



Northeast Report

News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast

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In Their Own Words

I am excited at the way God is at work among our RUF ministries in the Northeast! We now have three schools with 100 members or close to it. We are reaching more unbelievers. And we have staked out a claim in spiritually harsh northern New England. Read what our campus ministers have to say in their own words...

New England

On Nov. 4, 2012, I had the joy and privilege of baptizing Craig Morrill, a senior at the University of Vermont. I met Craig at the beginning of the fall semester and we have met regularly since: on campus, at our home, at church (Redeemer Burlington), and at the local climbing gym – Craig’s “home away from home.” In conversation Craig has acknowledged that sin is mankind’s greatest problem and Jesus Christ is our greatest hope. Craig also expressed his desire to be baptized and join the church. Join us in rejoicing as we celebrate the great goodness, kindness, love and grace our Savior has shown our dear brother Craig. *John Meinen, 1st year, University of Vermont*



John Meinen baptizing Craig Morrill

From one of our Bible study leaders, “I am really excited about starting [an evangelistic Bible study] this spring. I have begun to look over the leader’s guide and am realizing that helping to lead this study is certainly a daunting task! Despite the somewhat overwhelming weightiness of such a study, I am excited for the challenge. My prayer is that through this study God will be powerfully at work, not merely in the lives of those who are a part of the study, but also in our lives as we grow in our understanding of Him through sharing the truth of His word.” *Eddie Park, 6th year, Brown University/RISD*



Brown/RISD students at the New England fall conference

Mid-Atlantic

I have had the opportunity to share the gospel with a number of unbelieving students this semester. To my great joy, we have two young men, Sam and Kevin, who have come to faith and are looking to be baptized soon! Of the more than 20 freshmen who have been involved with RUF this semester, at least half are not Christians. Please be in prayer for these students, for their salvation and future encouragement in the faith through RUF. *Scott Mitchell, 5th year, Lehigh University*

One of the highlights of our semester was having a junior student, Kyle Grow, give his testimony at church and then be baptized by me. Kyle came to RUF his freshman year a complete atheist and skeptical of anything Christian, but through listening to large group sermons, reading some books, attending summer conference, and

small group discussions with peers, God changed Kyle's heart and brought him to faith in Christ. *Alex Watlington, 5th year, Penn State University*



Penn State tailgate

In October our leadership team took a night away to welcome some new folks to the team, and to do some serious brainstorming about the months ahead. One of the delights of our great day together was to hear from the new students joining our team. We asked each to share their own particular story, of how God has brought them to Himself, and to RUF. It was a wonderful reminder of how God has been at work drawing people from different places, through different circumstances, to unite them to Himself and to His people. And it served to highlight how RUF has been a blessing to each, where some rediscovered their faith, where others began to own their faith for the first time, where others are growing in a newly found faith in Jesus. *Derek Bates, 5th year, University of Pittsburgh*

One of the highlights of the semester has been meeting weekly with an ROTC student who has been hungry to understand the Gospel. He approached me after coming on our RUF Fall Conference, suffering with lots of doubt and anxiety about his future life in the service and what he believed. It was clear meeting with him that he had knowledge about Christianity, but would not call himself a Christian. He expressed to me that he was trying to be a Christian and wanted to do it by himself "without Jesus." Through the weeks of the semester we have been reading through Romans and Galatians, passages emphasizing the fact that the Gospel is not about what *we* do, but what Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross. These passages along with some readings on justification by faith alone have really been turning the lights on for him. He's been so excited about meeting and reading about the good news of the Gospel, and resting in Jesus by faith. *Chris Garriott, 7th year, University of Maryland*



Some of University of Maryland RUF football team

Thanks and Funds

It is so sad and frustrating when a door is open to serving God, but the resources are not present. Fortunately, for our 11 ministries in the Northeast that is not major problem! We praise God who supplies our needs, and we thank you for being His instrument of blessing. Everything you read in this newsletter springs from your prayers and gifts to RUF. Thanks!

Even so, one reason our ministries are funded is because of substantial year-end giving. If you are able, please include RUF in your year-end giving. You may use the enclosed envelope, or you may donate online. Go to <https://www.ruf.org/donate/> or scan this QR code and select my name from the staff list.



Stay in Touch

Don't wait until the next newsletter to hear what is happening with RUF in the Northeast. We have just launched the RUF Northeast website and are updating it a few times each week. Go to <http://rufnortheast.org/> or scan this QR code. Check in each week to see the news about RUF in the Northeast.



Are we Facebook friends? I am using Facebook now, and post additional comments there. Send me a friend request so we can stay in touch.

If you would rather receive these newsletters by email, contact us at Northeast@ruf.org.

And if you would like to receive weekly prayer requests by email, also contact us at Northeast@ruf.org.

Christmas Reflections

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, Redeemer, save us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to eventide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the spotless Victim all divine.

At thy great Name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

– *Latin, sixth century;*
trans. John Mason Neale, 1851



Darkness is the natural condition of the universe. “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep.” God had to enter the world and create light in order to dispel the darkness. All was good until darkness entered Adam’s soul and plunged the human race into night.

But as the world drew toward its blackest condition, God shone into the world and began to roll back the night.

God heard the helpless cry of the babies left out to die by their unwanting parents, girls forced into loveless marriages, slaves toiling and dying in the salt mines and galley ships, righteous Jews vexed over the hypocrisy in the synagogue and temple – God heard these cries in the darkness, and He came. Just as He came to give light at the dawn of creation, once again He came to bring light into this dark world. But this time it was not the light of stars – it was the light of His own divine Son.

The times are different, but the cries are the same – or worse. Babies are still brutally murdered for the convenience of their parents, girls are sold into the sex trade, men are forced to labor for the prosperity of others, and

godly men and women bemoan a church that reels from one scandal to another. In times of despair the good news – the great news – is that the baby who was born in a stable is the Son of God who is now exalted and rules from heaven. His promise stands secure that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

It is fitting that we celebrate the nativity of the Christ at the darkest part of the year (at least in our hemisphere!). From now on the darkness is fading as the light overtakes the day. Jesus came at the darkest point of history. He now reigns, and is putting all his enemies under his feet. He is the light that overcomes the darkness, and is creating a new world where “the night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

May you rejoice in this hope this Christmas season!

