



# NORTHEAST REPORT

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## Prepared to Answer



Although it was past midnight, Savannah Kruguer was still awake when her phone rang. Her freshman roommate was calling. The two women had spoken only a few times since Savannah's roommate had transferred from the University of Delaware to another college. Savannah's friend was distraught, burdened by anxiety and depression. As she spoke with Sa-

vannah, she wondered how a good God could allow her to experience such misery. Had Savannah received this call one year earlier, she may not have known how to respond, but God had prepared Savannah for that late night phone call.

Two weeks earlier Savannah had discussed the problem of evil during a book study with RUF. In addition to holding Bible studies, Nick Owens, the RUF minister at the University of Delaware, and his wife, Erin, have been hosting conversations on Tim Keller's book, *The Reason for God*. These book studies allow students to confront doubts and questions they might have about Christianity. Because she had wrestled with the question, Savannah found herself equipped to speak to her former roommate about God and his goodness.

"I felt God was working in me," Savannah marvels. God had kept Savannah awake to receive a call during an hour she would normally be sleeping, and he had prepared her through RUF's book study and Bible studies this year – RUF's first year as an official student club at the University of Delaware.

When Savannah arrived on campus as a freshman, she sampled several of the Christian groups on campus. She had attended church while growing up in Brownfield, Maine. Savannah knew that as a college student, she would make her parents' faith her own, and she sought a

community of believers to support her. Yet, she had not committed to any one campus organization when she entered her sophomore year. Last fall, an acquaintance approached Savannah, and suggested that she join a new Christian group forming on campus, RUF.

Savannah first met the campus minister and his wife at a football game and was struck by how comfortable she felt around them. Since then, she and the other members of RUF have found Nick and Erin to be close friends and sources of wisdom. "We often joke that they are our second parents," Savannah says.

Next year, Savannah will act as RUF's treasurer. She, along with the other members of the leadership team, is shaping the future of RUF at the University of Delaware. As part of their vision for RUF, the student leaders want to regularly serve a local ministry.

Last year RUF at UD began helping at the Sunday Breakfast Mission in Wilmington, Delaware. The Sunday Breakfast Mission provides for Delaware's homeless physically by giving them shelter, food and supplies, and spiritually through substance abuse counseling, career guidance, worship and Bible studies. The students' first service event at the Sunday Breakfast Mission was sorting and filling Hope Totes, bags given to the homeless filled with basic supplies like toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. This summer, Savannah and a few other students will volunteer to help with a basketball camp hosted by the Sunday Breakfast Mission.

Savannah expects that the skills and spiritual insights she has learned at RUF will guide her after college. She hopes to be in a Christian community and to give back to that community by leading Bible studies or volunteering in ministries like the Sunday Breakfast Mission. Conversations with Nick and Erin have also shown Savannah that she can serve God in her chosen field, art conservation and anthropology. Her lifestyle and speech can testify to Christ. She can minister to others simply by being a Christian in their presence.

– by Becky Trudeau

## Reaching Students for Christ

### University of Maryland

Chad Brewer (RUF minister at UC Irvine) says that in RUF we "show and tell" the gospel to unbelievers and believers alike on the campus. At Maryland we do this in a host of

ways including gathering friends and roommates in sports intramural teams and inviting them to things like Super Bowl parties and Progressive Dinner. Students come into the ministry and begin to experience the “fellowship of believers” and the fragrance of the gospel. They begin to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”



Chris Garriott and Presley Muwan

Presley Muwan is one such student who has experienced this. Presley is from West Africa and has lived in the states for about four years with his family. He came into RUF through the invitation of Lydia who met him at Starbucks. Presley began coming to RUF large group and also our small group Bible studies. During one of the Bible studies I remember him saying that he had grown up in an African church school, but had never been taught the “why” about the Christian faith. He was given propositions about truth, but his questions and wrestling with his faith were left untouched and unanswered. This is the disconnect of many college students in our own culture.

It was through interactions in RUF small group Bible studies, one on ones, and asking questions about the gospel that the “why” has finally been known to Presley. I believe Presley has come to faith or has been assured to the point where he is now excited about the gospel and attends everything we do. What has been so powerful along with the answers in the gospel has been the tangible community of faith and the friendships that have given him that experience of tasting and seeing that the Lord is good. *Chris Garriott, Campus Minister at University of Maryland*

### **Brown University**

The Bible says one plants and another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). One of our new upperclass members this year became convinced of Christianity last summer while he was home for the break. He shared about his first time going to church back at home and hearing the pastor:

“I didn’t understand what he meant at the time and I thought it was all a bit weird, but the message made me want to learn more. I learned that Jesus died so that our hearts and our minds may be free from the shackles of sin. I realized his death on the cross was the ultimate act

of love at its core, and with this – along with my entire experience with my church – I wanted to fully accept Christ into my life, and I was baptized in July 2015.”

Upon his return to campus last fall, he was worried whether he would find a Christian community. But he found RUF and has continued trusting Jesus. Praise God who is great shepherd of his sheep! *Eddie Park, Campus Minister at Brown University/RISD*

### **Boston University**



Here is a photo of our first tabling event on campus after we received official status as a student organization in March. Sophia (on the left) and Glenna are our VP and President, respectively. We met a lot of new students this way. A conversation is the first step in evangelism. Handing out donuts allowed us to have several conversations over the two

days of the event. *Nathan Dicks, Campus Minister at Boston University*

### **University of Pittsburgh**

When I first accepted the job as an RUF intern, I was a bit nervous about the “reach” part in our motto “Reach and Equip.” Having gone to both a Christian high school and a Christian college, evangelism wasn’t something I felt I had much experience in. In my mind, evangelism meant sparking up conversations with random strangers and presenting them the gospel story. And though that is very much a legitimate way of spreading the gospel, I have found that the type of evangelism I do here at the University of Pittsburgh is much more organic.

I recall a freshmen male student I met with regularly during my second semester on campus. A non-Christian, he wanted to meet with me because he knew there was something innately wrong in the way he related to people; he was self-protective to a fault. Every Tuesday we would meet at Starbucks at 5 o'clock before his 6 o'clock class. We would work through the ways he tried to find life a part from Christ, and how it led to an even harder, colder heart, and a lonelier existence. I gently encouraged him to consider an alternative way of living, the kind of living that can only be experienced when you surrender yourself to Jesus. And though he still hasn’t given his life to Christ, what impressed me most was how he continually met with me, even though he knew what I thought about his situation. I believe he kept meeting with me because he

sensed the love of Christ – the kind of love that says “I’ve seen the ugly parts of you, and I’m staying.” This kind of evangelism, and seeing the Spirit work in ways such as these is what makes the job worth it to me. *Charles Lewis, Intern at University of Pittsburgh*



Penn State Outreach Table

### **Penn State University**

RUF at Penn State has been growing in its awareness that RUF exists -- not merely for those on campus that call RUF home -- but for the whole of Penn State. While RUF is not the exclusive holder of the gospel on campus, we do believe that the we have the purest expression of the gospel on campus. The gospel that has been entrusted to us is too precious to keep to ourselves! With that in mind, this past spring, we sought new ways to open conversation about Jesus as well as to spread awareness of RUF on campus. One of the ways that we did this was pack 50 lunches to give out on campus, as well as tell fellow students, “RUF loves you, because Jesus loves you.” We plan to do more of this in the fall. *Joe Dentici, Campus Minister at Penn State University*

### **University of Connecticut**

We met Alexis while a group of us were playing lawn games on the student union mall in September. He joined us for some games and we started to see him around more and more. Alexis is very outgoing and fun, but at the time, it seemed like he was mostly just interested in partying and having a good time. Several of us got to know him over the next few months and he began coming to several of our events and even to a few Bible studies. Eventually, he started calling RUF his “fam.”

The first time he came to a large group gathering, he made fun of the worship and balked when he heard that to become a Christian, you had to “give up on yourself.” *But he kept showing up because of the community!* Alexis came on our Winter Conference in February, and from then on could be seen around campus wearing his RUF UConn sweatshirt. He finished out his college experience at UConn by coming with us on our long road trip to Flor-

ida for Summer Conference. After a week of hearing the word preached, great fellowship, and great seminars, he remarked to my intern that he thought he was beginning to believe in Jesus. We don’t know exactly where Alexis stands with God today, but we are thankful for God’s work throughout the course of this year through the community He is gathering at UConn. *Lucas Dourado, Campus Minister at University of Connecticut*

### **Delaware State University**

Perhaps my favorite evangelism story from this past year is not one that ended in a conversion, but a story of seeds being planted and doors being opened.

While I was setting up for Bible Study one night, two young guys came up to me as I was placing Bibles on the table and asked, “Why are you teaching lies? You do know the Bible is corrupted – right?”

One of the students was a Muslim and the other student was a Hebrew Israelite – a very interesting duo indeed! I spent the next ten minutes talking to these inquisitive young men as they challenged me on the deity of Christ and other key Christian doctrines. Eventually I had to begin the Bible study, but they would not let me leave as they realized that I actually had a few answers. I invited them to come into Bible study and have some pizza and refreshments. After I had assured them that there were some slices that had no pork, they agreed to come in. They stayed for a while and seemed very interested in what was going on. For all I know, that was the first Christian event they had ever attended.

Throughout the semester those students continued to pop in every so often for pizza and a little prayer. It is my prayer that God would continue to bring these young guys my way and continue to use me to expose the truth of the Bible to them. Perhaps God will allow me to continue sowing seeds of faith in their lives and into the lives of the many other students I have encountered over the past two years (1 Corinthians 3:6-8). *Daryl Wattley, Campus Minister at Delaware State University*

## **Your Connection with RUF**

I hope you were encouraged by these stories of students hearing the gospel through the ministry of RUF. What an opportunity for Daryl to witness repeatedly to a Muslim and a Hebrew Israelite! And for Savannah to share what she had just learned with her freshman roommate! Evangelism in RUF sometimes takes the form of a planned program, but the hundreds of daily conversations about Jesus are more significant.

None of this would happen without your support. Your prayers and donations keep our campus ministers and interns on campus evangelizing and equipping students for ministry. Thanks for your partnership!

You can make donations to our ministry here: <https://www.givetoruf.org> or scan this QR code. → Type the school or campus minister you wish to support in the box.



Remember to visit our RUF Northeast website! We have pictures from our summer conference! Go to <http://rufnortheast.org/> or scan this code →



If you would rather receive these newsletters by email, contact us at [Northeast@ruf.org](mailto:Northeast@ruf.org).

And if you would like to receive weekly prayer requests by email, also contact us at [Northeast@ruf.org](mailto:Northeast@ruf.org).

## Focus on Daryl Wattley



Daryl Wattley summarizes his ministry at Delaware State University simply, “There was no ministry on campus, and now there is one.” Until Daryl arrived almost three years ago, no campus minister was dedicated to the more than 4,000 students at DSU.

Campus ministries are often underrepresented at historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), such as DSU. Although he did not attend an HBCU,

Daryl grew up in Atlanta, Georgia near some of the nation’s largest and most prestigious HBCUs, and many of Daryl’s family and friends attended these institutions.

Daryl studied at Georgia Southern University as an undergraduate. He later became the first African-American to receive a Masters of Divinity degree from the Atlanta campus of Reformed Theological Seminary and the first African-American ordained in Heritage Presbytery.

Since arriving at DSU, Daryl has carefully observed the campus culture and the students. “I want to know where their buttons are and how to push those buttons – in the most loving way,” he says.

Daryl discovered that many DSU students face greater challenges than the average college student. As a historically black campus, DSU was founded to provide educational opportunities for underrepresented populations. In

2015, Delaware State News reported that it received a government grant to increase its matriculation of lower-income and first-generation college students. This year, according to Delaware Online, the university partnered with TheDream.US to grant scholarships to immigrants without documentation.

As a result many DSU students face hurdles unknown to more privileged college students. Some students grew up in neighborhoods with higher crime rates, and other students face financial hardship or legal issues. Students also struggle with problems common among college students everywhere, such as broken homes and drug use.

Yet DSU students possess great potential, drive, and intelligence. Many DSU students excel in the arts, especially music, theater, agriculture, business, aviation and poetry. A few of the students attending Daryl’s bi-weekly Bible studies perform in gospel choirs or write poetry.

Next year several gifted RUF students will likely form a music ministry. Daryl anticipates that other RUF students will assume leadership positions in RUF. Last year Daryl led three Bible studies a week and two prayer groups. Next year, Daryl will lead a large group meeting and two Bible studies, and students will lead prayer groups in every resident hall.

Student leadership is vital to RUF, Daryl says, for three reasons. First, because the RUF minister simply cannot do everything himself. Secondly, by learning to lead on campus, students will be more able to lead in their local churches after graduation. Finally, the RUF model of discipling and training students follows Jesus’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19).

In the past three years Daryl has seen students mature in their faith and the number of students attending his group increase. Last year a significant number of DSU students attended the Mid-Atlantic Summer Conference.

One student, in particular, has grown emotionally through his involvement in RUF. Daryl first encountered this young man at the college track, where he nearly collapsed into Daryl’s arms. As Daryl spoke with him, he recognized that the student suffered from depression. He invited the student to spend time with other RUF students, and he began attending Bible study regularly. By the end of the school year, the student was significantly less depressed and continues to talk to Daryl about God.

“It’s amazing to see what God is doing in his life and in the lives of many people,” Daryl says.

– by *Rebecca Trudeau*





# NORTHEAST

Prayer Requests, June 2016

1. Praise God for many opportunities to share the gospel on campuses.
2. Pray for God to encourage campus ministers, interns, and students in the work of evangelism.
3. Pray for God to bring fruit from our evangelism.
4. Pray for campus ministers and interns who are raising support this summer. A few ministers have significant funding needs.
5. Pray for students, away from the RUF community, to continue growing in their faith during the summer