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Andrews Students GROW

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GROW groups are small group Bible studies organized by PMC. GROW is just one aspect of PMC’s mission to “Connect, Grow, Serve, Go” by spiritually strengthening and equipping members for ministry in their community and the larger world mission field. Twenty-five of the 40-plus small groups are student-led. Multiple small groups are held every weekday, so students and community members can choose the time, day and topic that appeals most to them. The groups range in size from three or four members to nearly 20.

Since Vimbo and C.J. began organizing the small groups in 2011, participation has more than doubled. Although they have utilized advertising resources, including emails, posters, newsletters, bulletins and campus televisions, they believe the best way to reach people is through one-on-one interaction. “The main and best way is through word of mouth,” C.J. says. “Our leaders and members are encouraged to develop relationships with others and invite them to their group.”

Although student membership is important, Vimbo believes a small group ministry should aim to increase the number of trained and dedicated leaders from which increased membership should naturally follow. She and C.J. teach their GROW group leaders to lead discussions, engage in daily prayer for their group members, and maintain their own devotional life during the week. To them, the importance of this work cannot be measured. “I think it’s important for students to have a setting where they can openly ask questions they have about God, the Bible, and how to practically live out their Christianity,” Vimbo says. “Small groups provide a community of fellow believers that can grow together.”

For C.J. and Vimbo, this sense of community is particularly vital. “It is so easy to get lost in the crowd on such a large university campus,” C.J. explains. “Oftentimes, a student longs for a smaller community setting where they can have support, ask questions, grow spiritually and make new friends. GROW groups do this for our students.”

As the name implies, the main theme is growth. “I have a passion for reaching young people like myself with the Word of God, because I have seen how it has transformed my own life,” says Vimbo. GROW groups help both members and leaders to take an hour out of their busy week to reconnect with their community and grow together spiritually.

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