

RUF REPORT

News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast and Plains

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In Their Own Words

I have been telling you that God has greatly blessed the RUF ministries in the northeast and mid-west this semester. He placed five new ministers and began two new RUF groups. All 14 ministries have prospered and grown this fall. But why don't I let you hear from the ministers in their own words...

The highlight of the semester was seeing new students welcomed into the group by those already connected. God has worked His Spirit of genuine love and care into the very fabric of the RUF students' hearts. *Josh Vahle, 1st year, University of Iowa*

One of my highlights of the semester was to sit with, listen to, pray with, and cry with a student whose father had attempted suicide. The attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, and my student was really struggling with what the attempt meant. It was good to be there for him in his time of need. *Scott Mitchell, 1st year, Lehigh University*

This semester, it has been incredible to see God, through RUF large group and small group Bible Study, melt away the defenses of a student who, a semester ago, was a staunch defender of his atheism. *Ross Dixon, 3rd year, University of Missouri*



Mid-west fall conference

We developed ministry teams this year at Maryland to increase student ownership and leadership skills (Social Outreach Team, Prayer Team, Small Group leader team). In giving students responsibility they have certainly risen

to the challenge! We have seen more students come out to small groups and social activities than in the two previous years I've been at Maryland. Just this past Saturday we had 20 students involved in serving at a soup kitchen at a shelter in downtown DC. *Chris Garriott, 3rd year, University of Maryland*

I saw God at work in the life of one of our freshmen. We met together after one of our large group meetings and he took the opportunity to share some deep past hurts that occurred in his life. It has been wonderful to see his tenderness to the gospel since that time. *Steve Allen, University of Nebraska*



University of Nebraska students in Project Serve – Over 3,000 people working at schools, parks, mission agencies, etc.

We have begun the first ever semester of RUF at the University of Minnesota with nine students involved at this point. Of the nine students, eight are freshmen. One girl is from a nominal Catholic background and is trying hard to not go to hell by being good. One guy from Wisconsin is a new believer and part of a rock band. Another girl, who is a newer believer, is in a Bible study for the first time. Another guy (an athlete at U M) and girl, who is a cheerleader on the U of M squad, are struggling to live the Christian life out amongst the many temptations. It has been beautiful to see God bring students together who have very little in common but who are searching to make sense out of their freshmen experience. *Chad Brewer, beginning RUF, University of Minnesota*

We're grateful for the remarkable reception we've received here by interested students and local congrega-

tions. It would be hard for us to imagine a better first semester here. *Derek Bates, beginning RUF, University of Pittsburgh*

I was most encouraged this semester by our freshmen study. They have been strengthened by the gospel of grace while helping each other through the challenges of their first semester. *Kevin Nelson, 1st year, Yale University*

Year after year, I've been blessed to watch the RUF ministry grow here at Penn State. Many of us "older folks" were nervous about what would happen with a new campus minister – would people still be drawn to RUF? Would we still be able to follow the same format? Would we do the same activities? After asking these questions to myself, I realized that first, I needed to have more faith in our Lord and what he had planned for us. Second, I realized that I never once questioned the most important aspect of the ministry – whether or not the new RUF minister would know and teach the Gospel. Sure enough, RUF has continued to grow with more and more new people coming each week and sure enough, the Gospel has continued to be spread. It's been such a blessing to have Alex and Becki here!!! *Katrina, student at Penn State University*



Penn State vision retreat

The highlight of the semester was worshiping together in a small group and praying for one another and our campus. *Rob Ilderton, 2nd year, Millersville University*

Our semester at Hopkins has been characterized by outreach – developing relationships, and serving students so that we might gain some in-roads into their busy lives. We have given away free Italian ice, coffee, and Danish, and joined with several other ministries to serve about 400 students a Thanksgiving meal. During a Bible study on John 6, Claudine asked, "Does the Bible really say that? It does, doesn't it? Wow! I never saw that before." *Steven Badorf, beginning RUF at Johns Hopkins University*

I was born in India to Hindi parents and I grew up in Australia and Switzerland. My parents taught me to be open minded about most things in life, including religion. RUF is the first place I've ever studied the Bible, and

I love how Joey always connects it to our lives as college students. *Rishi Gokarn, student at University of Connecticut*



University of Connecticut at the fall conference

We're very encouraged this Fall at RUF at Brown and RISD. We have about 30 new students from freshmen to upperclassmen involved in the group. We've seen about three non-Christians seriously consider accepting the gospel. Praise God! *Eddie Park, 2nd year, Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design*

Thanks and Funds

News flash from the center of the universe:

I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on...your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. *Matthew 6:25, 32*

Quite a contrast to the news you get from the public media! We need to remember in these days of sub-prime mortgage collapse, falling stock markets, and failing industries, that God is in control, and – most important – that He is caring for His children.

Thank you for sending us out to minister among students! Through your prayers and gifts you are the indispensable partners in all we do on college campuses. Thanks for sustaining us through 2008.

I need you to pray for a miracle. Every year \$20,000 of our budget comes in during December. We need that again to cover our expenses, but the economic difficulties leave us wondering if it will happen this year. Please take a moment right now and pray for God to provide the means and the desire for people to give \$20,000 to our ministry this month.

If you are able to give, remember to make checks payable to "Reformed University Fellowship," or just "RUF." Indicate that the gift is for "David Green" and mail it in the envelope provided.

If you cannot give at this time, no worries! God will pro-

vide. Go back two paragraphs and pray. Thanks for your prayers, interest, and friendship!

Christmas Reflections

True God, the Father's Son, is he;
Yet truly one of us, that we
Might find in him a brother.
He comes with peace and love to live
On earth, our erring race to give
Such help as could no other,
Seeking, caring
For the loveless
And the hopeless,
All the lost ones
Thirsting for unfailing fountains.

He will, like us, shed bitter tears,
Will know our needs, yet still our fears
And send his Spirit's power.
He will reveal his Father's will,
Our cup of woe with mercy fill
To sweeten sorrow's hour.
Struggling, suffering,
He, by dying
Dearly buying
Our salvation,
Opens wide the gates of heaven.
—Johan Olof Wallin, 1779-1839

I hope you have a merry Christmas. It would be perverse not to celebrate the marvel of God's taking flesh and coming to earth to save us. Decorate a tree, sing carols, enjoy the warmth of home and family. But remember to pray for those whose Christmas will be shadowed by sorrow and fear. Above all, remember that Jesus has opened the gates of heaven, and there awaits a day of unclouded joy.



It's the time of year for Christmas carols, brightly wrapped packages, wonderful meals, gaily decorated trees – the warmth of home and family. But some of us will not have a merry Christmas this year. It will be a dismal holiday for the families of those who were killed by the terrorists in Mumbai. The hostages on the ships captured by the Somali pirates are wondering if they will live to see another Christmas. Pastors in one part of India will celebrate Christmas in great peril: there is a \$250 reward for anyone who kills a pastor there. And at the last RUF meeting at Lehigh, the brother of one of our students stopped by on his way home from Texas. He just lost his job – a victim of the deteriorating economy.

Again we return to the truth that Jesus did not come to bring colored lights and Santa Claus. He came as one of us, that He might be our brother and know our fears and sorrows. Jesus came to bring peace and love, to rescue the loveless, the hopeless, and the lost. But this could only happen through suffering. In life He wept, and in death He was tormented – all so that we might be free from fear in this life and torment in the next.