Events

All are welcome! Please consider joining us at any of our events.

- Tues. May 14-MSOE—last Bible study of the semester!
- Collegiate Council Meeting—planned for early June, date and time to be determined
- SEW District Convention—June 12th TPOG giving presentation around 10:15
- Annual Meeting—June 23rd—6:30 pm at TPOG, 2215 E. Kenwood Blvd.
- Next Gathering—Sept. 11th at 7 pm —UWM Union, Room 191
- Summer office hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day) 10 am to 4 pm—Tues., Wed., Thurs.