

HOW TO NETWORK FOR PARTNERS

If God is putting a burden on your heart to reach a place/people, he's probably calling others to join you. When God is at work, he often invites and prepares several people for the task of accomplishing his kingdom purposes together. We must never assume that God is calling us alone. Starting something new is usually done in community with other believers. This was especially true in the book of Acts.

Before we make a list of potential partners in your context, let's look at how God provided the Apostle Paul with a team of partners to plant the church in Corinth together.

Acts 18:1-10

¹ After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Think About It

Look at the network of partners that came together around Paul for the ministry in Corinth!

- **Priscilla** and **Aquila** hosted Paul in their home and their workshop.
- **Timothy** and **Silas** brought financial resources from churches in Macedonia to support Paul (2 Corinthians 11:8-9 fills in this detail.)
- **Crispus**, the ruler of the synagogue, opened his network when he put his faith in Jesus and his entire household came to faith as well.
- **Titius Justus** hosted Paul and likely opened his home for the young church to gather in.

1. How do you see the theme of partnership in this passage? How did Paul find so many partners in Corinth?

Who are your potential partners?

List out some of the people in your network who could potentially partner with you in starting a new ministry on campus. Consider the categories of alumni, church partners, faculty, and students. You don't necessarily need partners in every single category, but the more partners the better! If you're feeling stuck, ask an InterVarsity staff or alumni you know to add to this list.

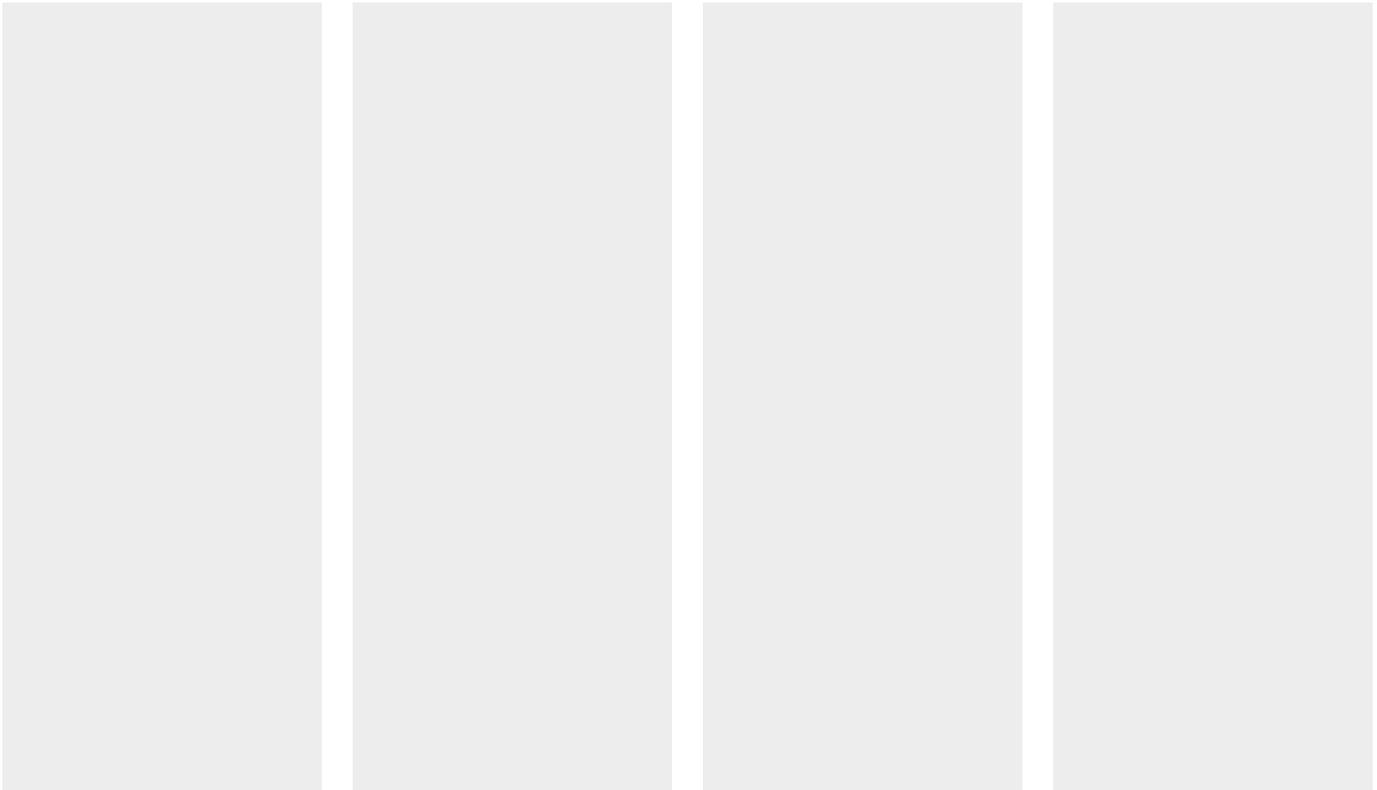
Add your potential partners names in the spaces below:

InterVarsity Alumni
in the area

Pastors in the area and
people from my church

Christian faculty or
staff on this campus

Students from this campus
or other campuses



As you look at your list of potential partners in a posture of prayer, who are the people who are standing out to you? Thank God for these people and make a plan to invite them to partner with you!