

Fall Semester 2011 Letter from the Director

by Michael Keller

Greetings Supporters and Friends,

We are wrapping our third Fall Semester here at RUF City Campus in New York. Being in our third year, we have the ability to look over the past few years and decide what has worked, and what has not worked, to minister to students. Surprisingly, there are not many huge gaping issues that need to be dealt with. There are also not many things we would change from how we started.

We originally started City Campus not only to minister to the 85 college campuses and over 650,000 students here in New York City, but we also wanted to give the ministry a distinctly apologetic flavor. We felt that non-Christian students needed a place where they could discuss and question the merits of the Christian faith. We also wanted to create a place where Christians, who may have grown up within the Christian tradition but now find themselves alone in a city that challenges many of their previous essential beliefs, could also process their doubts and potential misgivings. Believers and non-believers are able to share the commonality of doubt and unbelief openly and honestly to seek answers. This enables them to receive the good news underpinning Christianity—that Christ died for us and all of our issues. When that impacts the believer and even the nonbeliever, they are transformed.

This has worked, to some degree, as we are now the largest single undergraduate Christian community in the city. We continue to meet at two different locations to apply the Gospel to these

doubts weekly. We have small groups locally based on or near campuses where students can connect communally with others. We also meet up with students individually.

We are beginning to transition from an attractional model to an incarnational model. The model we began with was wonderful for gathering students. Come, sit, listen, interact, dialogue, participate, join, and then belong. However, as with all things, you reach your limits of new students finding out about City Campus. Unless current students are bringing new students, others will not learn about and know the good news. To do this though there needs to be a more intentional training of leaders, allowing them to own the ministry, and moving them from a self-serving community predicated on needing friendship and relationship, to a world-serving community outwardly facing others and loving them. As students grow in their understanding of how Christ came after them and loved them through their flaws, they will grow in their ability to extend this love and acceptance to others.

Know that your financial support has been used to care for these students, teaching them that the Gospel teaches that we are not okay, but it is okay that we are not okay because Jesus makes it okay. We look forward to showing you more fruit each semester.

Merry Christmas! ●

Financial Update

We are generally on track financially. Assuming all our pledges come in, entering December we are only about \$25,000 short. This is about 10% of the budget. If you have not given, or still would like to, now is the time to do so to help make sure we hit our full budget. Between renting facilities, providing food, staff salaries, scholarships, and putting on our mentorship program there are a lot of places where your support can aid us. You can give through either online credit card payments at www.ruf.org/donate, by stock donations, or by mailing checks with "City Campus" in the memo line to RUF at 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 104 Lawrenceville, GA 30043. All donations are tax-deductible, and you will receive a receipt for each transaction.

As of this year, you can give reoccurring monthly credit card payments as well. Some of you have requested this to space out giving.

City Campus exists based on the generosity of others who realize that college life is one of the most important times when an individual is considering various faiths. Partner with us as we create an environment where students in New York can do this, learn, and grow with one another. If you can, support us today. Go to www.ruf.org/donate to start. ●