



## **Ben (BJ) Yates**

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### **My Story**

I grew up in a Christian home, and in my high school years I never really had a group of friends I fit in with. That changed when I moved off to college; I made friends with a group of people who really liked me, but did so before knowing what their lifestyles were like. These people were into drugs, alcohol, sexual immorality, and some were even atheist. I slowly felt my life gravitating in that direction. God began to radically reveal this to me and started convicting me of it. But, I had a problem— to abandon my friends would mean I would be extremely lonely.

I responded to Stephen, a student who was involved in a ministry on campus, who had been reaching out to me. Soon after, we began getting together weekly for counseling, sharing of scripture, prayer, accountability, and encouragement. I also began attending his small group. Both of these things led me into a relationship with God that stirred a change in me. I wanted to see this change happen in others, so I started building into other young men's lives the same way Stephen had built into mine. I graduated and remained in College Station, now co-leading my small group, which put me working about 25-30 hours a week in addition to the 40 hours a week I worked at my job. I knew I had to make a decision about either staying in the work force or going into ministry, so I prayed about it and felt God calling me into ministry. That is how I got to be where I am now!

### **TX A&M University**

Just like Stephen reached out to me, I want to reach out to Texas A&M! Texas A&M has over 48,000 students from over 100 different countries-- making it a true mission field! **Students today will be leading the country tomorrow!** But just like every university, A&M has its share of pressures and temptations: depression, alcohol abuse, and sexual immorality, just to name a few!

### **My Role**

My first role will be getting together with college students one-on-one, just like Stephen did with me, and doing many things with them, such as asking them tough questions about their faith, encouraging them to read the bible and asking them what God has been revealing to them through scripture, and holding them accountable to God's standards. God has effectively used me to reach out to students in this way, and perhaps the best proof of this is in the **Ryan Martinez Testimony** I have included in this packet.

**Continue** →

I will also be training students how to effectively share their faith to others. In addition to this, I will be leading a small group. Our small groups are made up of students who gather weekly in each others' homes to worship, listen to a teaching, and actively take part in Godly discussion. Our small groups are also actively involved in community service, short term missions, on-campus evangelism, and leadership training events. Finally, the small groups assemble for a weekly service at Fellowship Church. Leading a small group is one of the greatest ways I can help students grow in their faith.

### **GCM**

The missions organization that makes all of this possible is **Great Commission Ministries** (GCM). GCM desires to fulfill the Great Commission through evangelism, discipleship, and church planting, with an emphasis on culturally-relevant churches that can effectively reach out to college campuses around the world. Our own local GCM campus-church, **Fellowship Church**, has been serving Texas A&M since 1977; yet after 30 years of ministry our desire to reach students is just as, if not more, passionate and determined.

### **Get Involved**

However, the truth is—GCM cannot accomplish its vision for sending forth missionaries alone. College students, making up the majority of our congregation, simply do not have the ability to financially support their full-time staff. We are looking for individuals who are excited about what we are doing and want to join with us. In order to work full time as a missionary to college students, I need to develop a team of prayer and financial partners for Great Commission Ministries.

Would you prayerfully consider making a monthly investment of \$100, \$50, or \$35 in the critical work of reaching people for Christ? However the Lord leads you to give is greatly appreciated; in the past, people have given gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1,000 a month to GCM.

Thanks for reading!



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**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”— Matthew 28:19**