

RUF REPORT

News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast and Midwest

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A New Year!

Students are back, and RUF is off to another strong start! News is coming in from campuses in the Northeast and Midwest of how God is at work. Most of our ministries gear up even before students return, with a leadership retreat. Pictured below are students from Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design on their pre-semester planning retreat. I think this was a break time.



Brown University/RISD RUF Leaders Retreat

Chris Garriott sends in this report from the University of Maryland: “a very busy and encouraging start up for UMD. Two new interns Kristy and Logan Lowder have made it to the field and moved in and are off and running. We have had excellent welcome events and table outreaches and have collected many interested contacts that we are following up. In my seven years here at UMD I have not seen this many interested students meet us at outreach events and actually attend Large Group. We look forward to what the Lord has in store here in College Park. I would ask for specific prayer as I am preaching about Gospel Driven Relationships this fall.”

Lucas Dourado at UConn got the idea of making a giant Jenga game to use as a means of attracting interest to RUF. He mentioned it to other RUF ministers, and soon dozens of RUF groups were making their own Giant Jenga sets. Scott Mitchell at Lehigh University says it has been a magnet for Lehigh students.

My first campus visit this fall was to the University in Mexico City. I always enjoy my visits there. This time I



Giant Jenga at UConn

had three teaching opportunities and twice helped with the English Club, in addition to time spent with staff and interns.



Lunch with students in Mexico City

Last week I had the opportunity to make a special visit to Lanier and Leslie Wood at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. This ministry is only in its second year, but they have a group of delightful students.

Tomorrow I'll be back on the road to visit other campuses. Follow me on Facebook, or check my weekly report on my website: <http://dgreenruf.org>. Please pray for God's blessing on RUF.

Thanks and Funds

You would not believe how hard our ministers and interns work to reach freshmen and new students. We are cultivating a godly longing for students to hear the gospel, and it shows in the labors on campus.

That makes it tough when the financial support slacks off. Support for some of our staff has dragged, and they have to spend precious time each week trying to boost their ministry income.

Thank you for your prayers and donations to the ministry of RUF so far. Please continue to support us and to remember our financial needs in your prayers. Pray for campus ministers and interns as they work to raise new support while reaching out to students this fall.

Focus on Jeremy Mullen



How would you describe Harvard? One might assume, as many do, that Harvard is a place where students sit around pondering the meaning of life. However, RUF campus minister Jeremy Mullen paints a different picture of the overall campus climate. Jeremy notes the typical student is obviously extremely intelligent, but also involved in four or five student organizations, which makes for very little time for

students to engage in serious personal reflection. Such busy students pose a challenge to developing a campus ministry, especially in a particularly pluralistic environment where no one just happens to wander into RUF.

But God is working through RUF to challenge such over-committed students, and the ministry is bearing fruit in these less than ideal conditions. Now in his fourth year of ministry, Jeremy is amazed by how the ministry has doubled each year. When Jeremy took on his role as campus minister, RUF was not new to Harvard, but the group had been inactive for two years so that Jeremy started with only two seniors who knew anything about RUF. As Jeremy has shared the vision of RUF to pursue others and love them as Christ would, students have taken hold of the philosophy and sought to live it out in tangible ways.

As one example, students are learning to love one another by sacrificing personal schedules for the sake of others. Last spring semester, just one week before exams began, an RUF freshman girl learned her father had been

in a serious accident and was on life support. Some of the older RUF women forfeited their own prime study time to comfort their Christian sister with their physical presence, even packing her entire dorm room so she could complete exams and leave campus as soon as possible. Jeremy was floored by how well these students embodied the love of Christ in the midst of a tragic situation.

In many university settings, students become busier over time, but at Harvard, students tend to be most busy their first year and then spend their remaining three years shedding extra commitments to focus on their primary interests and finally engage in examining their own lives. One interesting implication for evangelism in such a context is that a Harvard senior is generally more likely than a Harvard freshman to consider the gospel. Jeremy shares the story of Ameera*, a former Muslim who finally came to Christ in her last year at Harvard, after her Christian roommate's faithful witness and prayer over time. Ameera surprised her roommate by asking to go to church on Easter Sunday of their senior year. Over the years, Ameera did not seem responsive to her roommate's evangelistic efforts, and her Christian friend was ready to give up. Little did she know, by the time Easter arrived, Ameera had been reading the Bible on her own for months and found God's love to be amazing.

Having spent time in the Navy in the Middle East, Jeremy had developed an interest in Islam and had read much on the subject so that he was able to answer some of Ameera's pointed questions as she was converting to Christianity. As Ameera heads from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Cambridge, England, Jeremy has offered her some church suggestions for her to continue in her Christian walk. Jeremy confesses that Ameera's story reminds him of the power of God's Word, the patience required for reaching unbelievers, and how God still reveals himself in a pluralistic setting.

To that end, in addition to serving Harvard as an RUF campus minister, Jeremy also serves as one of 39 university chaplains who come from a wide array of religious perspectives. As a member of the exec committee of the chaplaincy, Jeremy has many opportunities to dialogue about important issues with these diverse religious leaders. He finds the experience incredibly challenging and relishes the chance to grow in respectfully engaging others with very different ideologies. Jeremy's role as a chaplain in such an environment has greatly informed his role as RUF campus minister as he leads a group of students who regularly interact with Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, and other friends.

Having met through RUF at Vanderbilt, Jeremy and his wife, Adrienne, are excited to partner together in sharing the ministry of RUF with students at Harvard. With a two-year-old at home, Adrienne is not able to attend RUF's evening events as much as she once was, though she does occasionally still come to campus to meet one-on-one with female students. However, the Mullens

love to show the love of Christ by inviting students into their home for a much-needed break from the high-pressure of campus life.

For more information on Jeremy Mullen or RUF at Harvard, check out their website: www.harvard.ruf.org.

* name has been changed

– by Kristen Boe

The Homefront

I am writing this on Daniel and Ginny's first year anniversary. Judging by their Facebook posts they seem to be having a grand time in Philadelphia.

Peter says, "I preached this past weekend. We visited Pennsylvania this summer. I've been making (slow) progress on my dissertation. A racoon has been stealing our tomatoes and destroying our zucchini plants."

From Christopher, in the Congo: "Work wise, I have been holding auction sales and cleaning the embassy warehouse (the modern day descendant of the Aegean Stables). Outside of work I recently organized – and played in – the Rivercongo Invitational, an exclusive trans-Congo international golf tournament held in Kinshasa and Brazzaville. The real winner was the shirtless, pond-wading Congolese man who sold us back the two dozen balls we sent sailing one after another in beautiful succession into the water trap. I was declared the close champion, however, by the rules of my handicap: my score against the combined scores of all my opponents."

Stephen is training to be a Medical Technician at Muhlenberg Hospital. He is also taking biology and astronomy to finish up his science requirements. One of his rats escaped, so he bought two more. He tells us that they are not happy living alone. Well, these two escaped too. We hope we are not starting a neighborhood infestation!

Ruth and Benjamin are back on the job at the Excelsior homeschool co-op. Ruth is teaching British Literature and her favorite – LitWits. Benjamin has a full roster of classes, but his favorite is computer programing. He even admitted to working ahead in that one! Ruth is also teaching her online Advanced Placement Literature course, and teaching Benjamin to drive.

Personal Reflections

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. John 1:6-7



And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." John 1:32,34

I have been thinking a lot about John's gospel lately. What sticks out to me is John's emphasis on witness. He begins by introducing John the Baptist as a wit-

ness to Jesus, but the whole gospel is full of witnesses to Jesus – signs, teaching, other people. All these point to Jesus as the Son of God – the Divine man who came to save the world.

But Jesus Himself is a witness. He is the One who ascended to heaven and came down to earth. He is the One who always tells the truth about God the Father. He is the only One who has seen the way to forgiveness of sins and can show it to us. John wrote later about the witness of Jesus. In Revelation 1:5 he calls Jesus "the faithful witness," and the whole book of Revelation is Jesus' witness to us.

This is encouraging to us as we set out to be a witness for Jesus. Whether on campus, on the job, or at home – we also can and should tell what we have seen – that Jesus is the Son of God who saves His people from their sin. But even as we struggle to speak about Jesus, He is all the while witnessing through us. When we speak on His behalf, Jesus, the faithful witness speaks through us.



Benjamin working at Rita's Italian Water Ice.