

LeHIGHlights

News of Reformed University Fellowship at Lehigh University

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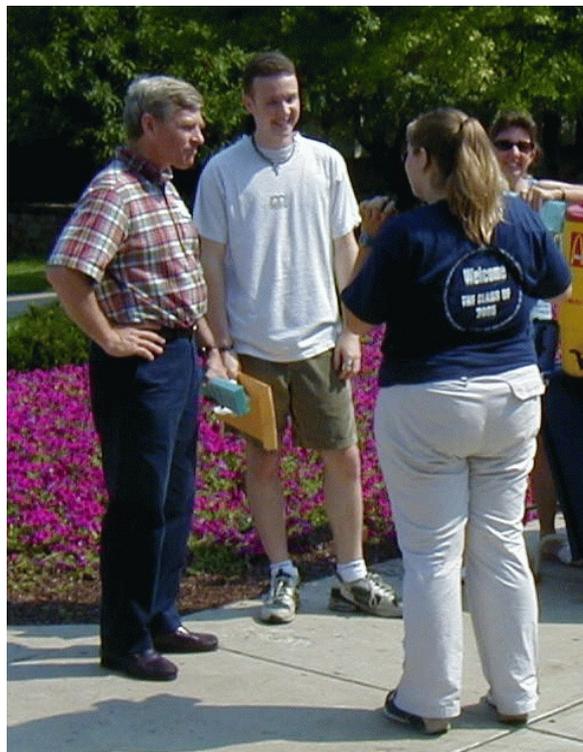
August, 2001

RUF Welcomes Lehigh Freshmen

How can a few people contact over 1,000 freshmen on the day they are most receptive to meeting new people? This is our challenge every year as we seek to reach freshmen the day they arrive on campus. We want everyone – Christian as well as unbeliever – to know that God is present through His church at Lehigh University.

Our strategy has been to position ourselves on the walkway to the bookstore and offer drinks to students and parents on their way to purchase books and supplies. We distribute a lighthearted brochure introducing our ministry and talk to anyone who shows an interest in our group.

When we began RUF three years ago, Ruth and I welcomed the freshmen alone, and about six signed up. Last year several students helped us, and a dozen signed up. This year more students helped. We had a lot of great conversations, but fewer students signed up. We still have the club fair and other opportunities to find interested freshmen. Through your prayers, I am sure we will reach everyone God wants us to meet this fall.



David and Scott talking with a returning student.



David is conversing with Dzung, a Vietnamese student.



Jeff and Heather taking a break from the hot sun.

Summer Review

The highlight of the summer was my retreat with the Ministry Team. It was a full weekend as we discussed our different personalities and how to work together, planned for the fall, prayed, and enjoyed the retreat. Although brief, we had a lot of fun and accomplished our goals.

As usual I did not achieve all I had hoped over the summer, but I did upgrade our computer equipment and programs to prevent, Lord willing, the kind of fiasco we had last spring.

Fall Semester Preview

The centerpiece of our fall ministry will be messages from the Gospel of John. The series is titled “Who is Jesus?” and focuses on passages in which Christ’s identity is revealed. My goal is that every week unbelievers will be engaged with the good news of Christ’s salvation, and that more mature believers will be challenged to understand and know Him more deeply. Please pray for God to use His Word in these students’ lives.

Seamas and Heather have been practicing the guitar and keyboard this summer to lead us in worship. This is an important part of our ministry, so they are in a vital role. Please pray for God to help them to learn the music and lead with excellence.

Last semester we branched out with a second Bible study. This semester I hope to have at least two – one for mature believers, and one for younger Christians. It will take a lot of effort to get these off the ground, so we ask your prayers in this as well.

Finally, we have a big line-up of Friday night and weekend activities. Some are social events, and others are ministry off campus. These are important bonding experiences and a way for us to combat the insularity of living on a campus. Pray for Leslie, who is organizing these events.

The Homefront

Peter, Christopher, and Stephen all enjoyed their weeks at French Creek Bible Camp this summer. Everyone was glad Alain, our French exchange student, stayed with us and we were sorry to see him leave. His English is *much* better than our French, but even so, we are not sure how much spiritual input he grasped. At the last minute we were recruited to host one of the coaches for

Stephen’s soccer camp. The coaches were all English students, so we got the English as well as the French perspective on the world! Add to this being a vacation home for a rabbit and a chocolate Labrador retriever, and you can see we had a full house most days.

The big family news for the fall is the return of Ruth’s parents from Hawaii where they have been for 17 years. They bought the house next door to us and plan to move in October. We are excited about having them live so close.

Daniel will be a junior at Hopkins this year and Peter will be a senior at the local Christian High School. Peter will also be taking a course at Lehigh through their High School Scholars program. Christopher will be entering high school this year, and will be homeschooled with Stephen (6th grade) and Benjamin (pre-kindergarten). Ruth is again teaching history and literature once a week at the Masters Academy of the Fine Arts. This year they are focusing on the Classical era.

Personal Reflection

I am very grateful for the solid and growing participation of the students in this ministry. We never want them to think that ministry is the job of paid clergy, but that everyone plays an essential part – and they are grasping that concept.

This year we met the night before the freshmen arrived to organize ourselves and pray for the following day’s events – another first! As we were praying I was overwhelmed again at the ridiculous magnitude of our task. Here we were, one minister, his wife, and a few students, attempting to have a meaningful ministry to over 1,000 new students! Is it crazy to think we might have some influence on this freshmen class?

Reflecting on this, we prayed that God would work through us, beyond what we are capable of doing on our own. This is His ministry and we are only His instruments. But if He should so choose, He can do powerful things through us, though we be few and weak in the world’s eyes. We bow before Him “who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Would you join us in praying for God to stir up Lehigh University? Together with Him we are a mighty force for the gospel. Thanks for your help!