

I'm writing you because DCF needs your help.

For almost thirteen years, DCF has given itself to Clemson's university community. God has granted us His favor to connect with thousands of students (we're including the stories of two). God's mission for us has always been to love people for a short, vital season of their life, helping them to either meet Jesus for the first time or helping them grow into a lifetime of following Christ. Our place and position is vital. Of course, many undergrads arrive on campus with little connection to God, but research also shows that 80% of students who grow up in faith leave the church during their college years.

As beautiful and exhilarating as this mission is, there are inherent hardships. One hardship involves financial resources. DCF has always been a grass-roots, minimalist-budget operation. Of course, most of our church is unemployed. Still, we challenge our church to give as a vital act of Christian discipleship. The plain truth, however, is that a church of unemployed students will never be able to fully fund our budget, no matter how lean we make it.

Currently, we find ourselves in a strange paradox. In many ways, our church health is the best it has been in years. We are connecting with more people, and our house churches show much vitality. Still, our finances are at the most difficult place they have been since 2002.

We have asked our church to give more, and they have responded with sacrificial generosity. However, we have always relied on other friends (parents of current students and former dcf-ers who now do have jobs) to make up the budget shortfall. And for some reason, over the past two years, our outside funding has slowed to a trickle.

This summer, we also have a major pastoral transition happening, with Nathan and myself moving to help lead two new church planting ventures. As we ask a new pastoral leader to join us, we need a better handle on our financial viability. To put us in a workable position, we need to raise \$3400 of outside support per month. Frankly, if God does not provide this for us (or at least a good chunk of it), DCF faces some difficult questions.

Would you ask God if you are to be part of the solution?

Would you consider a monthly gift so we can stabilize our budget? Dependable, recurring help (no matter how small) is our prime need. If you are unable to do this, would you consider a one-time gift? Whatever your intentions, please mark them on the attached reply card and send it back to us or feel free to send us your information back via email. If you are committing to be a regular financial partner, we will follow up with you about the details for making that happen. If you are sending a one time gift, you can mail the check to the address on the card or give securely online from the front page of dcf-clemson.org.

God provides for his mission; this we believe. If God wants this part of his church to continue, He will grant us the resources to do just that. We trust His wisdom. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

In hope,

Winn Collier, for the DCF elders



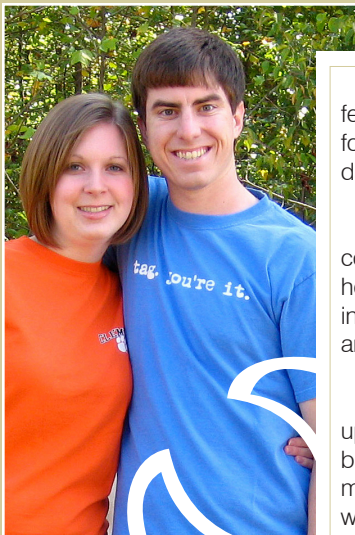


My first semester at Clemson was spent church hopping, and while DCF was the first church I heard about, it was the last one I visited. My first Sunday I remember feeling so curious about some of the things that went on during the morning. I had never been to a church that had a “passing of the peace” time, or that participated in communion every Sunday. Now these are some of my favorite things that we do. I knew while I was looking at churches that I wanted to find one where I could really be involved and serve, where I wouldn’t just be one of the crowd who showed up each Sunday and left as soon as possible. Through the past few years I have been challenged by people to step up and serve my church family and my community. They have given me opportunities to do things I never would have thought I could, but I did because they believed I could.

Through DCF I became involved in a house church, and this has been key in my spiritual growth. As I was welcomed into that home each week, multiple times usually, I finally started to learn what community was. I had never before shared life so completely with people. It was challenging to be sure, but as I grew into it, I felt more and more apart of a family. I felt welcome to drop in and visit at any time, even without calling ahead, and in the same way felt free to pick up a towel and wash dishes while I was there. The relationships that developed there have become the dearest in my life. I had the chance to closely watch people who are seeking after Christ, seeing how they lived their lives.

While I wish DCF could be my home for a long time, realistically I probably won’t be here much longer. Each year, with graduation, there is the joy and pain of sending out part of our family into the world. What I’ve finally come to understand is that DCF has played a crucial role in my life for a time; for these 4 years in Clemson I have been deeply loved and taught and prepared for life, wherever that might be. I can see how I’ve developed a vision for what community can be, and a desire to really dig in and be involved in the place that I live. I hope to pursue that in my life always. It will be a sad day when I move away, but I look forward to seeing how God has used these past few years to prepare me for whatever he has in store next.

-Brittany Kidder



I wanted to express in some small way how DCF has intersected my life over the last few years. I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of a community who is so rich with life. I found so much honesty at DCF: honesty about our spiritual journey, about some of the dark places of our souls, and honesty about our deep need for Jesus.

After a few weeks of searching for community, good conversation, and theology over coffee here in Atlanta, I’m realizing how slow this process is probably going to be, and how much I crave those things, how those things seemed so natural, so woven into my life in Clemson. I know those things will come because God is moving everywhere, and there are gospel people here, but it will take time.

DCF showed me how to love deeply, to pursue. I remember Corey Kalbaugh coming up to me one Sunday and basically saying, “I want to hang out with you, lets get breakfast.” And so, we became regulars at the Waffle King for a season -- talking life, marriage, our common passion for good food. Ed Bynum, a senior then, let me hang out with him my whole freshman year, making me laugh, and teaching me how to really serve people (along with hours of random stories, told in very drawn out, incredibly fascinating ways). There are so many people at DCF who run after the people around them.

There was a lot of freedom for me at DCF. I learned the freedom that, even when I didn’t “feel” connected to God that I could wake up every morning and believe in a God who is at work, even if I don’t always see it. Also, I spent countless Sunday mornings balling my eyes out because I was moved by a God who was in love with me and moved by the joy of worshiping God with people I loved.

DCF is made up of a bunch of misfits, all trying to live out this God-story together. Sharing meals together, sharing lives together, and trying our best to live the Gospel together. Thank you so much for being a place of refuge, a place that pushed me to ask tough questions, and a place where I learned more deeply about the love of God.

-Austin Grigg

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to Downtown Community Fellowship for one-time gifts.

I wish to become a monthly financial partner for: _____

I wish to use automatic withdrawal via: __ credit card __ checking account

**We will follow up with you about instructions for setting up your withdrawal.*