

Reformed University Fellowship at Covenant College - Newsletter

By Campus Minister, Ron Brown

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Summary – This semester culminates my 4th year at Covenant. A lot has changed since year one. We had no leaders at that time and only one or two students that identified themselves as “RUF students”. The relationship with the Covenant administration needed mending. In the intervening 4 years good things have happened. We’ve greatly improved our relationship with the administration. RUF is a fully functioning ministry on campus. I had a faculty member tell me last summer that he couldn’t imagine Covenant without an RUF now.

Small Group Meetings

This semester we had 5 different student-led small groups (with 8 students leading them). Their small groups were on Philippians, 1Peter, Praising God in the Mundane, Jeremiah, and James. In addition to that I led two sections of “How to Lead a Small Group Bible Study” training for 9 students. All of the students that led small groups this semester had been through this training in previous semesters.

One on One Meetings with Students

I’ve continued to have several regular one-one-one meetings this semester. A couple of them have been with graduating seniors. One student who is not involved in RUF started meeting with me at the suggestion of his youth pastor back home.

Spring Break Trip

This was our second trip to Athens, Greece over Spring Break. We did outreach to Greek university students and ministry to north African refugees in Athens. This was a great opportunity for Covenant students to have cross cultural communication with non-Christian students. This year over a 100 RUF students came from all over the country. RUF Covenant has already signed up to go to Athens again next year.

Leadership

This year we’ve seen the leadership plan that has been developing over the last few years come to fruition. A week ago 30 Core Group students came over to our house for a leadership planning breakfast. Each spring semester I work with an emerging leadership team of mostly freshman. This group merged with the Core Group in March. I anticipate our Core Group being between 20-25 (an ideal size for us) in the Fall semester due to graduation and natural attrition.



At 1st Evangelical Church with the Acropolis in the background

Next Semester's Large Group Developments

Next year we will try a new approach to the teaching in our Large Group. I'll be doing 3 or 4 (3 week) series in Large Group. One of the reasons for trying this is to further set us apart from the Chapel structure on campus and focus in a more targeted way on what students need and desire to be taught. The last series in the semester will be a 4 week series on one of the Minor Prophets. I'll teach the first talk in the series and then let three different students teach the last three. I'll work with them over course of the semester to help them understand this book of the Bible and how to put together a talk/sermon. My purpose is to equip future teachers/pastors while they are at Covenant.

The Highs and Lows

This is my first year to graduate out a fairly good number of seniors. One of them has been with me since the very beginning. He was a student sounding board my first year. Over that first spring break this student, Will, went on our missions trip to Mexico City. It was then that he told me, "this is what I've been made to for." I've had Will speak a few times over the years in Large Group to help test his teaching gifts. He will graduate and begin two years of intensive training to work with unreached people groups in Mexico. It's encouraging and emotionally hard to see Will and others like him leave this year.

Many of my leadership students end up taking student leadership positions on Campus as Resident Assistant's, Discipleship Coordinators and Student Senate representatives. Many times these students will continue to be involved in RUF leadership but must pull back their time for their other leadership pursuits. It's both encouraging and discouraging at the same time. Encouraging because RUF is helping equip the student leadership of Covenant. Discouraging because many of my best leaders must scale back their time with RUF.

Summer

This summer we will have a weekly RUF fellowship time at our house on Tuesdays at 7:30p.m. This will be the first time we've done this. Last year we had a Chattanooga wide RUF. But this year I'll be doing more casual RUF fellowship meetings in our house to allow more time to do fundraising.

Items for Prayer:

1. Wisdom
2. Preparation for the Fall
3. Summer RUF
4. Raising \$30-40,000 this summer



The Core Group leadership planning breakfast at our house