



Meet Oladapo Afolabi

Oladapo (or, Dapo) is a Fourth Year at UVA. He is originally from Nigeria and is one of the most humble guys I know.

Dapo's Story...(told by Dapo himself)

I came to UVA as a somewhat naive christian teenager. I had been preparing for the trip for a while but did not give too much thought to what the christian community at UVA was going to be like. I had thought about it a bit, but I wasn't too bothered. Maybe that was a good thing because, I now feel I had that part sorted out for me somehow. I came into UVA using the UVA express service from the airport. The lady that picked my family up was very nice. My mum had a good discussion with her and she mentioned something about Chi Alpha. I can't remember how this topic came up, but she said they usually came for the international students' dinner and that she was going to introduce us to them during this event the next day. She introduced us to Josh, one of the staff of Chi Alpha and we started talking. The next Sunday, he took my family to church and that was how I got into Chi Alpha. I wasn't totally sure if Chi Alpha was right for me, but I went for their events a couple of times and thought it wasn't bad. So, I stuck with it.

In my first couple of weeks with Chi Alpha, I experienced a bit of one of the most important things I have learned so far, **fellowship**. One evening, someone

I hope this letter finds you well at the beginning of the new year. We are rocking and rolling with Chi Alpha this semester! We had our first Monday Night Live service at UVA where we were had standing room only! At Chi Alpha at VCU, we are getting ready to utilize small groups and reach out to non-Christian students on the campus!

Below is another **student testimony!** I hope you will take time to read it. Dapo is one of the young men I

knocked on the door of my dorm and told me he was my core group leader. (Core group is simply a handful of students that meet weekly to study the bible and encourage one another. It leads to much more, but this definition works.) We had a good chat and I was happy I had a group of people to talk about Christ with. My first year core group was great! I made a lot of close friends and dispelled a lot of my misconceptions during the discussions. I also learned that Christians didn't all just have one opinion and learned to accept other people's opinions too. Unfortunately, I had to change my core group after this year because my leaders were graduating and moving on.

I moved to another core group in my second year and have spent 3 years with them so far. I got to see another dimension of core group with this new core group. I met regularly with one of the leaders and it helped me see things in my life that needed some changing. I was also able to share my challenges with them, and this was very helpful. They encouraged me and gave me help when I needed it. I started learning to trust them and be transparent with them. By doing this, I could see the benefit of going on the christian journey with other brothers and sisters. While some struggles have made me feel bad about myself or less of a christian. I actually think that these

meet up with and is continuing to grow in his faith.

Want to help financially and continue seeing people like Dapo's life changed?

Send donations (which are tax-deductible) to: Assemblies of God U.S. Missions
1445 N. Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802.
In the memo line: Seth Collins 2807469

struggles have brought me closer to God and my brothers from core group have been instrumental in this process.

Additionally, Chi Alpha also has large group meeting. It is similar to a church service but is tailored for college students. My best part of the large group meetings is the student testimony. It is very encouraging to see people go through similar situations as you and come out with a testimony. I always look forward to it and it has definitely strengthened my faith. Chi Alpha has helped me think about my faith and grow closer to God. I am glad I got introduced to Chi Alpha. While I may still struggle with some things, I am pleased I have a community that shares my burdens and works with me to overcome them!

*Isn't it amazing what the Lord is doing through young people's lives like Dapo's? How UVA Chi Alpha was there to meet him and get him settled in? At UVA Chi Alpha, we describe the win of our fellowship by our Core Groups. We know a student will not only survive, but thrive in being in a core group and developing a sense of **community** that Dapo mentioned in his story.*