

RUF REPORT

News of Reformed University Fellowship in the Northeast and Midwest

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Campus News

What a difference a year makes! Last spring I visited all my campuses and had a few weeks to catch up on office work. This year the spring semester raced by. I had more campuses, the swine flu did not prevent a trip to Mexico, and new ministries are in the works. I visited every campus and worked on some new projects, but the office began to get out of control. Fortunately God has provided a solution to that. But first some highlights of the spring semester.

- **First Year Ministers:** Jeremy, at Harvard, and Brian, at Purdue, got off to a great start this year. Our primary goals were that they pass their ordination exams, get settled, raise their funds, and thoroughly learn the campus. We hoped that they could gather a Bible study, too, but that is second priority. Both men exceeded our expectations and are well-positioned for next year.



Brian Davis was able to persuade these students from Purdue to go all the way to Florida for the RUF Summer Conference

- **Second Year Ministers:** This was the year for Steve Allen, Josh Vahle, Derek Bates, Alex Watlington, Scott Mitchell, and Kevin Nelson to demonstrate that they have learned how to do campus ministry. Actually they discovered that no one can learn this ministry in one year – which is the really important thing. All had a terrific 2nd year and are ready for an even better 3rd year.

- **Veteran Ministers:** You never fully learn ministry, but as long as you keep trying, God will use you. I was de-

lighted to see Joey at UConn incorporate a whole Korean ministry into RUF. Meanwhile Eddie at Brown is learning how to motivate leaders at that intense school. Just for this year I visited Hunter at Emory and Aaron at Georgia Tech. We worked on improving Bible studies at those schools. Johns Hopkins has been slow going, but Steven Badorf saw a growth spurt this spring. Ross at Mizzou is seeing real growth in his leaders, and Chad at Minnesota is positioned for major growth after focusing on helping to plant a church near campus. Rob, in his 3rd year at Millersville, is hitting his stride there, and Chris at Maryland has a group that is growing rapidly.



Graduating seniors at the University of Maryland. Four years ago the whole group was this large.

RUF in Europe?

In the fall issue I reported the impressive ministry of Peter Dishman at the university in Mexico City. This is a joint effort of RUF and Mission to the World (MTW), the overseas mission agency of our church. MTW missionaries elsewhere are asking RUF to come help them establish campus ministries, so a group of us went to Europe to check out some opportunities. We saw universities in Madrid, Marseilles, Aix-en Provence, and Berlin. RUF's national coordinator, Rod Mays and his wife Debbe, four campus ministers, and Ruth also went on the trip. Opal Hardgrove from MTW organized it and led us. We had a wonderful time. I think we may be able to start RUF ministries in some of those places.



Humboldt University in Berlin

Office Help!



Beside traveling to 20 campuses, coordinators meetings, summer conference, and four cities in Europe, I also went to Burlington, Vermont twice to investigate starting RUF at the University of Vermont. The travel was fine, but my office was not! After some discussion about the best way to assist the

coordinators, Rod Mays authorized us to hire some part-time office help. I am thrilled that Karen Brown has joined us to assist me in supervising my area and managing my office.

Karen and her husband David are old friends. I met them when they were students and I was just beginning campus ministry. So far she seems happy with the job. I think that is because she is not yet fully aware of how much work there is!

Feel free to contact Karen about administrative matters. You can reach her at karen.brown@ruf.org or by calling my office, 610-691-0988.

Filling the Earth

Speaking of personnel, I am happy to announce that RUF staff are diligently expanding the workforce of the church. You expect them to attend to the Great Commission, but they are also fulfilling the Creation Mandate by having children. Couples I supervise have had eight children so far, and two are on the way!

Steve and Jen Allen – Miles; December 22, 2008
Shawn and Jami Newsome - Lydia and Naomi; “Gotcha Day” January 19, 2009

Alex and Becki Watlington – Miles; April 13, 2009
Chad and Christie Brewer – Caelin; June 7, 2009
Scott and Bonnie Mitchell – Lucy; September 8, 2009
Josh and Julie Vahle – Samuel; January 10, 2010
Derek and Luda Bates – Abiel; April 3, 2010
Eddie and Annie Park – William; May 4, 2010
Rob and Jenny Ilderton – Augustin; May 7, 2010
Jeremy and Adrienne Mullen – (expected) July, 2010
Brian and Jeanette Davis – (expected) August, 2010

Congratulations to all these parents! May your children be like olive shoots around your table.

Thanks and Funds

People are always asking me how my job is going. In case you also are wondering, it is going very well. I am glad so many people care about this ministry, and I am thankful for you who are the support network for us. Without you we would *not* be doing so well. Thanks for your encouragement and gifts, and especially for your prayers.

In case you have forgotten, donations should be made out to “RUF” and sent to this address:

Reformed University Fellowship
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 104
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8143

Focus on Steve Allen



In the fall of 2007 RUF campus minister Bart Moseman planned to leave his position at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) at the end of the academic year to pursue

church planting in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. At the same time Steve Allen and his wife Jennifer knew they wanted to return to Nebraska to be near family. After graduating from Covenant Seminary the previous spring, Steve and Jennifer had decided to remain in St. Louis so their infant daughter Amelia could receive the medical treatment she needed. Amelia had been diagnosed with leukemia that March, and after four rounds of chemotherapy had developed a bacterial infection that left her with significant brain damage. When Bart heard that the Allens were hoping to move back to Nebraska, he called Steve with an idea. Having taken Bart up on his idea, Steve has now completed his 2nd year with RUF at UNL.

When Steve was a student at UNL, he had been actively involved with the Navigators, and so he knew first-hand the impact campus ministry can have on a student. His sophomore year a staff worker taught him how to pray,

read Scripture, and confess his sins as they lived life together. Steve started to lead a Bible study in his fraternity and saw his non-believing fraternity brothers ask good questions and, in some cases, become Christians also.

Steve's involvement with the Navigators extended beyond the campus of UNL. The summer after his junior year, Steve served in their ministry in Japan. After spending a year in advertising upon college graduation, he returned to Japan indefinitely. While still in the U.S. Steve had also started dating Jennifer, a fellow UNL alum, who had been on his mind for three years. As Steve left for Japan, he carried an engagement ring with him, and when Jennifer came to visit, he proposed to her on foreign soil.

After seven months on the field Steve concluded his time in Japan and was married soon after returning home. As newlyweds Steve and Jennifer transitioned to youth ministry at a PCA church in Lincoln, NE. While Steve served in this role as youth minister, Bart Moseman was starting up an RUF at the nearby UNL. In 2003 Steve headed to St. Louis for seminary training, not knowing the Lord would have him take over this very same RUF years later.

While the first year with RUF felt like a whirlwind, Steve has seen growth in his confidence and the students' level of comfort with him this second year. Steve admits that the weekly preaching is a challenge as he still searches for his voice and is learning how to balance befriending students with the task of shepherding them. For students enveloped in a "Midwestern Morality" of niceness, hospitality, and hard work, it has taken time for them to go beneath the surface and look deeply at their lives. As Steve invests in the ministry to RUF, he sees them opening up and learning to apply God's word. The Gospel is also taking root in non-believers, and they too are willing to share what they understand about God and themselves. On a recent run with one such student, Steve asked him what he was processing after having faithfully attended so many large group meetings. This student candidly confessed, "I used to think people didn't come to Jesus because they didn't have enough faith, but now I see that it's because of our pride."

Similarly, as Steve has watched his now three-and-a-half-yearold daughter Amelia struggle and develop, he is reminded that God uses the weak to shame the wise. Amelia's experience has helped Steve to approach his ministry with humility and faith. In addition to Amelia, Steve and Jennifer also have a fourteen-month-old son Miles, who constantly smiles and laughs as though he understands the need for healing in his home. In this and many other ways, Steve has seen God's faithfulness in bringing redemption to and through his family.

In terms of RUF, as Steve and Jennifer regularly invite students into their home and lives, their own struggles have spoken to students and have helped to create a "safe place" where students are free to be themselves. As students have been blessed by their hospitality, Jennifer in particular has found great encouragement through this aspect of ministry. In turn some students have also blessed the Allens by becoming deeply involved in helping to care for Amelia. The Allens have greatly influenced students through RUF at UNL and the ministry has largely affected the Allens. Steve describes this as a picture of "beauty from ashes." Please pray that the Lord would continue to create such redemptive beauty through this RUF ministry.

For more information on Steve Allen and RUF at UNL, take a look at their website: www.nebraska.ruf.org.

— by Kristen Boe

The Homefront

It seems everyone in the Green household is in transition. Daniel just returned from four months in Afghanistan with the NCIS. He spent his time there on the base doing cyber-intelligence work. Now he gets some extra vacation, so we'll see him for a few days this week. Peter graduated from Covenant Seminary in May. Ruth and I went out to St. Louis for the ceremony, and were surprised to discover that he had won the prize for Biblical Exegesis (interpretation)! Earlier in the spring Peter was the only one of 17 applicants who was invited into a Ph.D. program in Old Testament at Wheaton College. He and Megan will be moving to Chicago in August.

Christopher finally was called for basic training in the Foreign Service. He finished that this month, and was given a placement in the Republic of the Congo. He still has training in management and French, so he will not be departing for Africa until February. All his training is in Arlington, VA.

Meanwhile in Bethlehem Stephen is working for Lehigh and taking some summer classes. He is also helping with summer Sunday School at our church and with summer RUF. Benjamin has the standard round of camps this summer. He made the soccer team again, but the competition gets more rigorous each year. I am giving him some extra practice when I am home.

Ruth always looks forward to the more relaxed pace of the summer, but the summer never seems to relax! She is carting Benjamin around while finishing up schoolwork and getting ready for next year. She is leading the women's Bible study again, this year on Exodus 9-20.