

Press Release

Contact: Paul Murray
Phone: (318) 368-8890

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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135 Union Christian Academy Students

Gather for "See You At The Pole"

Farmerville, LA - On Wednesday morning, September 24, approximately 135 UCA students, teachers and administration arrived to school early to gather around the school's flag pole on Hill Street to worship and pray as part of the national *See You at the Pole™* event. The UCA event began at 7:15 AM with the UCA Student Praise and Worship Team leading their classmates in song, as more students began to arrive to participate. After the song service, students from all grades, teachers, and administration joined hand and heart in unified prayer for each other, their school, and for their nation. Prayers were led by volunteer student representatives from Grades 7-12, calling on God for specific requests such as spiritual awakening in our country, needs of students and their families, and for God to place a hedge of protection around their school.



"When you publicly declare that you are 'Christian' as we do at Union Christian Academy, we sort of put ourselves 'out there' to the world. We have to be prepared to not just talk the talk, but we have to walk the walk," said School President Paul Murray, "...and yes, it is a daily struggle with the flesh, and it requires daily dying to 'self' and surrender in submission to the Lord. This event is a reminder to each person involved with UCA that the Lord's mission and message is our first call." A UCA student who wished to remain anonymous added, "some people have told me that we think we're superior or better than other people because we call ourselves Union *Christian* ...but the thing is, if we claim to be like Christ, it actually means the exact *opposite*...we are to put everybody else before ourselves.

Christianity is humility, not arrogance. We have to always remember that."



After the event, refreshments were served and the students headed on to class. UCA students love the annual SYATP event, but coming together as an entire school in unity is not a once-per-year event at the school. Every Wednesday, students are required to attend chapel as part of their curriculum. Guest evangelists and speakers are invited to bring messages that are relevant to young people. This focus on spirituality has spurred a student-led prayer meeting each day before school. Two years ago, high school students surprised their teachers by gathering in the gymnasium each

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morning and huddling for prayer. What began as two or three students praying for their school day, quickly became 15 to 20, and soon there were small groups of students huddled all over the gym floor in prayer. This began a spiritual awakening and new tradition in the High School that has continued. It also led to an annual "Spiritual Awareness Week" held in the spring semester that schedules an entire week of guest speakers, praise and worship music, and Biblical focus. All of these activities can trace their origin back to *See You at the Pole™*.



See You at the Pole™ is a student-initiated, student organized, and student-led event. The event's roots go back to 1990, when a small group of teenagers in Burleson, Texas came together for a *DiscipleNow* weekend. Students began meetings at their schools to birth a vision in the hearts of youth leaders across Texas. The vision was that students throughout Texas would follow these examples and meet at their school flagpoles to pray simultaneously. The challenge was named *See You at the Pole*, and has now spread across America, and in several international countries.

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