



Northeast Report

News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast

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RUF in Mission

Jesus' commission to the church is to preach the gospel in every nation. As RUF reaches students for Christ and equips them to serve, missions is an important aspect of that discipleship. Of course not every student is called to be a missionary, but we hope that all Christians will embrace Jesus' commission to spread the gospel everywhere. Some may go, some may give, and some may pray – but all can help.

The foundation of discipleship in RUF is the preaching of the campus minister. Here is where we show God's purpose for the world and the role of His people in mission. One of the most effective ways of bringing this teaching to life is by taking students into the mission field, where they can see first-hand the need for the gospel and how mission is executed.

Every year some of our RUF groups take time during winter or spring break to participate in a mission trip. Here are some accounts of recent trips by RUFs in the Northeast.

Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design

This year RUF at Brown and RISD sent a team of students to Greece over spring break. Elsa is RISD Class of 2016. These are her reflections on the trip to Greece.



Else and a friend in Athens

"The mission trip to Athens, Greece was my first mission trip and it was unlike anything I have ever experienced. Going to Greece I had no expectations or prior experience. Throughout the week we were scrubbing up toilets, sweeping, and mopping up at the new evangelical church they were building there and hoping to open the

Sunday after we left. Some of us also got the chance to serve food to refugees, which sadly I was not part of. The purpose of the trip was a 'Visions Missions' trip. It was meant for us to see how full-time missionaries live.

"The most meaningful part of the trip was at night when the team would gather on the roof top to pray and to discuss how each day went for everyone (because most of the time the group got split up). Leaders of RUF, people who seemed so strong in their faith, shared about their weaknesses and struggles. We all went on the trip hoping to get closer to God, but a lot of the group were dealing with weakness and doubt. Everyone was so honest, which made it easier for me to be honest.



Brown/RISD Greece Mission Team

"It's not easy to be a Christian, it's not easy to hear people doubt, to see suffering, or to have emotional pain. God really revealed to me that my campus and the US may be even more spiritually sick than Greece. I met

refugees who converted to Christianity within weeks and risked their lives every Sunday just to go to church, while I used to find myself making excuses not to go and taking church for granted. It made me feel selfish. I noticed how much I belittled God in my life. At home it's so easy to hide, while the refugees are faced with their fears every day.

"I am so grateful I got to go to Greece. Athens remains in my prayers. I am really inspired to make my life a constant mission, by living and breathing the word of God through whatever paths He may take me."

Penn State

This year for spring break, RUF Penn State went to New York City for a week long missions trip to work with CSM (Center for Student Missions). The 12 students who went had a tremendous week that consisted of serving meals to and working with homeless communities, volunteering in after school children's programs, and working in a few food banks scattered around the city. Again, this week proved to be one of the best weeks of our year for me and our students. *Alex Watlington, Campus Minister*



Penn State New York City Mission Team

University of Maryland

In March of 2012 ten of us from the University of Maryland had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Lima, Peru and work alongside Mission to the World missionaries and friends from seminary, Mark and Lori Berry. Mark and Lori had just celebrated their ten year anniversary laboring as church planters and directors of the MTW team. It was a great experience to see first-hand how God has been working in their church (Luz de Vida – Light of Life Presbyterian Church) and community.

The students learned much about cross cultural missions and did quite a bit of service during the week. We helped network the church as we served at the Kids Alive Day Care center in Manchay, Peru during the day doing various construction projects. These included laying a paver sidewalk and building a new brick septic tank. In the evenings we connected with Luz de Vida small groups and were able to see first-hand the discipleship ministry going on. Some of the students were able to share their testimonies through a translator at the small groups and House of Glory (home for single moms). I had the great blessing of preaching through a translator at their worship service the morning we arrived. It was a week where our group from Maryland grew in understanding how to apply the gospel to a different culture and unite with our brothers and sisters sharing the burden of labor and love in Lima. It will be a spring break students will never forget. *Chris Garriott, Campus Minister*



University of Maryland Peru Mission Team

New York City

And looking ahead, here is this from Michael Keller in New York:

RUF in New York City will be taking its first missions trip to London this upcoming March to work with London City Mission and their East End missions. We are currently in the process of planning the trip, and are excited about the endeavor. Please be praying for this trip in March 2014! Thank you!

Your Connection with RUF

So you see that by supporting the ministry of RUF to college students, you are touching lives all over the world, and preparing future missionaries!

Thanks for sharing this ministry with us. It is by your prayers and donations that we are able to keep reaching and equipping students for Christ and His mission.

You can make donations to our ministry here: <https://www.ruf.org/donate/> or scan this QR code →



You really need to make a habit of visiting our RUF Northeast website! Each week a campus minister posts some new development among our RUF ministries. Go to <http://rufnortheast.org/> or scan this code →



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.

Focus on Lucas Dourado



Son of a Brazilian father and American mother, RUF campus minister Lucas Dourado was born in Brazil, spent some of his early childhood in Greece and Portugal, and grew up mostly in New Jersey. After moving south to attend Wake Forest University, Lucas began a slightly westward migration to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he interned with RUF, and Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO, where he earned his M. Div. In 2011 Lucas returned to the Northeast to serve full-time with RUF at the University of Connecticut.

In the midst of many geographical moves, Lucas' journey with RUF has remained clear. Raised in a Christian home, Lucas cannot remember a time when he was not a Christian. In high school Lucas was an active youth group participant in a group led by one of his now current col-

leagues (Scott Harvey, campus minister at Moravian College). Lucas came to Wake Forest knowing nothing of the PCA or RUF, but quickly became very involved in RUF and was greatly influenced by its teaching on God's grace. Through most of college Lucas knew he wanted to do the same for other college students, and received affirmation from his campus minister, Kevin Teasley, who encouraged Lucas to gain the experience of an RUF internship. Lucas spent two years serving and learning at the University of Tennessee and then headed to seminary on the path to full-time campus ministry through RUF.

As he was nearing the end of his seminary education, Lucas received the call to take over the ministry at UConn and is now entering his third year of ministry there. Like many campus ministries in the Northeast, the core group is small, but often unchurched individuals come to check out something unlike anything they've ever known. Lucas notes that many students have never been exposed to basic Bible stories like those of Moses or David, and he must take care in not assuming any biblical foundation. Lucas spends most of his days on campus, staking out a spot in the student union to meet with students or prepare messages. Lucas seeks to meet students wherever he can and is casting vision within his core group to raise up student leaders with hearts to reach their peers.

Lucas has been encouraged by the community he sees forming within RUF. While students used to leave large group meetings as soon as things wrapped up, they now stick around for a long time to connect with one another. Likewise, though the seven students attending RUF's summer conference seemed an unlikely mix, Lucas saw his prayers for unity answered when they spent the 23-hour car ride home sharing life stories and lessons learned at the conference. Lucas plans to keep the momentum going this summer through movie nights and other community-building activities for students staying on campus. As Lucas continues to develop RUF UConn, he desires to reach more of the party crowd that is so prevalent on campus.

Throughout the past decade RUF UConn has been greatly blessed by the local church, Presbyterian Church of Coventry, which initially requested that an RUF be planted at the nearby University of Connecticut. The church remains supportive of the ministry and maintains a student-friendly atmosphere that reinforces the RUF ministry on campus.

Lucas is married to Maggie, an RUF alumna, who also has greatly influenced RUF UConn. Maggie stays actively involved in the ministry through attending large group meetings and summer conferences, spending one-on-one time with female students, and offering hospitality. A third member of the Dourado family, Lily, a dachshund-lab mix, also loves students. During finals season, Lucas and Lily offered a pet therapy ministry event on

campus, and when students visit the Dourado home, Lily makes them feel at ease. Pray that Lucas, Maggie, and Lily might continue to build a relational ministry for the many students in their midst.

For more information on Lucas Dourado or RUF at UConn, check out their website: www.uconnruf.org.

– by Kristen Boe



Lily, RUF pet therapy dog

understanding of the world, of missions, and of my role in ministry.

On the evening of the day that Jesus rose from the dead He met with His frightened disciples and said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (John 20:21) So what is the way in which the Father sent Jesus? Jesus explains it compactly in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Jesus did not come to praise good people, He did not come to bask in royal glory, He did not come to enjoy the world He had made. Jesus came for the poor, the lonely, the sick, the sinners – He came for the lost.

Not all of us are called to preach or serve in a different culture, but every Christian is sent to the lost. We minister in different ways, according to our different gifts, but a heart for the lost is characteristic of all who follow Jesus. And in an age where communication to the other side of the world takes nanoseconds, Christian compassion on the lost must embrace the whole world.

In November RUF and MTW are co-sponsoring a missions conference. I pray that this conference, as well as mission trips and other events, will impress the gospel into the hearts of students such that all devote themselves to a life of service, and that hundreds hear God’s call to serve in another culture. Would you pray to that end, too?

David Green

Summer Reflections

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
Luke 19:10



Thirty-four years ago I went on my first mission trip. I had just graduated from university and was thinking that God might be calling me to serve Him overseas. God had other plans, and I have been stationed in the U.S. all my life. But my trip to Morocco in the summer of 1979 dramatically changed my



RUF Summer Conference 2013

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