



ACTIVE CHRISTIANS TODAY.ORG

Encouraging, Equipping, and Entrusting Students to God's Global Mission

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BE FILLED! ACT WINTER RETREAT 2026

"to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph 3:19

This years winter retreat was held once again in a beautiful cabin at Malabar Farm near Mansfield, Ohio. Mark and Becky Whited, our speakers, did such a beautiful job speaking the heart of Jesus to UT and BGSU students! The Whiteds were our campus ministry mentors for 14 years in Southern Indiana. They sincerely love Jesus, and they love helping college students discover the abundant life in Jesus!

We explored the heart of God revealed in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Mark taught us to meditate on the Word and discover our spiritual blessings in Christ, as well as how much He loves us as we are. In addition, Becky challenged us not to live in shame from our past, but to walk in true freedom that only God offers. These principles should fill us to overflow, so others can see and experience His Love through us.

STUDENT RETREAT REFLECTIONS

"I especially liked exploring Ephesians 3:16-19. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love. He already loves us and will continue to love us."

"I learned to better listen for God's whispers through devoted prayer, worship and being in community."

"The importance of listening to God and meditating on His word is super impactful in my life. I am moving too fast, I need to slow down and ask God to give me clarity and know he is in control. Taking that time to look at the verses in silence helped me absorb His word and apply it to my life."

"Retreat was a good reminder that we are never alone in our struggles. The Father loves and comforts us in His Word, His Presence and His People."

"I better understand how much God loves me and the lengths He will go to redeem me and get to know me more. Whatever I've done He will forgive. I just have to be honest with Him and grow from my past."

"The biggest thing that I learned on retreat was that God doesn't love us out of an obligation or because He has to. He loves us because He wants to and enjoys loving us."

"Something I learned and thought was so powerful is that Gods love is so great and powerful, and that same love surpasses all knowledge."

"I learned that shame is not of God and that it was crucified with him. There is freedom in Christ. So yield your shame to God. He can handle it."

"I learned to truly examine what might be affecting my relationship with God. It gave me time to ask Him to reveal any fear, guilt, shame, or other struggles in my heart. I realized that nothing can be hidden from God, which allowed me to be completely honest with Him. That honesty has helped me grow and trust Him more deeply."

"It really made me realize actually how loved I really am. No matter what I do or how I'm feeling, I can know that God loves me beyond anything imaginable. I also grew closer with some students as well."

"Overall, even though I understood many things, what remained gripping my heart and bones was the love of God that has no end."

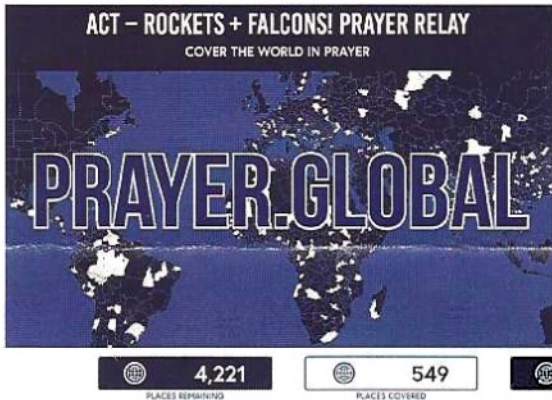


Special thanks to ACT alums Steve and Stephanie Kistler and New Life Church of Christ for hosting ACT on Friday night of retreat!

Brrrr! A Snow Hike!

Exploring a Cave!

Making our rounds on a Carousel!



ACT PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS!

ACT students continue praying for the nations by using the prayer.global app. At last year's ICOM (missions conference), ACT students helped spread the word about prayer.global by handing out wrist bands and brochures. **It's a simple way to grow in prayer for people all over the world.** One of the fun moments at our weekly meetings is to hear students shout out the country and people group they are praying for. During one of our UT gatherings one of our international students said excitedly, "I got my own country!"



DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

ACT honored the memory of Dave Warner by creating the Discipleship Development Fund (D2 fund). We are excited to report our first use of the interest for discipleship activities. The D2 fund helped cover housing costs for ICOM 2025, facility rental for student leader training, and the cost of bringing in a licensed Spiritual Director for our largest attended Winter Retreat! Thank you to all who have invested in this long-term fund. If you would like to give to the D2 Fund, more information is provided on our website.



2025 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your ongoing prayer and financial support of ACT. We know many missionary organizations and non-profits are experiencing significant funding shortages. When we shared last year that ACT was also struggling financially, our ministry partners came to the rescue. **We ended 2025 in the black!** In addition to this good news, ACT was also able to make some much needed improvements to our UT/BG campus houses through a designated fund set aside for improvements. Thank you so very much!

'25 END OF YEAR FINAL

INCOME: \$153,094

EXPENSE: \$151,216

Thank you!

BALANCE: \$1,878