



# NORTHEAST REPORT

NEWS OF REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP IN THE NORTHEAST

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## Finding Herself in the Bible

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RUF was never in my plans, and it was years after I had walked away from my faith that God even crossed my mind. A week into my second year pieces lined up for me to randomly walk into a coffee shop on campus after a class I almost did not go to. That Starbucks is where I met our RUF campus minister who invited me to come to worship on Tuesday night. I had no idea the ripple effects that one chance meeting was going to have on my life. The relationships I have gained and the life lessons I have dealt with in RUF are endless and have brought me back to Christ in unimaginable ways. Just one example was getting the opportunity to attend a Bible training course with several other schools. Getting a chance to be trained on how to dig deeper and study scripture with focus and deliberate intentions has become the backbone of my studies in the Bible. RUF has helped me find myself in the big picture of the Bible and has grown my understanding of my place in the world and the world's place in my life.

Over the past three years, my faith has grown into becoming the strongest I have ever been in my walk with the Lord, and I only find joy and excitement for it to continue. RUF at Akron is a place where you can come with curiosity and questions that we as students deal with during the most impressionable years of our lives. It opens the door for you to take the time to find God's goodness in your personal walk and to find a Father that desires a relationship, not perfection. There is no pressure to be someone you're not, and Nate does an incredible job of facilitating an open and vulnerable space to find Christ. RUF has been the foundation to my growth in Christian maturity, and has shaped and informed my desire to follow God. It has impacted my life by being a Christ-centered community, overflowing with students, seeking God, and living life with others for His name. RUF has demonstrated to me what it means to love God and love people in the way it welcomed me, a messy stranger, into its family and showed me the love of Jesus. I can't wait for more opportunities to share that same love with others. *Kenzie Wash, junior at University of Akron*

## Finding God's Worldview

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Christian worldview is often an academic and philosophic pursuit. But Kenzie needed to know her place in the world and the world's place in her life, and that began with finding herself "in the big picture of the Bible." One of RUF's four goals is developing a Christian worldview in students. Satan twists the way we see things, and an important part of Christian growth is learning to see the world the way God sees it. Here are some examples of how this is happening.

### **Rowan University**

When I first came to Rowan this semester I wasn't sure what I believed or wanted to do regarding my faith. Having been contacted by Brent this summer and getting involved with RUF has helped me to take my faith more seriously and has been helpful for me to gather in small groups with others who want to honor God in our studies and lives here on campus. I'm thankful for the friendships I've begun to make and the way RUF has helped me to think through things in my life from a Christian point of view. *Colin Hackett, freshman at Rowan University*

### **University of Delaware**

This semester RUF at the University of Delaware has been

working through the gospel of Mark in our small groups and large groups. One major theme in Mark is the suffering of Jesus. In the pivotal passage in Mark 8, just after Jesus explains how it is necessary for him to die, he goes on to say, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." (Mark 8:35). In an environment where everyone is encouraged to think primarily of themselves and to pursue their goals and fulfill their desires, it is crazy to think that real life is found not in clinging to your life, but giving it up. Our semester in Mark produced numerous insights into what it means to know Jesus and follow him, but one of the most significant was the backward and upside down notion that following Jesus and living a life shaped by the cross is actually the very place where we experience life to the fullest. It changes how students think about their relationships, their time on campus, and the careers they are planning to enter. *Nick Owens, Campus Minister at University of Delaware*



Lehigh RUF Thanksgiving Dinner at Michael Goodlin's house

### Rowan University

The Christian worldview is unlike any other. It doesn't make sense to the natural mind, but once Christ comes into your life, the veil is lifted and it all clicks. 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 2:14 are so amazing because I can personally attest to them. I thought the message of the cross was foolishness and could not understand the things of God, because I was lacking the Spirit. Before I became a Christian, I thought religion was a bit foolish. I figured that they all basically say the same thing and while Jesus was a great man, surely the Christians thought too much of Him. But once Jesus came into my life through reading the New Testament just out of curiosity, things were never the same. I made the transition from partying and practicing really ungodly things on the weekends to praying and evangelizing on my weekends. I went from binge watching shows on Netflix to binge reading the word of God. God really opened my eyes and I would never be able to go back to my old life.

Right when I was converted and born again, RUF was there to help me along the way. It was so essential for me

not only to get connected with fellow believers in a church setting, but also with a ministry on campus. I got the opportunity to meet and fellowship with other Christian students which has been so helpful in my walk with Christ. RUF also helped me realize how important reading through the Bible is, and our pastor was always available to help me further understand some of the things I was reading. I was converted a little under two years ago and now I'm part of RUF leadership and lead a Bible study of my own! I thank God for RUF and the other ministries on our campus. Even though the Christian worldview isn't the most popular, isn't very glamorous, it is the only one which accurately describes the world we live in and the only one that will stand the test of time. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8) *Zach Parisi, senior at Rowan University*



Annual University of Maryland RUF Barndance

### Summer Conference

I taught a worldview seminar at RUF Summer Conference. Here are two student quotes:

"The biggest thing I think that's really going to change the ball game for me in academia and in my personal life is that there is a direct relationship between the body and soul. Peter has a great way of humbly and gently refuting non-logical non-Christian worldviews, which is so important." – Mary

"I learned so much in the seminar 'Seeing the World Through God's Eyes' and I am excited to continue to read and learn more about the Christian worldview!" – Christina

*Peter Green, Campus Minister at West Virginia University*



Worldview Seminar at Summer Conference

## Stay Connected to RUF!

As we grow in Christ, we think more and more the way He thinks. One of those ways, and an important part of a Christian worldview, is how we see money. We no longer see it as our personal possession, but as God's – and ourselves as stewards of it during our time on earth.

As you make your year-end donations, please give an extra gift to your favorite RUF Campus Minister or Area Coordinator. Make donations to RUF here:

<https://www.givetoruf.org> or scan this QR code. → Type the school or campus minister you wish to support in the box.



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## Advent Reflections

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,  
Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came to win redemption,  
Lowly came on earth to die;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy  
When our hearts are worn with care;  
Jesus comes again in answer  
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,  
Shares alike our hopes and fears;  
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,  
Cheers our heart and dries our tears;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Comforts us in failing years.

– Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903



“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” *Hebrews 2:14-15*

Jesus was a huge disappointment to weak and powerful alike. The one thing that bridged the gulf between rich and poor in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judea was hatred of the Romans. Jews longed for the promised Messiah to deliver them from their hated oppressors.

They were hoping for a powerful leader. Instead they got a poor baby. They were hoping for a glorious king. Instead they got a common carpenter. They were hoping for a victory. Instead they got a crucifixion. They were hoping for God. Instead they got man.

But not just any man – a man of heaven, a man who was also God – but a true man. A man who shares our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears; a man who hears our prayers and dries our tears; a man who saves us from despair and comforts us as our strength collapses; a man who defeated Satan and opened heaven for us to go in. What those 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews could not see was that the poor baby was Almighty God, and that the crucifixion was His victory over Satan.

This Advent as you wait for the Christmas feast, may you be filled with hope and joy as you also wait for the marriage supper of the Lamb in glory!

*David Green*



Lessons and Carols at Brown/RISD RUF

