

# Who Are our Conversation Partners?

Terry Halliday

## A. Friends

Student Christian friends and student non-Christian friends.

Conversations about:

- What are important issues for them?
- What do they think about those issues?
- What do they think Christians should be thinking about those issues?

E.g., for graduate Christian student groups members, once a month, an individual or group prepares a conversation opener for the whole group – a presentation – what is the issue? What are views on this issue? Who is thinking about it? What seem to be theological or ethical intersections?

## B. Talk with Christian Faculty

- Interview them and report back OR invite them to come to a Christian student group and react – perhaps to the presentation above

Conversations about:

- What are they working on? What are their research topics? Teaching interests? Wider issues?
- What are their views about those issues?
- How do they think Christians should engage those issues?

## C. Talk with Non-Christian Faculty – Non-Religious Faculty

What do they have to say about an issue?

What would they imagine religious people/Christians would think about this issue?

This can be seen as a form of evangelism, i.e., asking people to take on the persona of the Christian.

E.g., the African example of Christian students asking a shamed professor (a “drunk”) to come and speak to them about leadership. He was delighted. He prepared well, even reading the Bible. It was a valuable session for the Christian students and the presenter.

## D. Other Campus Groups

These can be groups that care about some of the same issues as Christians.

Invite religious persons from other corners of the university into a conversation about an issue important to those groups.

## E. University Administrators and Staff

Ask, what are the purposes and goals of the university.

Ask, how can Christians contribute to the life of the university, the goals of the university?

E.g., University administrator in Kenya is often asked by student leaders to give resources to student groups. She always asks, what is your group contributing to the university, to my goals?

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