

# RUF REPORT

*News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast and Midwest*

Volume 4, Number 2

December, 2011

## In Their Own Words

I tell the ministers I supervise that my job is to make them a success. I think we are making excellent progress. Here are fresh reports. Read at your leisure.

### New England

God has been really gracious to us at Harvard this semester! Our returning students were excited to reach out to freshman, and a good number of them responded. More importantly, we've seen students becoming much more honest and transparent about their needs and sinfulness (a difficult thing at Harvard!), while learning to turn to Christ as their only hope in those needs! *Jeremy Mullen, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Harvard University*

This semester at Yale RUF has been training students how to read the New Testament academically and faithfully. Using a 13 week course we have been addressing some key issues in interpretation, answering difficult questions, and giving the essential skills to students to read and teach God's word. This has sparked wonderful conversation and has created a place where students feel free to invite their friends. *Kevin Nelson, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Yale University*



Brown/RISD students at the New England Fall Conference

This semester I began a completely new phase of life. I settled in to a brand new place. I got to know hundreds of new people. I was without electricity, heat, and water for a total of nine days. I walked with students through all kinds of difficulties. And God was faithful. Our group is growing, and I am slowly learning how to be an effective gospel minister. And I got engaged! I'm thankful that God is patient with me, and excited to see how He will work in the coming months. *Lucas Dourado, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Uni-*

*versity of Connecticut*

### Mid-Atlantic

In response to the preaching of the gospel from Mark this semester, students have started opening up their broken lives – from sexual and physical abuse, to rape, to eating disorders, to addictions – to me and to leaders within the group. I asked David, “Why is this happening to such a great degree? Why now?” His response: “Scott, it’s a sign of the internal strength of this ministry, that students feel the freedom to be vulnerable and that the gospel is going deep into their lives.” In the many valleys of this semester, it’s good to have such encouragement. *Scott Mitchell, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Lehigh University*

In the midst of a crisis on campus, we are beginning to see the student leaders in RUF at Penn State embrace a gospel-centered approach to life on campus. The students are left to believe and take comfort that God works not just in spite of broken situations, but through them. RUF Penn State wants to seek the shalom of the campus (Jeremiah 29:7), celebrating this opportunity to minister grace to a broken community. *Alex Wallington, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Penn State University*

It’s pretty safe to say this semester is different, and this is fantastic! We’ve grown by the dozens, having about 30 new folks take a serious look at RUF. Our large group size has doubled. We have as many new folks as old folks, maybe more. To tell the truth, we’re a little geeked up about it all. *Derek Bates, 4<sup>th</sup> year, University of Pittsburgh*

We’ve had a great year at Millersville University. Here’s what one student has taken away from his time in RUF, “Through RUF I’ve come to realize how prone I am to trust in myself instead of Christ, but through that I’ve learned that hearing the gospel is an everyday need.” *Rob Ilderton, 5<sup>th</sup> year, Millersville University*

RUF Large Group – God’s plans are better! Each Wednesday night at the University of Maryland we have our Large Group meeting in the Stamp Student Union on campus where we connect through fellowship, worship and Bible teaching. We have had the privilege of meeting in the Stamp Atrium room for the last three years. Due to an inability to get our typical room every week this semester the administration allowed us to reserve a space in an open lunchroom area of the Stamp called the Baltimore Room.

Picture a large lunch room with tables and chairs and a stage at one end. This is where the Lord brought us... doing RUF in front of studying students, some eating, some in group projects etc. Well the Lord has used this to draw our group outward. The Lord has brought a sense of "risk" and open air proclamation of the Gospel as we sing praises and I preach before those trying to study. It's had an impact on people who would never set foot in our closed room or come to an RUF event.

The first week we were in this room a new transfer student stumbled upon us as she tried to escape from some serious roommate problems. She was so glad to meet a group of Christians on campus. She quickly interacted with our students and in 48 hours attended our Fall retreat in PA! She has been with us all semester. The next week it was clear that a couple of students studying on their computers were looking and listening as I preached. Pray that seeds would be planted and many would discover the living Christ.

Worship before the watching world is a powerful expression of the truth of Christ before the nations. Thank the Lord for the University of Maryland and the freedom we have to worship the Lord and proclaim his name in public spaces and classrooms. *Chris Garriott, 6<sup>th</sup> year, University of Maryland*



University of Maryland students at Fall Conference

The ministry at Hopkins continues to grow and develop. This semester student leaders have stepped up in the biggest way, and we have been able to develop a ministry team. No longer are Melynn Freeman and I doing all of the planning and ministry. Several students are leading Bible studies regularly. Others are planning events, and still others are shepherding and encouraging others. *Steven Badorf, veteran in 4<sup>th</sup> year at Johns Hopkins University*

### Mid-West

One of the highlights of our semester has been watching some students on our ministry team begin to really grasp our philosophy of ministry, particularly in their care and concern for students who are not yet a part of our group.

They are actively praying for and developing relationships with their non-Christian friends, and they've thought very practically about how we can create an environment in our large group meetings where people can meet Jesus. *Brian Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Purdue University*

RUF at Michigan State is in its second year and we continue to meet and make friends with students. This Fall we had a couple of weekly small group Bible studies on campus. We hope they pick back up in the Spring. If you think of it please pray for our family and the students and staff at MSU. God is at work so we anticipate good things to come. *Shawn Newsome, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Michigan State University*

We have been working for RUF at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for three and half years now and are really seeing God at work in the lives of students. Currently I meet with about 15 students to help them discern their gifts and encourage them to serve in whatever capacity God gives them. We continue to see new faces at our events and meetings – we have grown to around 60 students. Numbers are not a big deal to me, as I figure that if we are caring well for one another and bringing one another to Jesus, then students will want to be a part of it. We are privileged to be a part of God's ministry at UNL. Please pray for the continued effort to equip leaders to serve and reach students at UNL. *Steve Allen, 4<sup>th</sup> year, University of Nebraska*

The Fall semester was almost overwhelming for us. We jumped from three Bible studies to six Bible studies on campus. We were not prepared with enough students leaders. This growth has caused our student leaders to see the need to step up leading this semester.

The Lord has opened up the door for me to speak twice this semester at the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) meetings on campus. It is a student led group at the University of Minnesota. Through these opportunities and connections, at our second ever RUF large group meeting on campus we had 3 football players, 2 women's basketball players, 4 women's cross country runners, and 3 women's hockey players attend. This has led to several one to one's with these athletes and several more hopefully to come. *Chad Brewer, veteran in 4<sup>th</sup> year at University of Minnesota*

## Thanks and Funds

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Let's see, how many times in the past three years have we heard that the recession was over? Even though our economy continues to sputter along, RUF is experiencing robust success. God is blessing us financially far more than we deserve, but not nearly enough to seize the opportunities before us. So I have two thoughts at this year-end.

First, thank you so much for your support of our ministry! Your prayers and gifts are the fuel that keeps RUF

running on campus. We absolutely need your help to reach students with the gospel and equip them to serve Jesus.

Second, if God has blessed you financially this year, would you consider a year-end gift to RUF? Like many ministries, we depend on year-end gifts to propel us into the new year. You may use the enclosed envelope, or you may donate online. Go to <https://www.ruf.org/donate/> and select my name from the staff list.

## The Homefront

Daniel and Ginny had a nice honeymoon in Costa Rica, then joined us for Thanksgiving. Ginny works for a Maryland legislator and just got a promotion.

Peter reports, "We just finished a week in Seattle for Megan's brother's wedding. Next semester is my last semester of classes. I led a 10-week Bible study for church."



Peter, Megan, and Elijah

Christopher from the Congo: "Interesting or entertaining things I've been doing lately: Setting up an embassy French language program, learning how to drive water delivery trucks, hosting Thanksgiving for an international crew, bringing board games to the Congo, visiting jungle missionaries and almost being killed by careening buses on the way. And, of course, running an embassy."

Stephen is immersed in classes and in RUF at Lehigh. He is still pondering what to do when he graduates with a degree in International Relations, but he is working toward getting "the industry-standard IT certification" for computers.

Benjamin has started guitar lessons and seems to be enjoying them. When not doing schoolwork he likes to play Minecraft on the computer. He and Ruth are tutoring some youngsters in Allentown once a week.

Ruth is keeping up with teaching English in both Benjamin's co-op and her online classes – but they keep her on the run! She is pleased that the highschoolers in her Epic Heroes class are enjoying the epic poems of Job, the Odyssey, Beowulf, Canterbury Tales, and others.

## Christmas Reflections

O Son of God, we wait for Thee,  
In love for Thine appearing;  
We know Thou sittest on the throne,  
And we Thy Name are bearing,  
Who trusts in Thee, may joyful be,  
And see Thee, Lord, descending,  
To bring us bliss unending.

We wait for Thee 'mid toil and pain,  
In weariness and sighing;  
But glad that Thou our guilt hast borne,  
And canceled it by dying;  
Hence cheerfully may we with Thee  
Take up our cross and bear it,  
Till we relief inherit.

We wait for Thee; here Thou hast won  
Our hearts to hope and duty;  
But while our spirits feel Thee near,  
Our eyes would see Thy beauty;  
We fain would be at rest with Thee  
In peace and joy supernal,  
In glorious life eternal.

– Philipp F. Hiller, 1699-1769;  
trans. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1890



"We can't wait," said President Obama last week, as he announced \$4 billion in new federal spending. Some people agree with him, and others can't wait to throw him out of office. The polls tell us everyone thinks congress has done too much waiting and not enough legislating.

There is a time for acting, but there is also a time for waiting. Presidents and congressmen are paid to do *something*, but most of the world's problems will not be solved by either party. Poverty, pollution, deficits, crime, education, health care – our problems are so deeply rooted in humanity, it will take a superhuman outside force to get us back on track. We must wait for God to act to save us.

In this Advent season we remember the long wait – 4 millennia – for God to keep His promise to Adam to save the human race. At last Christ came, the Son of God. He bore our guilt, and canceled it by dying for us. What a relief! What a cause for celebration! This is so good, even the death of the euro cannot keep us from rejoicing.

But the euro *may* collapse, and its collapse may bring pain to many. Those problems that torment us are still present, and in this Christmas season some who believe in Jesus will die for their faith. So we also must wait. The



Son of God will come again, and this time He will complete the task of restoring the earth to its sinless beauty.

Godly waiting is not the same as inactivity, however, and godly action is not just getting things done. As this hymn says, the key ingredient is trust. We wait for the Christ, not by doing nothing, but by trusting Him to work through our work until the joy of salvation covers the earth.

May God grant you the ability to wait during this busy time of year, and to rejoice in the coming – past and future – of the Son of God.

*David Green*

Remember to check out my weekly report at <http://dgreenruf.org>. And email me if you wish to get weekly prayer requests.



Ruth and Elijah



Family at Daniel and Ginny's wedding

Left to right: Megan, Elijah, Peter, David, Ruth, Ginny, Daniel, Poppa Feaver, Nana Feaver, Christopher, Benjamin, Stephen

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