

Multiply • Fall 2014



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IN UNIVERSITY CITIES





New Churches and Campus Mini



Western Kentucky RUF Bible Study led by Aimee Games (left)

Across North America, the PCA places a new church planter on the field once a week, on average. As new churches are planted, new people are reached with the Gospel. New PCA churches see more people come to Christ than do established



Grace & Peace Presbyterian, Bowling Green

churches. Similarly, Reformed University
Fellowship (RUF) adds new campuses each
year. Covenant children are served, and the
Gospel is advanced among students. RUF
serves campuses only where a PCA church
is close enough that students can become
involved in the local church. Over the past
several years, launching a new church and a
new campus ministry at the same time has
proven an effective way to advance both in
cities such as Bloomington IN, Burlington
VT, and Lafayette IN. In this issue, we tell
the stories of Bowling Green KY and Twin
Cities MN.

Bowling Green KY

In Bowling Green the launch of the church and RUF began in 2007, led by Fritz Games, now campus minister for RUF at Western Kentucky University (WKU), and Brian Howard, church planting pastor at Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church. For eight years they had worked as colleagues in ministry in Murfreesboro TN – Games at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and Howard at Trinity Presbyterian.

Initially, both pastors focused most of their energies on launching the church. Howard says, "RUF exists because of the local church and it's tied to the local church. It's part of our theology. It's what we believe." Soon, however, Games' efforts began to focus primarily on RUF because that ministry also was a start-up. Later, Caroline Royal came to serve as an RUF intern, extending the ministry more effectively among the female students.

Howard notes one thing they got right early on: "One of the best things that we did and still do is meet on Tuesdays to pray. Kentucky has seen some failed attempts to plant PCA churches. Out of desperation, we were saying, 'God, you've got to do this."



Grace & Peace Pastor Brian Howard



Western Kentucky RUF Bible Study led by Fritz Games (middle row left)

Prayer and partnership created a foundation for launching the church and RUF simultaneously. "There is a real sense in which we are in this together. Our families are best friends. People get a flavor for the biblical idea of going two by two," Games says.

This fall, the church will move into a new downtown space, about a mile and a half from campus and in the park where many community events are held. Howard and Games expect the location to offer greater visibility and create additional opportunities for the church and RUF to interact with the community. Howard hopes the building will open the way for the church to minister by meeting the social, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Bowling Green's inhabitants, including the growing international and immigrant population. Other nonprofit groups will be able to use the space as well, helping to further develop community relationships.

Minneapolis/St. Paul MN

In Minnesota's Twin Cities, RUF Campus Minister Chad Brewer and CityLife Church's Bart Moseman followed a similar approach. Brewer worked with RUF at the University of Missouri and Penn State before moving to the Twin Cities, where his

stries in University Cities

"We developed the vision together, taking our RUF experience and applying it to the context here...Having a friend and a partner in ministry was super rewarding and encouraging."

-Bart Moseman, CityLife Church



CityLife Church Twin Cities hosts community meeting on neighborhood development

wife was raised. "I was looking for an opportunity to help the PCA go into places where we had not been before," Brewer says. "The Twin Cities metro area was the the largest US city without a PCA church in its urban center. The University of Minnesota is the fourth-largest university in the country."

Moseman was raised in the Twin Cities. He spent eight years as RUF campus minister at the University of Nebraska. Friends challenged Moseman to believe that God could use him to start something new. "I didn't see myself as a starter or a pioneer. I still don't," he says. But their encouragement caused him to reconsider.

Brewer and Moseman were friends during seminary and while working at Missouri and Nebraska, respectively. In 2007 Moseman called Brewer to talk about what might be ahead. Both men were interested in the Twin Cities. As they and their families continued to think and pray it through, God confirmed His call. By spring 2008, both families relocated to Minnesota. "We developed the vision together, taking our RUF experience and applying it to the context here," Moseman says. "Having a friend and a partner in ministry was super rewarding and encouraging."

Much like Games, Brewer spent the majority of his time focused on the church plant during his first year but soon had to refocus. "RUF was fine with me working with the church plant initially, but they did say, in three or four years you have to have a ministry up and running." As the church launched in September 2009, the bulk of Brewer's attention shifted to the campus, while Moseman continued to develop the



CityLife Church Pastor Bart Moseman

fledgling church. In 2011 Nicole Houfek joined the RUF team as an intern; in 2013 Cameron Umphrey followed. The interns have helped pursue connections with stu-



Chad and Christie Brewer and children (left) with Minnesota RUF students

dents, thereby growing the campus ministry. Brewer still preaches as necessary at the church and occasionally leads worship. He teaches Sunday school, and his wife Christie



Minnesota RUF intern Cameron Umphrey

helped to start the women's Bible study and has continued to be involved.

Students are integrated into all aspects of church life, including small groups and work projects. The church encourages them and helps students understand the value of church involvement. Moseman cites one recent example: Brewer got to know a UM basketball player who didn't have a lot of time to participate in the local church.





University of Minnesota

Through their conversations, she came to understand the value of the church. She was baptized at CityLife and left college with the knowledge of how to become involved in church life wherever she lives in the future. Moseman and Brewer hope to see more and more students grasp the value of local church involvement.

"If you're trying to connect students to the local church, there's no easier situation than in a young congregation where there is easy access to everything," Moseman says. "You don't have to wait 10 years to be able to serve. It's all hands on deck."

Big and Small Cities

While similar in many ways, the church plants and campus ministries in Bowling Green and the Twin Cities also have faced different kinds of challenges due to the relative sizes of the metropolitan areas. The Twin Cities metro area population numbers in the millions. A great advantage of the presence and transience of so many city people is that it offers great

"... That is what launching a church and an RUF ministry is all about – trusting God to change lives through Christ."

-Brian Howard, Grace & Peace

opportunities to form relationships with new people. Large numbers of people moving into the city translates into many people looking to establish new relationships.

But transportation for students has been a challenge. While CityLife meets just three miles from campus, a 25 to 30 minute bus ride is required each way for those without automobiles. "It's a lot harder for us to know how to coordinate with the campus group because of distance," Moseman says. In the spring the church began sending a 15 passenger van to campus to pick up students, which has helped build student participation.

On the other hand, Bowling Green's population of fewer than 100,000 offers



Western Kentucky RUF Bible Study led by Intern Carolyn Royal (right)

community visibility and longer-term relationships. "On a single day," Howard explains, "I often meet with a student, an in-town apartment resident, a business person, and a farmer. The smaller community offers that kind of variety. And faithfulness over time counts – we've



CityLife Church Sunday School class

seen families that we were friends with for years finally begin attending Grace & Peace. We have some families who visited early and left, then return and say, 'Grace & Peace didn't change, but God changed us.' That is what launching a church and an RUF ministry is all about – trusting God to change lives through Christ."

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From the Coordinator

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." — Luke 10:1-2



Dear Friend,

Large cities with urban university campuses as well as smaller college towns both offer great opportunities to share the Gospel. But without a local PCA church, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) will not begin serving a college or university. Campus ministry is about more than living your faith on

campus; it also helps students become involved in their local church.

In this issue of *Multiply*, four ministers in two communities—the large urban Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota, and the university town of Bowling Green KY—share what they've learned and the challenges they've faced by simultaneously planting a church and launching a campus ministry.

RUF at Western Kentucky University would not exist without Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church. Students at the University of Minnesota are learning about the PCA church and their faith through both RUF and CityLife Church. And two pairs of pastor colleagues—all four of whom know each other from seminary and RUF staff training—found that starting from scratch is a bit less daunting with a friend and prayer partner at your side.

Thank you for continuing to pray and support these and other ministries. Standing with MNA in your giving helps spread the Gospel throughout the United States and Canada.

In His Name, Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator