

Worship on the Ivy League: God Is Moving on America's Campuses
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A BILLION STORIES
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Shanique's Story



Worship on the Ivy League: God Is Moving on America's Campuses

by **Pastor Carter Conlon**, *General Overseer*

I have had the privilege these past few years of traveling with Summit students and Summit's worship team to some of the most influential universities in America. We have stood on campuses such as Yale, Cornell, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and others, to gather to worship Jesus Christ openly and unashamedly.

What we have witnessed has gone far beyond organized meetings or planned events. We have seen the Holy Spirit drawing people. Students who have little or no understanding of the Gospel have stopped to listen. Others have lingered long after the meetings ended, asking questions

about Jesus. We have heard testimonies of hearts being awakened and young people discovering that God is not a distant theological concept.

Perhaps one of the most moving aspects of these gatherings has been the

There is a real hunger in this generation.

If someone had told me years ago that students would be gathering on Ivy League campuses to lift their hands in worship and publicly declare their faith in Christ, I might have wondered if such a day would ever come. Yet God is doing exactly that.



Worship on the Ivy League: God Is Moving on America's Campuses (continued)

encouragement Summit students bring to Christian students already living and studying on these campuses. Many of these young believers are living in environments where their faith is frequently challenged, or in some cases, even openly opposed. It can be tempting for them to remain silent. It has been amazing to see their faces when they see students their own age arriving on campus with a genuine love for Christ, willing to worship Him publicly and speak of Him openly. They are reminded that they are not alone!

**Beneath the confusion,
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Folks, there is a real hunger in this generation. Beneath the confusion, the pressures, and the endless noise of our divided culture, there is a longing for truth that only God



Carter and Teresa Conlon

can satisfy. Young people are searching for something real. They are looking for meaning that goes beyond success, beyond achievement, and beyond circumstances.

I am deeply grateful for the students of Summit who have allowed God to prepare their hearts for such a time as this. They spend months learning the Scriptures, growing in prayer, serving one another, and learning what it means to walk with God. Then the Lord opens doors for them to take what

they have received and share it with others.

I am reminded that God has always chosen ordinary people through whom to reveal His extraordinary plan. He is still calling young men and women who are willing to trust Him, willing to stand for truth, and willing to be a light in places that desperately need His presence.

**I believe we are
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These campus gatherings have strengthened my faith! God has not abandoned this generation. A testimony is being written that will bring glory to His name.

Thank you for praying for Summit students and for the doors God continues to open for them. I believe we are witnessing the beginning of something that only eternity will fully reveal. Until then, we will continue to go wherever He leads, trusting that the same God who opens hearts is the God who opens doors. ■

Pastor Carter Conlon's

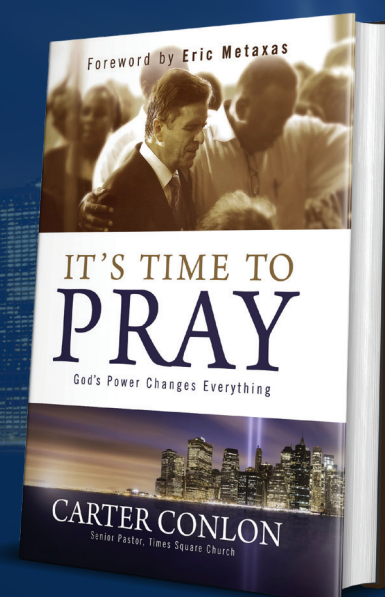
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Rooted, Equipped, and Called: The Summit Experience

by **Dr. Teresa Conlon**, *President of the Summit International School of Ministry*

For many years, I have had the privilege of watching God transform lives at Summit International School of Ministry. While Summit is certainly a place of training and biblical education, it is so much more than a school. It is a place where people encounter the presence of God in life-changing ways.

One of the things that makes Summit unique is our commitment to creating an environment free from the constant distractions of technology. Students voluntarily surrender their phones and step into a season of focused discipleship. Time and again, I have watched students discover a new level of freedom in Christ as their minds become clearer, their friendships grow deeper, and their hearts become more attentive to the voice of God.

Our students come from across the United States and around the world. They arrive with different stories and backgrounds, but they share a common desire: to know God more deeply and discover His purpose for their lives. It is a joy to see them become rooted in their identity in Christ and equipped to serve His Kingdom wherever He leads them.

Life at Summit extends far beyond the classroom. We worship together, pray together, serve together, and build lifelong friendships. Some of my favorite moments happen during our Day of Waiting, when faculty, staff, and students gather simply to seek the Lord. Again and again, God speaks powerfully through worship, prayer, and the insights He gives to students.

Every Wednesday evening, our campus hosts the Times Square Church Worldwide Prayer Meeting. Through this ministry, people from around the globe submit prayer requests, and our students have the opportunity to stand in faith for others while learning the power

and privilege of intercession. Many students also share testimonies, encourage viewers, and occasionally minister to a worldwide audience.

Our classrooms are vibrant places where biblical truth comes alive. Students study Scripture, discipleship, New Covenant theology, evangelism, and many other subjects designed to help them grow spiritually and serve effectively. We also place an emphasis on mental health wellness, healthy relationships, and practical ministry opportunities.

At Summit, we define ministry very simply: living for the benefit of others. You do not need a title to serve God. Every believer is called to love people, serve faithfully, and reflect Christ wherever they are. Watching students embrace this truth and discover God's calling on their lives is one of the greatest joys of my ministry.

We offer our traditional two-year course of study, as well as a one-year option (actually closer to 8 months) for those who need a shorter season of study. We also provide a sabbatical program for those who have spent years serving in ministry and need a season of refreshment and renewal. Also, because we desire to make biblical education accessible, our tuition remains very affordable, and many scholarships are available for accepted students.

If you have ever felt God stirring your heart for something deeper, I encourage you to come visit us. There is something special happening here, and I would love for you to experience it for yourself. Summit may just be the next step in your faith journey.

Visit summitpa.org to see upcoming events on our campus. We look forward to meeting you!

Both/And: The Case for Education and Encounter

by Pastor Nik Godshall, Associate Pastor, TSC Summit

I find myself repeating the same line whenever I talk about Summit: “The missing piece of Christian higher *education* is divine *encounter*.” Having grown up in Pentecostal churches and then being educated in a Baptist seminary, I consider myself a bit of an authority on this idea. I grew up constantly exposed to God’s power moving in the room as hungry hearts gathered to worship. Yet in those same rooms, I often saw how easily damaging teachings and practices could slip in due to a lack of emphasis on God’s Word.

The seminary classroom showed me the other side of the spectrum. The rich, clear teaching of God’s Word dissolved confusion and laid nagging questions to rest. But equally clear was Paul’s warning in 1 Corinthians 8:1, “knowledge puffs up.” I’ve concluded that there is no use in valuing education over encounter, or encounter over education. The church desperately needs both. The God we experience is the God we must know, and the God we know is the God we must experience.

I believe Summit has been raised up to be a sacred bridge between these two spiritual necessities. The guiding principle that has aided us in holding these two sides together is something articulated in one of our core

values: “We believe God sets people spiritually free. When the word of God is faithfully taught under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, people are liberated to live the life God has for them.”

The word of God being *faithfully taught*: education.

Under the *inspiration of the Holy Spirit*: encounter.

This is our bridge. Our teachers make it their business to enrich our students with curriculum backed not only by research, but by fervent prayer. The plan for each class is held loosely, leaving room for divine interruption. Semester after semester, operating in this way has privileged us with nurturing our students’ minds, as well as their hearts. They learn to finally put words to deep questions they’ve carried, all while falling more in love with the God at the center of the answers.

As an educator and a pastor, I’m constantly confronted with the obvious gap between the heart and the mind in much of American Christianity. We have churches that are devoted to knowing the Word of God thoroughly. Their constant engagement in rigorous study leads to razor sharp doctrine

that is clear, but also cutting. Others pursue deep spiritual experiences that seem to do little for shallow biblical thinking. And young people are tired of the bankruptcies on both sides. They long for reality and they have questions. They want spiritual vitality and they want a sound defense of their faith. These desires are not contradictory.

Summit is closing the gap between Christian education and divine encounter. And the better we get at doing so, the more we see knowledge of the truth produce exactly what Jesus promised it would: an experience of freedom (John 8:32). A purely cerebral approach to the gospel can never liberate people from enslavement to sin, just as a purely experiential Christianity can never safeguard against all theological error. The heart and the mind both need the nourishment of sound teaching and of personal intimacy with God.

An “either/or” approach will not save this generation. We must give them both education and encounter. They must know Jesus and experience Him. And when the heart and mind are both being fed, we’ll find that the gap between them isn’t so wide after all.

Pastor Nik Godshall





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by chapter

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Lord, **awaken** people to the fact that God is real

Lord, **awaken** people to the destructive power of sin

Lord, **awaken** people for their need of a Savior

Lord, **awaken** people to the purpose of the cross

Lord, **awaken** people to the voice of the Holy Spirit

Lord, **awaken** people for a desire to read the Bible

Lord, **awaken** people to conviction of sin

Lord, **awaken** your church to a fresh fire from heaven

Lord, **awaken** your pulpits to preach with an anointing

Acts 2:1–2 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,
they were all with one accord in one place.
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven,
as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the
whole house where they were sitting.



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Finding Freedom Through the Truth of God's Word

Shanique's Story

When I surrendered my life to Christ almost 2 years ago, I had such a desire to read the Word of God but I didn't fully understand what I was reading and how it applied to my life today. I also had so many distractions back home that it made it quite difficult to spend time with the Lord. At Summit International School of Ministry, I have been blessed to set aside two years to fully submerge myself in God's truth without distractions. The teachings here have not only given me a deeper understanding of God's Word but it has also strengthened my faith, it has increased my confidence in sharing the Gospel and has equipped me to serve others in a way I didn't know before. Through this Bible school God has been transforming my heart and renewing my mind.

The fellowship with students, staff, and instructors has encouraged me and has helped me to grow in wisdom and maturity. Here at Summit I have learned God's voice and character through His Word and through the lives of others. I have witnessed God's hand at work not only in my life but also in the lives of those around me who are also being transformed and empowered for the kingdom of God. God has shown me what it means to be loved by him and how to extend His love to those around me. Before coming to Summit, I struggled with my identity and looked for my worth in what others thought of me, my work, and my circumstances. Through studying God's Word, prayer, chapel, and spending time in Christian community, God revealed to me who I truly am. I learned my identity is not based on my fears, past mistakes, and failures. My identity is in Christ and Christ alone. I have become more confident in who He says I am and not who the world says I am and He says I am loved, chosen, forgiven and created with a purpose.

I thank God for Pastor Carter and Pastor Teresa, for such a place as this. I am truly grateful and excited for what God continues to do in my life and the lives of others. To whoever is reading this letter, Jesus loves you and has a purpose for your life too!



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Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of *The Cross and the Switchblade*. It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

CONTACT

212.541.6300 | info@tsc.nyc

CHURCH LOCATION

237 West 51st Street | NY, NY 10019

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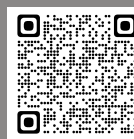
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