

ADVANCE 5-3-0

During the Cause Youth Convention, a projection of faith was made as students were challenged to give finances to a cause. The cause- to reach 5,000 students on the public jr & sr. high school campuses of Pennsylvania and Delaware through Youth Alive and the Seven Project during the 2009-2010 school year. As the school year kicks off with ADVANCE 09, it is time to engage that cause with real plan and strategy. That's where the 5-3-0 comes into play.

5-3-0 is a pointed strategy that causes students to evaluate what specifically they are doing, or better said, what they are allowing God to do through them to reach their friends for Christ. Motivating students is the result of three initiatives; inspiring, instructing & engaging. 5-3-0 presents all three.

So what makes up the 5-3-0?

- **5**- First, it Implements the Five Friend Focus by asking students to identify 5 friends who are needing a relationship with Christ. The chart does not limit to five but creates a list that funnels towards the end goal of students coming to Christ. Sales statistics show that 1 out of 3 responds to an advertized or presented product and most purchases are made on the 3rd exposure to the product. That means according to statistics, 5 out 15 are likely to respond. Now we are not treating a relationship with Christ as something to be sold or marketed, but the sales information encourages us to press on and live the consistent life of an evangelist as well as doing the work of an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5- "*endure hardship & do the work of an evangelist*").
- **3**- More than just representing the number of 0's in 5,000, three identifies the simple, yet crucial action points that students will take to bring their friends to Christ. Every person who comes to Christ does so as a response to at least 1 of 3 actions; prayer, an invitation, or a conversation. 5-3-0 identifies these three points of action and combines it with the Five Friend Focus to connect action and intention.
 - **Supplication/ Prayer**- Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit, therefore prayer is the foundation of evangelism. Ed Silvano with Lighthouse of Prayer says, "Before you talk to your friends about God, talk to God about your friends." We must pray for our friends in order to see our friends come to Christ. Salvation is a spiritual matter that is received through natural means. For instance, to believe in something is natural, but what we believe is in an act of faith. That is spiritual. Paul prayed such a way in Ephesians 3:16-17. Prayer is not an act as much as it is an attitude. Prayer evangelism is an attitude that is concerned for the lost and consistent in pursuing them for the kingdom. You can only have a heart for the lost when you've found the heart of the Shepherd (leaving the 99 to find the 1). Pastor Jeff Wilson told me, "before you go with your presence, you first must go with your prayers." Pray first, act later. Though the act is secondary it can not be eliminated from the equation. Pray first, not only.

- **Invitation**- How many times have you heard someone’s story of coming to Christ and it consisted of “so and so invited me”? This point of action makes us a middle man in the process of salvation. The Holy Spirit initiates it- the result of prayer, and another, whether it be an evangelist, drama, music, etc, brings them to salvation. As the one inviting we play a part in the process and share in the celebration of a life changed. Though it is a simple action and removes the fear of actually “witnessing” it still can consist of uneasy or uncomfortable steps. When you invite someone you are identifying with something. Inviting a friend to church, youth group or a special outreach event is a statement of association. This is hard for some. Attending is easy. It’s a benefits package without commitment. Association however is more about what we contribute and less about what we receive. Do students attend your youth ministry or do they associate with your youth ministry. By inviting your friends you are associating with your youth ministry and even more with Jesus Christ.
- **Conversation**- The most active involvement we can have in seeing friends come to Christ is to actually have a conversation with them about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. This point of action puts you right in the center of the action. As opportunity arises, so does the excitement. When you’re there with the person whose destiny you care about and you sense the presence of God causing their heart and mind to respond, it’s exciting. There are a few things we must remember in the conversation process.
 - We only plant the seed. God causes it to grow. (I Cor. 1:17)
 - God will give you the words to say (Matt. 10:19). This gives great importance to our need for daily devotions. The more time I spend with a person, the more I know what that person would say in situations. I can order for my wife. I’ve spent time with her, I know her that well. How well are you able to represent Christ? Spend time with him and it will become very natural to represent him.
 - Ask questions more than make statements. Questions allow the person to share their story and to become involved in the situation.
 - What church did you grow up in?
 - What did you grow up learning or thinking about Jesus?
 - What’s the most important thing in life to you? How is that possible to achieve?
 - Share your story. Once you’ve heard their story, they are more likely to hear your story.
- **O**- No excuses, nothing left behind (Heb. 12:2,3; 2 Peter 3:9). What is stopping you from reaching your friends? What is it that you’ve determined to be more important than 1 more coming to Jesus? May our answer be ZERO, NOTHING, A BIG GOOSE EGG- O! The O is our commitment to give it everything we have for the purpose of sharing Jesus with our world, our school, our friends- the ones Jesus died to save. He left nothing in the process. Which side of the cross will we end up on? Will you give it your all?

