



THE GATHERING PLACE

SUMMER 2019



FROM + TO X MULTIPLYING THE GP LEGACY

From left to right: Brittany Glass and Adrian Burns, GP Thomasville Director

How do you multiply a movement? The only way is to raise up other people who pass on what they received and train others to do the same. Jesus' movement is based on this idea of multiplication: people sharing the Gospel with others who will do the same. The Kingdom of God is interested in multiplication, not addition. So to do ministry the Jesus way, we need to move from + to x.

I recently heard an amazing story of the GP legacy being

multiplied. We can't always see what God is doing, but stories like the one I heard give us beautiful glimpses into God's orchestrating and faithful work among us.

At the end of the school year, Adrian Burns, the Executive Director of our Thomasville GP office made a presentation to their school board. She wanted to update them on the great success; after only nine months of deploying our campus outreach and mentorship programs, we

were already serving 125 students! She then shared that the next phase of our program roll out was to begin offering the 707 mentor program to the entire community. *What happened next was awesome...*

One of the school board members, Brittany Glass, full of excitement, interrupted Adrians' presentation. She began to give a glowing endorsement before all the leadership of The GP, because she herself was a GP kid! She continued on, saying that she was an alumni of the 707 program, where Sandy Nyenhuis was her leader in Glynn County. She said that "If it had not been for the 707 program, my life would have gone off the rails." Now, Brittany has volunteered to be the FIRST 707 leader for our Thomasville 707 launch. **Now that is multiplication.**

This GP ministry is working in powerful ways. Lives are being changed. Thank you for sharing in the excitement with us and please continue to pray and support this awesome ministry!

—Lucas Ramirez, CEO

The Gathering Place exists to

- REACH** students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- EQUIP** students to be effective leaders
- SEND** students to impact their communities and world

GRADUATE CONGRATS

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! Here are some words of wisdom from one of our College Interns!

"Reflection"

Harmonee C. Keitt

Remember:

From where you once came
And the family name you bear.

Recollect:

The lessons you learned
And all the bridges once burned.

Reminisce:

On the memories made
Because the winds have now changed.

Ruminate:

On the change you've made
And the risks you're bound to take.

Contemplate:

How you'll reach your dreams
In this success, you should glean.

MAIN EVENT LINE UP

7:00 pm – Pre-Event Games and Entertainment

7:30 pm – Doors Open

8:00 pm – Main Event

To see the full line up and dates for the 2019 Main Events, visit www.TheGp.org/Main-Event



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Terry Thomas Foundation for their continued support of The Gathering Place.



CONVERGE

Have you ever noticed that God can work in the highest high's and the lowest low's?

Put anything in God's hands and he transforms it: dark to light, mourning to dancing, weakness to strength. This past semester, we dove into a powerful theme with our college students: suffering. As we looked at this real and vulnerable topic, we began to see more interaction between students, leaders and peer to peer conversations at our Monday night gatherings. The students began sharing some deep pains with the leaders and how they have been waiting to hear God's response in the midst of these hard times, experiencing the richness of Christian community. This depth echoed throughout the semester as we brought in different local pastors and community leaders to communicate God's word.

We also celebrate eight new leadership team members onto our Converge team - we now have a total of eighteen student leaders! This is awesome because students are hearing the call to be a part of something exponentially greater than themselves. Lastly, we have two of our team leaders who graduated this semester! Eric Seals and Caroline Hendrix have been key parts of our team and although we will miss them greatly, we know they will impact their world wherever they go!

—Neco Trimmings, Interim Director of College Ministry



707 UPDATE

We want to take a moment and thank our 707 leaders who just graduated a class of seniors. You have faithfully poured into your students for the last 7 years from 6th grade until graduation - WOW! We are so grateful for your commitment and investment.

In just a few short weeks, we will welcome another eager and excited group of 6th grade students and parents into the 707 program for the 2019-2020 school year. If you are one of those students or parents (or know a new 6th grade student or parent) please go to our website and register to get plugged into a group. We anticipate having 6-10 new groups formed for the next school year. This is exciting, but also means we need 12-20 new 707 leaders to help with these groups. If you are interested you can apply to be a leader on our website. Everything you need to know about being in a 707 group or leading a 707 group can be found here: www.thegp.org/707groups.

A big thanks to the United Way of Coastal Georgia for supporting the 707 program in our community!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Helping Students Transition to College

The campus ministry is thriving and closed the 2018/2019 school year strong! We currently reach over 230 students weekly to help them with behavior, exercising self-control, academics and respect for others and authority. We've seen students make great strides in behavior, raising their grades and becoming better students. To incentivize strong performance, we will have an end of the year paint ball trip for those students who have met their individual goals for the year. These goals were set early in the year to encourage them to stay on task and it gives me a way to help them understand the importance of staying on task, each day.



For juniors and seniors in our campus programs, we offer The GP College Tour program. This is a vital and meaningful trip that helps underserved but high performing students make it to college. This program focuses on empowering and assisting rising and current seniors at both Brunswick High and Glynn Academy to visit, apply to and attend colleges in Georgia. In collaboration with both schools, we had a great

time this 2019 season with the students chosen to attend this year's College Tour. Since our trip to the colleges this year, our team makes sure our students have either taken or signed up to take the SAT/ACT and we also help them finish their FAFSA financial aid forms. Since the inception of this program we have had 95% of our students successfully transition to college or university!

In the Spring of 2019, we took 12 students to visit 8 schools. All of our seniors have applied to at least one school and all of them plan to attend college! We are so thankful to the **Communities Of Coastal Georgia** foundation for funding this awesome program!

MINISTRY STATS SPRING 2019

Students in a
707 Group:

650

Students in
Converge College
Ministry:

110

Brunswick
Campus Ministry

230

Thomasville
Campus Ministry:

125

Total Students
Impacted Weekly:

1,115

2019 GP SUMMER INTERNS



COURTNEY KILPATRICK

Head Intern
College of Coastal Georgia



KORY INGRAM

Head Intern
North Central University



HARNOME KEITT

Covenant College



JACOB AMMONS

College of Coastal Georgia



EMILY KLOECKNER

Winona State University



CALVIN FRANKLIN

Columbia International University



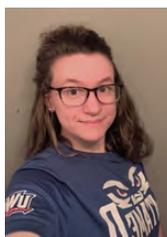
JOY STUCKER

Valdosta University



CHARLES POKE

Valdosta University



KATLYN CARSON

University of West Georgia



JOSHUA HARRIS

College of Coastal Georgia



VICTORIA FRYER

College of Coastal Georgia



FELIX HERNANDEZ

Liberty University



MEREDITH O'DEA

Clemson University

Please pray for our college interns as they serve our community all summer!



GEN Z TRAINING EVENT

*Helping our Community
Serve Students*

Last year, Barna Research released another landmark study on a rising generation: Generation Z or also known as iGen.

Gen Z are those born approximately between 1998-2015, a group that represents about 75 million young people in our country. In their study, they revealed some startling statistics about our youth and children. This is just a tiny snapshot of the thoughts and beliefs of the next generation:

- Teens 13 to 18 years old are twice as likely as adults to say they are atheist
- Only 4% of Gen Z possess beliefs that qualify them as having a Biblical worldview
- Gen Z increasingly believes that church is not relevant or that they can find God elsewhere

This is alarming and there remains a great need for robust Gospel ministry to our teens!

To help our community better serve and reach Gen Z, The Gathering Place hosted a training event on Thursday January 31st entitled, "Gen Z: Helping a New Generation Build a Lasting Faith." We brought in speaker and author Jonathan Morrow, Director of Cultural Engagement for Impact 360 Institute. He also served as consultant on the recent Gen Z report by Barna and he addressed specific things we can do to help students follow Jesus in a post-Christian culture and own their faith.

Thanks to the generosity of Byron and Melanie Brown, the event was totally free and included a wonderful dinner catered by Tramic! We had over 100 community leaders, teachers, 707 leaders and youth workers come to enjoy great food, fellowship and learn how to best serve our youth.

Want to learn more? Check out the GEN Z Report by Barna or "iGen" book by Twenge. It will amaze you how much is changing in our rising generations!



MAIN EVENT FOR ADULTS

*Main Event for Adults Returns
with Huge Success!*

We are so thankful to our community for the broad support at the 2019 Main Event For Adults. We hosted 585 guests for an evening of great food, stories of God at work through The GP and an engaging and hilarious keynote from speaker Duffy Robbins. In total, we raised \$163k to support the ministry! A huge thanks to our many donors, volunteers and the many businesses who supported the event:

Roden Law - Title Sponsor

Beachview Event Rentals

Gruber Aviation

Tasteful Temptations

Chick-Fila SSI

Hastys Communication

iMint Media

Be on the lookout for news on our 2020 Main Event For Adults!



Gen Z





THE GATHERING PLACE

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SPECIAL GIRLS NIGHT WITH KARI KAMPAKIS

Inviting Girls to Living Fearless Lives



In a world that offers instant feedback on every move our young ladies make, living fearlessly for God can seem nearly impossible.

We are committed to reaching youth in united and collaborative ways with other ministries, so we were thrilled to partner with St. Simons Community Church, College Place and Wesley UMC to host a special girls event earlier this year. The vision for the night was to inspire the girls with truth to help them live fearless lives. We invited speaker and author Kari

Kampakis who did an amazing job and **challenged a crowd of 240 ladies** be bold for the Lord and find their self-confidence in Him!

A huge thank you to The Southern C for sponsoring the event and investing in the lives of young ladies!