

Student Utilizes Popular Campaign to Express Faith in Context

By Jonathan Brooks, Associate Baptist Student Ministry Director, University of Houston

After hearing a ONE Campaign training presentation at Rice University, Jeremy Haines and four fellow University of Houston students - a mix of both Christians and non-Christians - decided they would found a chapter at UH.

ONE THE CAMPAIGN
TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY



According to the ONE Campaign website, the campaign "is an effort by Americans to rally Americans – one by one – to fight the emergency of global

AIDS and extreme poverty. The ONE Campaign . . . [believes] that allocating an additional one percent of the U.S. budget toward providing basic needs like health, education, clean water and food would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the world's poorest countries. [They] also call for debt cancellation, trade reform and anti-corruption measures in a comprehensive package to help Africa and the poorest nations beat AIDS and extreme poverty."

Jeremy, a UH Baptist Student Ministry leader, decided to help start the UH ONE Campaign chapter not as "an extra thing, but because God calls each of us to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is a tool to help [him] live out [his] faith."

"When one starts something like this it seems that one's heart is filled with Christ's love to reach out to people we don't even know. This group is not asking for my money, but my voice. They want me to help speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves. As a follower of Jesus, how can I not lend my voice?"

The UH ONE Campaign chapter will also be Jeremy's TAG next fall. A TAG, or Tribal Action Group, is a group of two or three Christians who gather weekly for prayer and accountability in their common effort to share God's love with a specific tribe or group of people. Jeremy will recruit one or two other Christians to reach non-Christians in the ONE Campaign group.

"I look forward to our ONE Campaign meetings. There is something about getting together and talking about the human condition that provides openness not otherwise available," Jeremy asserted. "When people talk about AIDS and poverty, they want to know why it is happening. A natural catalyst exists for a level of theological discussion. People ask, 'What is your motivation for being part of this group? Why do you want to help?' I can share that for me it is because I am a follower of Jesus. Such conversations can help break down barriers on both sides. We realize we are not that different; just our motivations are different."

Jeremy is living out his faith in a way that he prays others will see that he cares about the poor of the world and is motivated by his relationship with Jesus. His hope is that they too will be motivated to love their neighbors because of a relationship with Jesus.