

## **Organic Churches for Dorm, Apartment, or Coffee House Friends** ...how would you sharpen this word picture of an Acts 2 church for an unreached cluster of friends?

**Chad prayed silently as he walked** toward the dorm where he was meeting with about 10 friends. Some were not-yet Christians or not practicing Christians...others were sold-out to Christ! But each one was interested, to a point, in authentic spiritual truth. He actually started this little Tuesday night church by praying that God would guide him to a divine encounter with someone who was interested...and it happened three weeks later when he and a new friend began to talk after a biology lab. That same week a group began meeting in the lab partner's room. They didn't break any dorm rules, but just gathered as a little faith group...an on-site Body of Christ!

**As soon as guys got there they began comparing their weekly ups and downs** while they ate pizza. One guy grabbed a last slice and Chad steered the conversation toward a new CD ..."Anybody have this? Listen to the third song, and what it shares about God's working in our lives."

**After hearing the lyrics about "failures & faith", one of the freshmen opened up about disappointments in life** and how he connected with a phrase in the song...but he still hadn't made his mind up about God. All agreed...faith is a personal journey that you can't rush of fake.

**Chad gave out copies of John 8** for the group to discuss. At times he offered an insight, but mostly he kept pressing the group to read a paragraph and then dialogue about what it said regarding (1) self, (2) others, (3) living, or (4) God. As they talked, the "woman caught in adultery" sparked several comments on true forgiveness, but Jesus as "the light of the world" left everyone thinking. Chad ended by encouraging everyone to read their favorite verse in the chapter each day during the coming week...to see if it would impact how they lived.

**Every gathering concluded by having those present decide how they would give** their "offering" to make a difference in the world. They had given it to a homeless person, a missionary, and an inner-city children's ministry. They didn't even use a bank account. Everyone just gave cash and different ones took the money to the chosen recipient. Everyone liked to get in on this kind of giving and often the person delivering the gift got further involved. The group ended with sentence prayers for each other, from one side of the room to the other. It was heartfelt, but simple prayer support, and all got included.

**During the next seven days**, Chad met with the Senior Pastor from his home church (who had originally suggested starting a dorm church to reach students who just weren't interested in coming to a church building). The mentoring and wise counsel from this experienced Pastor were invaluable. But Chad also hung out individually with the "Dorm Church" guys, or connected with them by phone or email. It was in these private times that he got to know each person, listened to problems, or shared his own faith journey with them.

**New People were always showing up** at "Dorm Church", and they always came with someone who wanted them to experience what others had found **(1) friends who stood by you and (2) a faith that helped you live everyday differently.**

May God's Spirit guide you and bear fruit! [www.everywherechurch.com](http://www.everywherechurch.com)

**SEE CHINESE TRANSLATION BELOW (next page/scroll down)**

## 在宿舍，公寓，或咖啡屋裏的有機教會

你如何為了一群未信的朋友們將使徒行傳第二章的文字圖畫尖銳化？

查德默默禱告著，走向一棟宿舍，在那兒他要和將近十個朋友會面。有些人還不是基督徒，有些人是還不上教會的信徒，其他人則是傾向耶穌！可每個人在某種程度上都對正格的靈性真理感到興趣。他這個小小的周二晚間聚會，是他藉著向神禱告求祂賜給他，能與有興趣的人作神聖的遭遇而確實開始的。在那三個禮拜以後，當他和一位朋友在生物實驗課後開始談論時，這事就開始了。那同一星期，一群人就在實驗室伙伴的房間開始聚會。他們沒有破壞任何室規，只是像一群信徒聚集在一起，一個住宿的基督身體。

他們一到那兒，就一邊比較他們一週來的好壞，一邊吃著披薩餅。一個人正拿走最後一片披薩，查德就把話題轉到新的唱碟上去。”誰有這個？聽聽第三首，看神怎樣在我們生命中動工。

在聽完有關”失敗和信心”這首歌詞之後，有一個大一學生開口講了對於生命的失望，及他如何與歌詞中的一句相聯結...可他並沒有對神作決定。大家都同意...信心是個人的心路歷程，不是你能一蹴而就的。

查德分發約翰福音第八章的拷貝給大家討論。他時而提供內涵，但大多數時間，他要大伙兒念一段經文，然後大家討論它所說的有關(1)自我(2)別人(3)生命(4)或神的問題。當他們談論”犯奸淫的婦女”時，引起一些有關真正饒恕的評論，可是耶穌作為”世界的光”讓每個人都陷入了深思。

查德結束時鼓勵大家在未來的一週的每一天，讀這章裏他們最喜愛的經節...看看他們的生命是否會受影響。

每次聚會都是這樣結束，就是那些參加的人都要決定如何作出”奉獻”，去改變世界。他們已經將此”奉獻”給了一個無家可歸的人，一位宣教士，一個市區內的兒童事工。他們甚至沒有銀行帳戶。每人拿出現款，不同的人把錢給指定的受益者。每人都樂意捐款，而通常送錢的人都參與得更多。從房間的一頭到另一頭，大家互相以句子禱告結束聚會。那真是心靈感動，而簡短的禱告扶持，大家都參與了。

在接下來的七天裏，查德與他的教會主任牧師見面（這位牧師最初建議開辦一個宿舍教會去接觸那些沒興趣到教堂去的學生）。這位有經驗的牧師給他的帶領和智慧的輔導真是無可衡量。查德也與”宿舍伙伴”作個別接觸，或者用電話或電郵聯繫。在這些私下的時間裏，他可以瞭解每一個人，聽取困難，或與他們分享自己的信仰路程。

宿舍教會經常有人出現，他們通常帶來一些願意經歷別人所發現的事情，那就是(1)跟你站在一起的朋友，(2)幫助你每天活得不同的信仰。

願神的靈帶領你並結果子！[www.everywherechurch.com](http://www.everywherechurch.com)