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Annual Report for 2018-2019
Serving with RUF at Belhaven University

July 2019

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as the Campus Minister of Reformed University Fellowship at Belhaven University this past year!

This was my first year in this ministry. By God's grace I made it through! And with gratefulness I can report that things have gone about as well as they could for my first year.

We conducted weekly large group meetings on campus in the fall and spring semesters. I taught on the Gospel of John in the fall and then on the book of Galatians in the spring. We saw an average of around 50 students attend these meetings each week right through until the end of each semester. A handful of student leaders also are involved with helping put on the meeting by emceeding the meeting, reading Scripture, praying, or playing music. It has been a joy to see the earnestness of the students to want to study God's word. It's also been a blessing to see how the Lord uses me as I seek to simply be faithful to show up week after week with a desire to love others and teach them His word.

In addition to our weekly large groups, we also offered weekly small groups for students both semesters. We had a co-ed group led by two of our student leaders that studied the topic of Gospel Basics in the fall and the book of Psalms in the Spring. We also had an all-female group led by another of our student leaders that studied Praying the Psalms in the Fall and the book of Hebrews in the Spring. Finally, we had a Freshman Bible Student in the Spring! These went well! It was a privilege to help walk alongside these student leaders and help give them an opportunity to serve their fellow students in this way.

I'm also thankful to report that we saw 15 new students join our student leadership team this year. We have a total of around 25 students serving on this team. We meet weekly on campus and I was able to teach them on campus ministry philosophy in the Fall and on the Westminster Confession of Faith in the Spring. In these meetings we also solicit their ideas on upcoming events, discuss the health of RUF among the students, find volunteers for different things needed, and pray for one another and the campus.

Another huge piece of our ministry on campus is in one-on-one meetings with students. Myself and our female intern, Ashley Broom, fill up the remainder of our schedules each week sitting down with students and checking in on them, hearing their stories, reading Scripture together, counseling them through tough questions or hard times, and praying for them. It's amazing to see how the Lord uses these meetings in the lives of students. Another testament to how the patient work of continuing to show up for God's glory and love of people is used by Him in peoples lives over time.

Finally, we have various events over the course of the year that students can participate in. In the fall we had our annual “Barn Retreat” where we took around 35 students on an overnight trip to give students a break from campus life and study the book of Philippians together while enjoying the outdoors. In February we attended the South Central region’s “Winter Conference” in Memphis, TN. We took a group of around 30 students and joined together with 100’s of students from the area for another chance to get away, hear from Rev. Seth Still, and meet other students. Finally, we took a group of around 25 students to the RUF national “Summer Conference” in Laguna Beach, FL in May. This was a great time for our students to join 1000’s of students from across the nation to hear from Rev. Hunter Bailey and also to attend numerous elective break-out seminars all week on numerous topics. What is so special about these events for our students is that it is a really sweet time of our students getting to know one another and also to know me better. And there is something about having a break from campus life that helps students to focus more on the teaching from God’s word they are receiving and to take a step back and evaluate how things are going in their lives. Many fruitful conversations have emerged in the contexts of these events.

To end, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve the Lord and these students. I love this job and am looking forward to, Lord-willing, many more years of ministry in this context.

Prayer needs:

◦ **Family**

- For the Lord’s blessing this year on our growth in the Lord and in love for one another.
- For the Lord’s help to be hospitable to students now that we have bought a house near the campus in the Belhaven neighborhood. Please pray that it would be a place of refuge for students and sweet conversations about our Lord and His word.

◦ **RUF Belhaven**

- **Outreach** – There are always many students who think Jesus, and therefore RUF, is either not a thing for them, or couldn’t be something for them. Please pray that the Lord would give us energy and boldness to continue to reach out and welcome students in.
- **Discipleship** – We have a huge number of students who are eager to grow and serve. Please pray for wisdom for us as a staff to figure out how to invest in these students well and that they would each grow to love and commit themselves to a life of participation in the local church, starting even during their college years.
- **Financial stability/strength** – The Lord has seen us through thus far, but we still need to raise an additional \$3,000 in monthly donations to see this ministry in a stable place financially and avoid the regular deficits we incurred last year. Please pray that the Lord would give me boldness in fundraising and that He would abundantly supply for our financial needs.

With gratefulness,



Bentley Crawford