



Lehighlights

News of Reformed University Fellowship at Lehigh University

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Mission Mexico!

While college students from all over traveled to Florida, Cancun, and the Gulf shore to spend their spring break basking in the sun, eight students and I went to Acapulco to serve in an orphanage. Casa Hogar is the orphanage we visited two years ago, and we were eager to see the children again.

Sarah Braymer was the team leader, and she did the lion's share of the work to make this trip possible. The team met several times this year to prepare for the mission and raised the money to cover the cost. This year we shared the work with eight people from the RUF group at Mercer University. The schedule was the same as last time – construction in the morning, siesta, minister to the children in the late afternoon and evening.

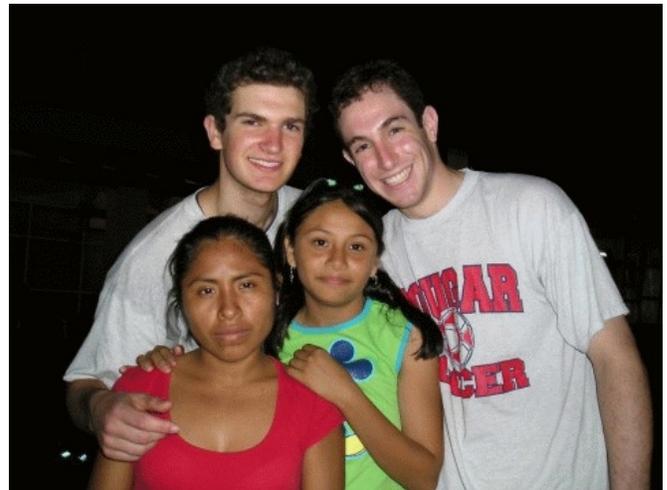
The “construction” consisted of destroying an existing building to make way for a new dormitory. This sounded like a lot of fun until we arrived – and discovered that *all* the buildings in Acapulco are made of concrete. Furthermore, the missionaries there explained that in Mexico labor is much cheaper than equipment – so we were provided with two sledge hammers to break up the concrete. The work was grueling, but no one complained.



Sarah helping with the crafts

In the afternoon we organized the children into four groups by age and rotated them through stations for singing, crafts, games, and Bible story. I was very encouraged by the high quality of ministry the students did. Those who knew some Spanish developed deep attachments to the children by the end of the week.

Eduardo and Christian hung around us in the mornings while the other young children were in school. It turns out that they had just arrived and their papers were not yet in order. Eduardo *loves* digital cameras, and was usually taking pictures with one of ours. Several times I spotted Christian riding on Peter's shoulders.



Jon and Steve with their girlfriends

On our last trip we visited the new center for reaching street children. This ministry is now in full-swing and reaching dozens of children who live on the streets. I was impressed with Angel, who was a drug addict and vagrant two years ago. Now he is a Christian, is off drugs, rents his own apartment, and is working at the center to help others like him.

The trip was a huge blessing to the children in Acapulco and to our team. We all want to go back again! My hope and prayer is that these trips develop in the students a lifelong commitment to missions – and that some will be called to serve overseas for life.

To read a more complete report of our trip, go here:

<http://www.ruf-lu.org/lehighlights>

and click on “Mission Report '05”

Training to Serve

One of our four main goals in RUF is to teach students to serve others. We seek to do this through all our activities, such as the mission trip, social activities, Bible studies, and individual interaction. We are constantly concerned to help each student identify, use, and develop his own gifts and abilities for the good of the whole church. One of the vital means of accomplishing this is our training conferences. Each semester we offer a short weekend with several tracks to train students so they may serve others.

This semester we had four tracks: Biblical Discipleship, How to Study the Bible, How to Share Your Faith, and Leading a Bible Study. This is our fourth semester, and this time we were blessed that the RUF ministries at Millersville University and Penn State joined us. The focus is on learning new skills, so the How to Study the Bible track spent most of their time in the Bible. The highlight of the track on Leading a Bible Study was when someone led the study he had prepared that afternoon. I led the track on sharing the faith. We practiced sharing our testimonies and telling others the gospel. Then we went to Millersville University and spent an hour talking with students there.

The cumulative effect of this training could profoundly alter our group. So far 17 students have been trained to lead Bible studies, which will enable us to reach more of the campus. Dave Cook, who attended the evangelism track, is preparing to expand our witness on campus beyond our friends. Pray for God to continue *His* training of these students through these activities.

The Future of Lehigh RUF

If you have been following the RUF ministry at Lehigh since we began in 1998, you have noticed the overwhelming growth we have experienced. We began this ministry with four students, and now there are 80 involved. We are now an established group on campus and are actively pushing into new ministry areas, such as the fraternities. We might be tempted to rest on our laurels, but we have no intention of doing so. There are too many ripe opportunities for us to slow down now.

The enclosed brochure outlines our plan for developing this ministry. We hope to add at least one Bible study each year until we have one in each dormitory. We have begun ministry in the fraternities and hope to expand this. We plan to begin a concentrated outreach to sports teams in a year or two. Our specific goal is to touch significantly every part of the university by 2013.

The people are in place, the plan is ready, and with God's blessing we can have a huge impact on Lehigh University. But unless there is a major change, this ministry will stall. The barrier to future growth is funding.

Have you been praying for this funding problem? In the last Lehighlights I asked you to pray fervently for God to increase our funds. So far this year there has been a noticeable increase. Thanks for praying! But there is a long way to go. The gap between our income and expenses is \$20,000. That is \$1,666 each month! This gap is seriously hurting us.

My request is that you pray. Sure, give if you are able – but I know many people who receive this letter are already giving, and some are not able to give. The urgent need is fervent prayer that God will provide the funds we need. I know the funds are there, and I know God can provide them. Let's be unrelenting in our pleas, and I am sure He will hear us. Maybe you can make this a daily prayer request this year. Thanks for your help!

New Lehighlights Column

In this issue of Lehighlights we are beginning a new column focusing on some of the people involved in RUF. Becky Straw will be writing these articles. Becky is a junior majoring in science journalism. She joined the Dravo Bible study her second week at Lehigh and has been involved ever since.

Focus on Li-Jen

Li-Jen Huang, a bio-chemistry major, will graduate this May.



As a child, Li-Jen lived in Taiwan, but when she was 17 years old her father was sent to Paris. So, Li-Jen, her parents and younger sister moved to France.

A few years later, Li-Jen began the daunting task of applying to colleges. She knew she could not go to a college in Paris; despite two years of living in the country, her French was still not strong enough. So, Li-Jen considered returning to Taiwan for school. As she spoke with her classmates, Li-Jen discovered that many of them were applying to American universities. So she

made a list of the qualities she wanted. The college must be medium-sized with a medical and science program, and, very importantly, the climate could not be too cold. After applying to several schools that fit her detailed criteria, Li-Jen waited for the acceptance letters. One day, Li-Jen received a letter offering her admission into Lehigh University!

The next August, Li-Jen left her family in Paris for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. As an international student, she was allowed to move into her dorm two days before the other freshmen arrived. A girl on the crew team had arrived early as well. During their first conversation, the crew team member chatted away happily and quickly. Li-Jen listened to her in stunned silence. "I knew enough English to get by," Li-Jen said, "But I had no idea how fast people could speak." The only word Li-Jen could understand from the crew member's rapid-fire chatter was "Alexis."

During her first year at Lehigh, Li-Jen began to attend Bible studies hosted by the Reformed Christian Fellowship (RUF). After a few weeks of struggling with English, she lost interest. "I was first introduced to Christ during my senior year of high school," Li-Jen said. "But I wasn't touched by it."

But God was going to touch Li-Jen.

At the beginning of her sophomore year, one of Li-Jen's close friendships collapsed. As she struggled with sorrow, she recognized that her life was missing something. "For some reason," she said, "I had a strong desire to seek God." This desire drove her to begin attending Bible studies with RUF again. Then Li-Jen started to appear at the large group meetings. At these meetings, she found people eager to pray for each other and encourage each other.

The next year, Li-Jen attended the summer retreat. The campground was beautiful. A peaceful lake allowed the brave and cold-tolerant to swim in the chilly May water. In the gym many others competed vigorously in basketball and other sports. Though the free time was cherished, most of the retreat focused on teaching the Bible. So the students would stay up until the early hours of the morning talking or playing. During one of these late nights, Li-Jen joined a group of friends playing cards. As they talked and laughed at each other, Li-Jen felt an overwhelming sense of joy and laughter. She knew that she had found solid friendships.

As she grew closer to Jesus, Li-Jen found a deeper peace.

"I still have down times," she said, "But I have the most joy I have ever had or imagined." As she prepares to graduate this May, Li-Jen knows that she will carry this joy with her.

— by Becky Straw

This year Li-Jen has been playing the keyboard during worship and helping with the Centennials Bible study. She has become famous on campus for her cookies.

Personal Reflections

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. Psalm 130:5

There is a lot of waiting around here. Students are waiting to hear if they got the summer jobs and internships they applied for. Those about to graduate are waiting to receive job offers. Christopher is still waiting to hear from the colleges where he applied. Others of us are working more than waiting. Benjamin is working hard to finish third grade by early June. Stephen is working, with less of an end in sight. Ruth is always working.

It takes faith to wait. Abraham had to wait 25 years for God to give him the son he was promised. The Israelites had to wait four generations to be delivered from Egypt. David had to wait for Saul to die before he could receive the throne of Israel. The disciples had to wait for the Holy Spirit. We hate to wait. We want our desires met *now*, and we would like some credit for the results. Waiting on God requires faith in His word.

It also takes faith to work. When God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, he did not wait. He rose early the next morning and got to work. Because he believed in God, He did what God required. The mission team worked to raise the funds, even as we trusted God to provide them. The boys must work at their school assignments, or their faith will do them no good. If we believe God is helping us, we will work at the task at hand.

Thank you for working with us by supporting this ministry at Lehigh University. And thank you for waiting with us for God to work – to save the lost, strengthen believers, and provide the funds to pay the bills. Thanks!