

## Spiritual Life

### **Philosophy and Goals**

The purpose of the Office of Spiritual Life is “Investing in lives to develop followers of Jesus.” Every Student, regardless of his or her level of commitment to Christ, is encouraged to participate in the various opportunities to foster spiritual growth in preparation for kingdom service.

California Baptist University is committed to core values of the Christian faith and fulfillment of the Great Commission. Since its inception, the University has sought to evidence the Christian life on campus. In this sense, the Christian ethics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are to be exhibited. No doctrinal statement has ever been prescribed for Students who enter California Baptist University. Because the University is committed to Christian growth, it offers Students many opportunities to explore and express the Christian faith in ways unique to personal needs and interests.

In keeping with this commitment, the University provides courses in Christian studies and encounters with teachers committed to spiritual values. Times of spiritual emphasis are planned for each semester. Students are also encouraged to participate in Bible studies, evangelism, ministry teams, community service, and missions.

### **Office of Spiritual Life Staff**

Through personal relational ministry, the Dean of Spiritual Life serves as a pastor, discipler, and role model for the members of the campus community. The Spiritual Life staff is available to address spiritual development needs, spiritual leadership needs, and other spiritual issues.

### **Compassion Ministries**

By putting faith into action, Students learn the significance of demonstrating the love of Christ. Participating in urban projects for a day or a weekend, working with the homeless, or serving the local community in various ways gives Students the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others for the sake of the gospel.

### **Discipleship Ministries**

Discipleship Ministries creates opportunities for Students of California Baptist University to grow in their relationship with Christ by offering access to discipleship and mentoring through one-on-one discipleship, small groups, conferences, programs, and other

events that encourage spiritual growth. The primary discipleship structure is Challenge, an intentional discipleship process based in small groups called “Tribes.” Tribes meet weekly and focus on reading and applying scripture in community.

## **Chapel**

The California Baptist University community gathers regularly for worship, fellowship, personal development, and spiritual formation. As a community deeply rooted in the Baptist tradition of the Christian faith, broad participation in the Chapel experience is expected.

Chapel services are organized, coordinated, and implemented by the Dean of Spiritual Life. Occasionally, as deemed appropriate by a University Officer, members of the campus community are recognized for notable accomplishments during Chapel. Holidays, cultural programs, and other forms of recognition and/or expression are not included as part of Chapel programming; such events may be coordinated through the Community Life Office. Please refer to pages 43-45 in the [Student Handbook](#) for complete details on Chapel.

## **Chapel Attendance**

Varying Chapel programs are scheduled throughout each semester. Attendance is required of traditional undergraduate Students enrolled in seven (7) or more units. Students who receive a passing grade in the CBU Chapel program for eight (8) semesters may apply for a waiver from Chapel requirements. The day and time Students attend Chapel is dictated by class schedule. Special Chapel services are occasionally held at other times. Students must attend the Chapel section in which they are enrolled in order to receive credit.

Please refer to pages 43-45 in the [Student Handbook](#) for complete details on Chapel.

## **Church Involvement**

California Baptist University is committed to supporting the local church. It is in the context of the local church that believers can unite with one another for fellowship, growth, worship, and service. Students are encouraged to commit to a local church in membership, attend weekly corporate worship, and participate in other ministry and fellowship activities so that they might grow in faith and manifest their personal commitment to Christ as Lord.

A list of churches in Riverside and the surrounding region is available in the Office of Spiritual Life.

## **Office of Mobilization**

Students are encouraged to seek opportunities to participate in the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20) so that they might gain a global vision for the cause of the gospel and gain cross-cultural experience through service learning. Participation in the programs listed below is open to California Baptist University Students who meet participation requirements, successfully complete the application and interview process, fulfill fundraising obligations, and are in good academic and behavioral standing with the University. The service learning application and selection process is coordinated by the Mobilization area of the Office of Spiritual Life and takes place during the fall semester. For complete details, visit the [Mobilization](#) website.

### **International Service Projects (ISP)**

In cooperation with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and various missions organizations, teams of California Baptist University Students serve internationally for approximately three (3) weeks during the summer months. Each team is led by a University Official or other approved member of the University community. The ministry focus may vary depending upon the outreach strategy of the selected area. International Service Project teams have served in more than fifty (50) countries since 1997. For complete details, visit the [Mobilization](#) website.

### **United States Projects (USP)**

In cooperation with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and various missions organizations, teams of California Baptist University Students, staff, and Faculty serve for approximately ten (10) days during the summer. Each team is led by a University Official or other approved member of the University community. The ministry focus may vary depending upon the outreach strategy of the selected area. United States Project teams have served in ten (10) states since being established in 2006. For complete details, visit the [Mobilization](#) website.

### **Summer of Service (SOS)**

In cooperation with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, teams of California Baptist University Students serve internationally for approximately eight (8) weeks during the summer months. Ministry focus varies depending on the outreach strategy of the selected area(s). SOS was established in 2010. For complete details, visit the [Mobilization](#) website.