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National news this month. What do they have in common?



Co-Founder and CEO of Netflix, Reed Manning, who issued a stunning online apology to customers earlier this week, only to further anger them by announcing Netflix is splitting its services into two separate websites.



Music and performance phenomenon, Lady Gaga, who caused a stir when she told her 13 million Twitter followers she'll push for an audience with the President in order to stop gay teen bullying.



Scott Harrison, founder of Charity: Water, the non-profit committed to providing clean water for the 1 billion people worldwide who are without. He just announced the charity's plan to escalate its impact over the next five years by using deep-drilling technology.



Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Barnanke, whose announcement of "Operation Twist", the central bank's latest attempt to stimulate the US economy, is receiving intense scrutiny from investors, politicians, and economists.

Answer: For all four of these leaders, their **launchpad into adulthood** was their freshman year of college on a campus in the Northeast.

The beleaguered Netflix entrepreneur entered Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine as a freshman 28 years ago in 1983. Lady Gaga (Stefani Germanotta) was a freshman at Tisch School of the Arts in Greenwich Village 8 years ago in 2003.

The charity founder left home at age 18 to enroll at New York University 17 years ago in 1994.

The Fed chairman walked the campus of Harvard as a freshman 40 years ago in 1971.



Scenes from a month filled with connecting with freshmen: Stacks of brightly colored Spiritual Interest Surveys. Pizza. Free water bottles with copies of Imaginary Jesus and Bibles. Christian students sharing their faith with freshmen. Brownies. Freshmen wooed by every organization on campus at activities fairs for new students. Freshmen Desserts. Coffee.

This month, thousands of new freshmen stepped onto campuses across New York and New England, eager for friends, fun, and the "college experience." **In a few years they will leave their mark on the world.**

So we ask: in whose name will they leave their mark? Who will they live their lives for once they've finished with classes, dorm life, and parties? Today, these freshmen are filled with adventure and expectation, but they are also filled with loneliness and fear, trapped in bondage. We connect with freshmen so that every one of them will have the chance to know and follow Jesus as college students and for the rest of their lives.

Please join us in praying: Pray for spiritually seeking freshmen, that they would invest time and energy looking for answers and find Jesus. Pray for Christian students to be proactive and invest in their relationship with God like never before. Pray for those many students who have rejected religion, that they would encounter the love of Christ, brought to them through a fellow student.

As we spend time with freshmen, making friendships, beginning conversations about the greater things of life, and sharing the life-transforming message of Jesus, pray that freshmen would be taking steps towards Christ.

We are so grateful for you!

