

*"It's the question that drives us, Neo." Trinity, The Matrix*

By Chris Bucklin, Student Pastor of ARCC

In the days of my Youth, I wasn't like most others. This statement is widely used by everyone who felt the awkwardness of adolescence, and so I know some of you may be thinking, "yeah, weren't we all." But there was some sense of normality in the teenage years, even amongst the 'outcasts'. There were Jocks, and Nerds, Cheerleaders and Bandies, and that one group of girls who were beautiful and they knew it. Even the so called 'outcasts' had groups, the Goths, the Punks, and the 'bad guys'. Needless to say, I was none of these. I floated back and forth, making a friend here and there among each group, yet never being known as one of them. Even more to the point, I wasn't out doing what most kids were doing. While others were playing basketball, studying math, or listening to music, I was learning how to resolve marital conflict, the essentials of hypnotherapy, and developing psychological theorems concerning everything from relationships to self-preservation. Most kids grow up listening to the words of their favorite football player, and their favorite music group. I grew listening to the words of Anthony Robbins, motivational speaker, and Dallas Willard, professor of philosophy at USC. I wish I could say I did all of this out of Joy, but the truth is, my learning came from desperation; I was a kid who was desperate to find the Truth. And to do so, I had to understand the power of the *question*.

One thing that I remember good old Anthony Robbins saying was this: Quality questions bring quality answers. Although in the years following my youth, I have come to know the insufficiency of many of Mr. Robbins' non-Christ based theories, this particular one has shown itself to be true. We live in a different world now, one in which our youth will no longer accept the answers that our fathers and grandfathers had. They are questioning everything – and we want answers. So often the Christian community has been accused of having blind faith, like they just hear any proposition and accept it. And too often, for too many of us, this is true. We must break free of this. As people who have access to the Real, we should be asking the most questions of anyone – about the world we live in: *Why is it that I have been made to believe that money, career success, and popularity will make me happy, and yet so many who get these are more miserable than before? And why, knowing this, do I still pursue these?* Questions about our faith – *Why does it seem so easy to tell people about the nice guy I met at the mall, but seems so difficult to tell them about Jesus, the guy who died for me? And is the cross all there is to life? I mean, do we just get saved, get our ticket into heaven, and then, that's it? Just wait it out until we die? And we sing about 'just come to Jesus', but what does that even mean? Where is he? If he is not here physically on earth, then how do I 'come to him'?*

These are the kinds of questions the Youth of today are asking. And we are a persistent group; we won't stop. If people see that Christians and or Christianity won't answer the tough questions, the outcome is simple: Christianity will be written off, and

answers sought elsewhere. So to reach a new generation, we are going to have to begin with ourselves. We must begin by asking tough questions. There are two things I can promise from this: First, it will bring us to places of un-comfort like we have never known, but... as a result, it will also bring us to places of understanding which will deepen our faith, and bring us closer to our Hero, Jesus, who is the Christ. I look forward to our Journey into the unknown, as I leave you with his reassuring words: "Ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find, knock, and the door will be opened..."