

Getting Started

How to Begin a Valor Movement on Your Campus

We're excited about you and your desire to touch the lives of cadets and college students.

This guide is designed to help you begin a Valor movement on your campus.

Valor has three objectives: to WIN cadets/midshipmen to Christ, BUILD them in their faith and then SEND them to reach others.

The purpose for Valor on your campus is to *launch a movement* in ROTC units where the Gospel captures hearts, transforms lives, and launches military men and women into a lifelong adventure with Christ. The core of a movement is you and a friend or two coming together to live in authentic Biblical community. That community will be defined with a few basic principles: Devotion to the Word, Authentic Relationships, and Partners in the Great Commission. A movement is much, much more than a cool club. Its attractiveness will draw even the most hardened skeptics.

As you trust God to create this sort of movement at your school, the articles and documents in this packet inform you more on what a Valor movement entails and share some practical steps of what you as the leader need to do to launch one:

- + *Top Priorities*
- + *Qualities That Count*
- + *Critical Path for a Local Leader*
- + *Transforming Movements*
- + *Cadet & Midshipman 30 Second Questionnaire*
- + *Sample ROTC Life & Faith Bible Study*
- + *Sample Valor Posters*
- + *How It all Works*
- + *Defining our Cause*
- + *Statement of Faith*
- + *VALOR – Volunteer Application + VALOR – Military Ministry Volunteer Agreement*

For further resources, visit www.valormovement.com and www.godsquad.com.

We're here to help, so please keep in touch for coaching and resourcing. God bless!

Top Priorities

1. **Pray!** Invest time in prayer with like-minded friends, asking God to guide you each step of the way (Colossians 4:2). You will need a core group of friends who share your vision and can support the effort. Remember to talk to God about people before you talk to people about God.

- Ask God to show you which steps of faith to take to reach your campus for Christ (Matthew 21:12).
- Thank Him for the privilege of being involved in something that's eternally significant (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
- Begin praying for students (by name) to receive Christ as their Savior and Lord and ask God to develop the necessary leadership for the movement (Matthew 28: 18-20).
- Pray for students to grow deeply in their faith and develop a passion for reaching your campus.

2. **Connect** to your Valor staff coach to get more information about reaching your unit for Christ. If Cru staff members are on campus, you will also want to be in touch with them. They will help teach you how to share your faith and lead a Bible study. Your Valor staff coach may be contacted at valor@cru.org if you have any questions.

3. **Communicate** to your ROTC cadre (faculty)/ Veterans services office to let them know:

- What Valor is.
- What your campus cru movement is (if applicable), and that Valor is part of it .
- That we (Valor and your cru campus staff team) are here to help them with the spiritual readiness of their cadets/mids/vets (and their cadre if they are interested).
- This can be done by cadets/mids/vets, campus staff, or by phone/personal visit by Valor staff. See "Some Thoughts" at the bottom of the page.

4. **Publicize** by using Cadet & Midshipman Survival Kits (CMSKs) and posters. Your Valor staff coach can provide you CMSK's in the summer for your first fall outreach; posters are available online.

- If possible hand out CMSK's at a unit formation.
- While handing out CMSK's, cadets/mids will ideally fill out the Cadet & Midshipman 30 Second Questionnaire (download from web site – a standard Campus Crusade survey) before they get a CMSK. You'll use this info to follow up every cadet/mid with personal invitations.
- Each CMSK should have a meeting info card in it with the location and time of your meetings listed (available on the web site – fill out and put in each CMSK). This is a

“must” if the cadre won’t allow you to require cadets/mids to complete surveys in order to get their CMSKs.

5. **Gather** interested students together. Start weekly discipleship groups and begin forming the core leadership group. As this group forms, take time to plan and pray for your outreach and growth next month (Luke 6:12).

- For the first 3 meetings use “God & the Military,” the 3 part Tommy Nelson video. www.valormovement.com
- Follow on with the “Military Life and Faith” Bible study series available on www.valormovement.com.
- Personal invitations are much more effective than emails; remind folks when you see them at PT, drill, or lab.
- Create an atmosphere where people feel comfortable. Bringing pizza is always a hit!

6. **Involve further.** Show students how to communicate their faith in Christ to others. Help them make appointments to talk with their friends about Christ. This builds commitment and stretches their faith. Training materials are available through the Valor office and www.crupressgreen.com.

Note: These are only guidelines based on years of experience. However, each campus is different and the way a ministry grows will vary. So be creative, flexible and trust God.

Some Thoughts: The key to a successful program is to get the cadre/veteran services office on board before doing anything. You don’t want to operate behind their backs. This can be done one of three ways:

- If cadets are comfortable presenting the Valor program to their PAS (Professor of Aerospace Science), PMS (Professor of Military Science), or PNS (Professor of Naval Science) or veterans office, they can do it on their own, with assistance from us.
- We can contact the PAS/PMS/PNS/veterans office to let them know what we are all about, and then introduce you to them via phone or email.
- We can visit your campus to introduce you/your team and the Valor program in person. We want the cadre/veterans office to know that we are part of the same organization that resources their active duty chaplains, provides camo Bibles to their troops, etc. They need to know that Valor is directed by many retired, reserve, and former officers and senior NCOs, many of whom have experience with ROTC (either as cadets or cadre). Some active duty officers, NCOs, and chaplains are also Valor Associate Staff.

The following article was written for Campus ministry. You can apply the same principles to see a Valor movement grow to include 20% or more of cadets, mids and veterans on your campus. Trust in God and he will accomplish much through you.

Transforming Movements

What Will It Take?

God is raising up a network of student-led groups at universities and colleges across the world. Volunteers are working to help leaders like you build movements that will transform their campuses and make an impact around the world.

Our desire is to develop a ministry, on every campus, that is not merely a club but rather a **movement that transforms the campus**. We envision a community where lost students are being transformed by the gospel of Christ (Colossians 1:13-14); where Christians are being transformed in 'grace and truth relationships' (Ephesians. 4); and where the campus and world are being transformed by laborers who are sent (Matt. 9:37-39).

Acts 2:42-47 describes the first transforming movement within a community. Everyone felt a sense of awe because they saw God at work. Believers were devoted to biblical teaching, prayer, and real koininia (fellowship). And God was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.

That first movement was a true movement of God's Spirit. **That is the kind of movement we are trusting God to create on every campus**. While a core or cell group is the foundation for such a movement, we'd like to see it grow to a size of 50 or more students. And when God moves, we often see that He uses students to reach students.

During one summer, the Atlanta Summer Project launched the ministry at Kennesaw State University, a commuter campus in Atlanta. Three years later, they had 150 students at a (completely student-led) weekly meeting at noon on any given Thursday. Several students who first came to know Christ at Kennesaw State now after three years held leadership positions. As part of the Atlanta Metro movement, these students were not only transforming their campus, they were influencing the city, with a view towards the world. And they had the opportunity to go to the world, through Atlanta's Worldwide Student Network (WSN) partnership.

What Is Your Dream?

As you look at your campus, ask yourself these questions: "What would I like to see God do here?", "What is my dream?" If you don't know the answer yet, it's OK. God will show you His desire for your campus as you continue to trust Him. **Vision develops and deepens as students like you pray and dream together, and reach out to others on campus**. There is

room to fill in the specifics of your vision over time to reflect the character and flavor of your unique campus.

What Is the Campus Like?

Another important question to ask is, “What are students like on my campus?” Kennesaw State has its weekly meeting during the lunch hour. This works best because it’s a commuter campus. Most campuses are so multifaceted with many people groups based on ethnicity, majors, sports, clubs, etc. that many transforming movements will be needed to reach them. Ask yourself these questions about your campus: What is the level of spiritual interest? What keys will open doors for the gospel? What is the ethnic diversity on campus? What do people do for fun? Answering these questions will help you tailor-make your ministry to your campus.

Who Are the Leaders?

A third question that must be answered is, “Who will lead the effort on campus?” Within two kilometers of every campus, we believe God has already placed the people and resources to reach that campus for Christ. We want to discover who that person is and help that key leader gather the essentials needed to get started. This is called assembling critical mass. In Mark 4, Jesus talked about the small mustard seed, which, when planted, grew into a huge tree. Critical mass is like the seed; it contains all the future elements needed to build a transforming movement.

How do you know if you have critical mass to launch a transforming movement?

One metro director believes you have achieved critical mass to launch when four things are in place: aligned leaders, the mustard seed of community, prevailing prayer and students engaging the lost, and in some cases, the best way to assemble critical mass is to partner with a church or lay volunteer. Whether you start with a key student (like yourself) or partnering church, you do not have critical mass unless a core group of students is poised to reach the campus.

How do we go from 10 to 50?

Ask yourself, “How will I go about it? What will it take to turn my dreams into reality?” There are at least four critical path steps for building a community to transform your campus for Christ.

Prayer

In Colossians 4:2, Paul encourages the believers to “devote yourselves to prayer.” We are engaged in spiritual warfare, and prayer is critical. E.M. Bounds wrote there could be no devotion without prayer, and no prayer without devotion. **A passion for God and His work is born in prayer. Be creative here.** Plan a Jericho walk where you walk around the campus seven times praying that God will cause the spiritual strongholds to come down. (Different variations of this can be applied to your campus. Read Joshua 5:13-6:21.)

Other suggestions:

- You might try are morning prayer meetings.
- Prayer in cell groups.
- You might want to contact local churches to ask them to pray for your campus. In any event, prayer is essential for the advancement of the kingdom.

Evangelism

Powerful **biblical motivations for evangelism** are found in Luke 15:1-6 and Colossians 4:2-6. It is to find ways of doing evangelism that are both effective and student-friendly. We need to unleash the power of the **believers' witness in natural relationships**. You have a natural network with students in classes, clubs, with students you meet where you live, and other places. Your network of these friends, as well as family, neighbors and co-workers provides the most natural and potentially powerful context for evangelism.

You can also move well **outside of your relational networks** by using simple tools such as freshman surveys, which enable you to 'cast a big net' and gather critical mass (Christians) as well as spiritual seekers. Implementing a freshman strategy will enable you to build the base for a future transformational community.

Beyond that, you can literally **expose the entire campus** to the message of Christ through broad sowing strategies such as Freshman Survival Kits (a giveaway of quality materials presenting Christ in multiple ways) and Every Student's Choice (media campaigns on significant campus issues).

Several years ago, **a student in Boston named Steve Sawyer** was led to Christ by a guy who got involved in the ministry through a poster campaign at a campus. Even though he had AIDS, Steve traveled to campuses around the world, sharing Christ with large audiences. When he died in 1999, **he had led thousands of students to Christ**. And all of that started with a poster.

Discipleship

Building transforming movement requires more than just prayer and evangelism; it requires the spiritual growth and discipleship of both new and mature believers. At times, our view of discipleship is mistakenly limited to only using a one-on-one approach. However, **much of the New Testament describes life change happening in the context of relationships and biblical community** (Ephesians 4; Colossians 3:12-17). God uses a variety of means to transform a life, and this often occurs in small groups where there is an environment of grace and truth.

In a student-led cell group, believers can **study the Bible, pray together, experience biblical fellowship and be trained for outreach.** The cell group should also be committed to church involvement. Training and vision can also happen as you bring students with you to **retreats, conferences, and summer projects.** With the growth of the Internet, you, as a student leader, have immediate access to a wide range of discipleship resources. For example, a student anywhere in the world can download copy-ready Bible study from the GodSquad Web site.

In addition to the church, cell groups, and online resources, **student leaders can seek personalized discipleship from a trained volunteer.**

Sending

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” He went on to say that we need to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

College students like you can be used by God to change the world. A global culture of common technology, mobility, and even language makes this a time of great urgency and potential for the worldwide spread of the gospel. Student-led ministries often send laborers into the harvest. They are part of a growing movement of students who want to follow Christ wherever He leads.

At the Indianapolis Student Missions Conference over Christmas break, more than 700 students signed the Millennial Pledge, a commitment to God to serve at least one year as a missionary between now and the end of this century. At the Northeast Winter Conference in Springfield, MA, 120 students signed the pledge. **More than 2,500 students nationwide have signed the Millennial Pledge and have served as a missionary overseas or in the States.**

With the increased opportunities available through **one-year internships** students now have more options to serve Christ and investigate using their skills in full-time ministry after college. In Philadelphia, one staff member took students on a two-week mission trip to Spain to distribute the “JESUS” film.

Our dream is a student-led ministry team, not only for every campus, but also for every group on every campus. As we trust God to raise up leaders such as you, and as we help you develop transformational community, **we can imagine a day when every student will have the chance to be transformed by Jesus Christ.**

Thought Questions on Working With ROTC Students or Veterans

1. How would you describe each component of a transforming movement in your own words? (p. 4; ¶ 2)

2. What do you want to see God do in your ROTC unit or among veterans on your campus? (p. 4; ¶ 6)

3. What is the climate like on your campus among ROTC students or veterans? (p. 4; ¶ 8)

- What is the level of spiritual interest?
- What keys will open doors for the gospel?
- What is the ethnic diversity throughout ROTC or among veterans?
- What do cadets/mids/vets do for fun?

4. Are you willing to lead this effort to transform your ROTC unit or impact veterans? (p. 5; ¶ 1)

5. What do you need to do to build critical mass in your ROTC unit or among vets? (p. 5; ¶ 2)

6. What are the next appropriate steps to take in your ministry in the area of:

- Prayer
- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Sending