

LeHIGHlights

News of Reformed University Fellowship at Lehigh University

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God on the Loose!

RUF is busting out all over Lehigh University this fall – a development that be explained only as a supernatural work of God. We had high expectations all along, mainly because of the Ministry Team. This year it is larger and better-trained than ever before. We arrived before the freshmen and organized ourselves for ministry from the first hour freshmen arrived. This year we all wore sharp blue RUF t-shirts and divided into three squads. One stayed at the drink table and distributed brochures about our ministry, and the other two squads helped freshmen move in. At one point in the day I was walking along a road high above the dorms, and it was inspiring to see the RUF blue among the colors the fraternities and sororities were wearing. From the first we want to convey the message that God’s people are active at Lehigh.



Li-jen, Sarah, Leslie, Steve, and Peter helping at the Marshmallow Roast

We had 10 new contacts at the end of the day, and in the following week we made more at the Marshmallow Roast and the Club Fair for a total of 44. It was an exhausting week, but it was worth the effort.

Since then we have been following-up these contacts and incorporating them into our ministry. We expected to form three freshmen Bible studies, one upperclassmen study, and one grad student study. But there is so much interest, we are starting another upperclassmen study. People are turning out all over campus saying they want to be in an RUF Bible study. At the first Taylor dorm

study all but one person said they weren’t sure how committed they would be, but were just there to check it out. Well, they’re still coming out. One person who admitted being a weak Christian said, “I’m actually looking forward to this study. Scary, isn’t it?” And it looks like we may have 10 people in two of the studies. What makes all this so exciting is that only two years ago we had no dorm studies at all. The only way I can explain all this growth – God must be working powerfully among us!!

Preaching and Praise

Our Tuesday night fellowship meeting has moved to a new level this year. The worship team practiced over the summer, added new songs, and is quite a fine group now. This has enhanced the whole tone of our meetings. We have expanded the musical part of the meetings and a more worshipful atmosphere is present. We have been praying about this for years, it’s wonderful to see these prayers answered.

I am speaking on the Sermon on the Mount this semester, giving the students a vision of the kind of life Jesus expects of those in His Kingdom. Every week we emphasize the impossibility of measuring up to Jesus’ standard on our own, and the good news that Jesus transforms those who trust in Him.

Dead Come to Life

Last week several students told me how much they wished their friend had heard my message – how she needed to hear and believe that Jesus is the only way of salvation. Well, they didn’t just stop with regrets, but apparently went back and repeated the message to their friend. This morning I received an email that she became a Christian late last night! Isn’t this what it’s all about – equipping students to be salt and light in their classes and among their friends?

The Ministry Team

The real energy behind RUF’s rapid growth this fall is the Ministry Team. The three seniors are a valuable source of wisdom, and the four sophomores add the extra manpower we need to reach a campus this size. Seamas is returning as president, a role he fills well. Leslie is heading up our major new initiative this year – a missions

trip to Mexico during spring break! Heather is secretary and helps us keep up with organizational details. She also plays keyboard on our worship team.

Looking at the sophomores, Jenna is the new social activities coordinator. Every Friday night we provide some fun alternative to drinking for anyone who wants to come. Some come once or twice a year, and others eventually get involved in the ministry. Either way, it's a ministry to the Lehigh community. Jenna is charged with improving this already fine program. Sam plays guitar on the worship team. Steve and Sarah are leading the first all-student led Bible study on campus. The last Ministry Team member is Hans, a grad student and the leader of the worship team.

Summer Preparation

A vital component of the Ministry Team's success this year is the preparation we did this summer. For the first time, we spent six days in May at camp in Bible study, prayer, and learning principles of ministry. I taught the foundation of RUF ministry, principles of spiritual growth, the role of vision and strategy, and core activities for a campus ministry. We prayed and planned for ministry this year, and we learned more about each other. It's hard to describe how important those six days were in bonding the group together and equipping them for ministry.

Then some of us formed a summer Bible study which eventually swelled to 15 students! That was a great time to put into practice the things we had been learning. Christopher decided he wanted a high school Bible study, but no one at church could lead it – so he asked Leslie. She felt very stretched, but it was a great experience for her.

The Homefront

Ruth is teaching literature again at the Masters Academy of the Fine Arts in addition to homeschooling the younger three. This is Daniel's last year at Johns Hopkins, and he is starting think about whether to get a job or go to graduate school next year. He is co-leading a Bible study on campus this year. The biggest change for us is that Peter is away at the university, although it's not very far – he is at Lehigh, but living in a dorm. He seems completely immersed in campus life, but we enjoy seeing him at fellowship meetings and at church.

Christopher will be busy enough with his tenth grade

curriculum, but his many side projects (such as designing brochures for RUF) and active email correspondence keep him on the move. Stephen is in seventh grade this year and Benjamin is doing well in first. Both of them are excited about the start of the new soccer season.

Ruth's parents continue to be a source of help and encouragement next door. Her father had a bad fall this summer, but is recovering in time to teach a class in John's gospel and to resume Christopher's Latin lessons.

Announcements

Finally we are getting some of our communications channels working again. I encourage you to check the web site for up-to-date information. I am posting reports on the "News and Prayer" page every few days, and you can see great photos of us on the "Pictures" page. Go to www.ruf-lu.org.

Gabe West is helping me compile an email prayer list. Throughout the semester I will send urgent prayer requests to the people on this list. Email Gabe at Gabe@ruf-lu.org to be added.

Personal Reflections

This is our fifth year at Lehigh, and the ministry is taking off. We may end up with over 50% more people involved than last year. Two years ago we were a dozen in one Bible study, and now we have six Bible studies plus a large group meeting. But numbers aren't the main thing – it's the quality of people and the work God is doing in them.

There is the freshman who knows nothing about RUF, yet offered to have the Bible study in his room and invited three other freshmen out to join us. There are the musicians – five in the orchestra and five more in other groups. One is a composer. There are five sophomores who decided they wanted to get serious about following Christ and formed the core of the new upperclassmen Bible study. And there are the students who led their friend to Christ yesterday.

It's because of people like this that we are here at Lehigh, and it's because of people like you that we are able to stay here. Thanks for your support of our ministry! Please keep us in your prayers.

