

LeHIGHlights

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“Thank You, God...”

...for this beautiful day.” Thus began our noon prayer every day this semester. We gather for 15 minutes before lunch to pray for each other, for our friends, for RUF events, for campus needs, and for world events.

But everyday someone begins by thanking God for the beautiful day. Sometimes it is sunny, sometimes it is cloudy, sometimes cold and rainy, other times brisk and windy. Once a student said, “It’s only Monday and I’m exhausted already.” (She was!) Another time a student had spent the morning crying. Often they aren’t sure how they are going to make it through the week. But every day they are full of thanks.

Thankfulness is perhaps the most basic Christian trait, but how often we complain and criticize instead of thanking God for His amazing blessings! Romans 1:21 tells us that the most basic trait of unbelievers is their refusal to give thanks. “...*although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*”

No matter how deep our troubles or how dismal our future – no matter how cold or cloudy the weather, every day *is* a beautiful day – for God made it. In this simple prayer these students show a profound grasp of life.

...for Fruitful Ministry”

Where do I start? Everywhere I look, God is blessing our efforts. We don’t yet have what you would call a crowd at noon prayer, but it is definitely a fixture in RUF now. The Large Group meetings prospered by every measure. My messages on the Sermon on the Mount seemed to strike a chord with the students, and the worship team keeps maturing. Some of our small group Bible studies looked better than others, but through them the word of God is going out to every corner of the campus. Add to these things the weekly social events and other activities, and you see a group of people richly blessed by God.

One of the most pleasant surprises this fall was the explosive growth of the grad student Bible study. Almost

every week someone brought a friend, so there are about 15 people involved now! There are 6 Cameroonians, one from Ghana and one from Nigeria, two Chinese, one Jamaican, and assorted Americans. It’s a fun group. Although there are some communication difficulties, everyone is very supportive of each other.

...for Faithful Co-workers”

The Ministry Team has labored heroically this fall. I don’t think they had any idea how much work ministry would be, but when offered the chance to cut back, they keep plowing ahead. Seamas is a superb president, Leslie is launching a missions project (see below), Hans is unrelenting as he works to improve worship, Sarah is leading a Bible study and picks up the things the rest of us forget, Jenna produces a social activity every week... Heather, Sam, and Steve – all are invaluable.

Last month we discussed inviting some new people onto the Ministry Team. Most of the current team thought we would ask a few people, but when the night was over, we had identified 10 people whom we thought not only were qualified, but outstanding candidates! We don’t know how we would manage with a team of 18, but they are such good people, I am praying they all accept. We’ll figure out the details later! Please pray for us as we mobilize more workers.

...for Fun”



Our first RUF grad vs. undergrad soccer game.



Pumpkin Carving Party

You can see more pictures on our website.

Mission Mexico!

So far we have not emphasized missions much in RUF at Lehigh – but that is about to change! Last spring I suggested we consider a missions trip this year, and Leslie jumped right on the idea. We will be heading to Mexico during spring break to work at an orphanage, and will go with Mission to the World, the PCA mission agency.

The idea is not merely for some of us to go away for a week, but to begin moving the whole fellowship toward a missions mentality. Ultimately we hope everyone is either going or supporting missions. We'll bring you more details next time, but for now, please pray for us as we prepare for this trip.

Financial Notice

God has continued to bless us financially this year. Some ministries saw a big dip in giving due to 9/11 and the sagging stock market, but our income held firm. We do rely on extra giving in December to pay the bills and balance the budget. So please consider us in your year-end giving. If you are not in a position to give financially right now, just give the best gift of all – your prayers!

The Homefront

Today (the 7th) was a nice day. Our first activity after breakfast was to get a tree for us and for Ruth's parents next door. We had a nice snowfall on Thursday, so the countryside looks beautiful. We rode a hay wagon out to the field, and Benjamin helped me cut down the trees while Christopher and Stephen raced around throwing snowballs at each other. Ruth helped look for Christo-

pher's glasses which he lost in the snow while Benjamin and I took the trees back to the van. This tree farm offers free hot dogs and hot chocolate, so we time our arrival to coincide with lunchtime.

Back home we put up the trees – a several-hour job. Joel, a Lehigh RUF alumnus arrived in time to help while Ruth went shopping. He is here from Baltimore for the Lehigh Vespers and is staying with us. Over dinner we composed an amusing bulletin insert for church tomorrow advertizing the Christmas program this Saturday. (Christopher has the lead role in the skit!)

That gives you a flavor of life at the Green household. Daniel and Peter are doing well at Hopkins and Lehigh. We were glad to have them here at Thanksgiving, and are looking forward to seeing them at Christmas.

Christmas Reflections

*Sing, O sing this blessed morn,
Unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is giv'n,
God himself comes down from heaven.*

*God comes down that man may rise,
Lifted by him to the skies;
Christ is Son of Man that we
Sons of God in him may be.
Christopher Wordsworth, 1862*

Christmas is the time to remember in a special way that Jesus came to save us from our sins. But His plan included more than rescuing us – He came also to make us sons of God. On our own we would not become God's children, for sin crushes any attempt to obey God. Neither do we have the power to make ourselves His offspring.

But Jesus does the impossible. He takes weak, sinful, earthly men and make us strong, righteous, heavenly people. Now we are *spiritually* lifted up to heaven – a sign that we will one day be *physically* raised to join Him and all the saints. Then we will join our spiritual family, and the joy and glory Jesus had with the Father from all eternity will be ours also for all eternity.

This Christmas may you rejoice – in the reality of being a child of God, and the hope of glory forever!