

# New Faculty Welcome Bags

**Objective:** To welcome new faculty with a gift as they begin at the university, to provide materials that point them to Jesus and knowing him personally, and to introduce ourselves and how we serve professors and the university community.



## I. Contents

Determine what would be good and appropriate gifts at your university.

At NC State we include: an NC State Mug, CFSN\* pen, Bookmark with CFSN information, a welcome card, bottle of water, a book on how to get tenure, a small pamphlet by Dr. Phil Bishop, and a book (*Mere Christianity, Evidence Demands a Verdict, or The Case for Christ*).

We printed our own simple front and back welcome cards with a QR code to our website (info and updated events) and space to write a personal note.

## II. Finding New Faculty

Pray. This may require a little detective work. You can Google search each department who may publish new hires or you may ask the university for a list of new faculty.

We contacted the director of the HR department and asked for a list. Here is a sample of our email request:

Hello (name of director),

My name is Mark Palmer and I partner with CFSN (Christian Faculty Staff Network) at NC State University. Each year we

try to welcome new faculty to NC State by distributing small gift bags. Usually, I find this information through the college websites. This year this information has not been published yet. Also, not all colleges post this information. Can you help us? We would like a list of the new faculty in each of the colleges.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

We were given a full list of all the university hires in all colleges. We had a list of over 175 new hires.

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\*CFSN (Christian Faculty/Staff Network) is the Faculty Commons ministry at NC State University.

### III. Bag Distribution

I asked for other Christian faculty to help me distribute the bags. These are our Faculty Ambassadors. They prayed for the new professors and helped distribute the welcome bags to faculty in their departments and/or departments near them on campus. They distributed more than 50 welcome bags this year!!

The ideal goal of distribution is to have personal contact with a new faculty member to give them their welcome bag. Share with them who Faculty Commons is and why we are welcoming them to campus. Some faculty will want to know more and others will not. Thank them for the opportunity to meet them and be sensitive to their time and if this is a good time to talk. Always try to communicate how to connect with us if they are interested.

### IV. Follow-Up

The Welcome Bag strategy is a great way to meet professors, and an excellent way to meet Christian faculty.

Everyone is busy, but try your best to contact those who showed interest or were not able to meet personally at that time. Send an email introducing yourself and Faculty Commons. Ask them if they have any questions. If appropriate invite them to an event or to grab lunch.

For those you met and were cordial, send them an email letting them know you enjoyed meeting them and thanking them for serving at the university.

### V. Observations

It is not easy to find faculty in their offices. Look for their office hours or try to connect with them through email to set-up a brief visit.

Unless you have a lot of help, it is best to approach each college or department one at a time. Universities tend to be spread out, so it is more efficient to cover buildings one by one.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people. We have found a number of new Christian

faculty who did not know Faculty Commons existed and this was an easy way for them to get connected. It has also given us a chance to reach out to the non-Christian faculty and let them have a positive experience with a Christian ministry that wants to support them.

Recruit the Christian faculty you work with to help. The contact can be much more powerful. For example, a chemistry professor delivers a bag to a new member in their department. There is an immediate connection. New faculty appreciate being welcomed, even if they don't know Christ. This also helps Christian faculty build experience in reaching out to others in the name of Jesus in a friendly non-threatening interaction.

It is helpful to be methodical and to have a plan for distribution. Ideally new hires would receive a Welcome Bag within a couple of months, however they can be distributed throughout the year as time allows. Most people enjoy receiving a gift, so timing is not as important as them being acknowledged.

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**See the following pages for print examples**

**Sample of Welcome Notecard – 5.5" x 4.25"**

*Welcome to NC State University*

The Members of the  
NCSU Christian Faculty & Staff Network | Faculty Commons  
Welcome You!

Please let us know  
if you need any assistance  
settling in, or would like  
to learn more  
about our group.



Visit  
Us  
Online.

**CFSN**  
Christian Faculty/Staff Network  
at NC State University

**FACULTY**  **COMMONS**  
A Cru Ministry

[www.cfsn-ncsu.org](http://www.cfsn-ncsu.org)

**Front**

*— Glad You're Here! —*

“...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” – John 10:10b NASB


**Back**

# Sample of Bookmark –2” x 8”

We are a group of faculty and staff who are united in our discovery and experience that Jesus Christ provides intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life’s most important questions.

We enjoy looking for ways to encourage each other and others as we work and serve at NC State.

It is a privilege to be associated with so many varied and distinguished colleagues.



**Christian Faculty/Staff Network**

[cfsn-ncsu.org](http://cfsn-ncsu.org)  
[meettheprof.com](http://meettheprof.com)  
[facultycommons.com](http://facultycommons.com)

Front

## You Can Know God Personally...

**GOD IS RELATIONAL**

1. **God loves you** and created you to know Him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life.

John 3:16 & John 10:10

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**DISCONNECTED**

2. **People are sinful and separated** from God so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love and plan.

Romans 3:23 & Romans 6:27

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**GOD’S GIFT**

3. **Jesus Christ is God’s only provision** for our sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience God’s love and plan.

Romans 5:8, I Corinthians 15:3-6 & John 14:6

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**A PERSONAL CHOICE**

4. **We must individually receive Jesus Christ** as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love and plan.

John 1:12, John 3:1-8 & Ephesians 2:8-9

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**You can receive Christ by prayer.** Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, to come into your heart and make you the person He wants you to be.

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