

LVPCA Special Projects

A Ministry of David Green

Special Edition

March, 2021

New Ministry!

I am moving into a new ministry! In 2007 I felt God prompting me to seek the Area Coordinator position with RUF. I saw needs among the campus ministers that I thought I might be able to meet, and Rod Mays appointed me to begin in 2008. My time with RUF came to an end in January and I am seeking my next ministry.

During this transition period our church, Lehigh Valley Presbyterian, has hired me to a short-term position. I will be working half-time in the congregation and half-time in campus-related ministry. I will continue to raise financial support for this work, and I will continue my weekly blog report and weekly prayer requests email.

The past two months have been intensely busy! I began RUF ministry in 1998, and for 22 years everything I have done has been in that context. It is a lot of work resituating into a new context. I launched a website for our work: www.cdavidgreen.org and retooled our other operations. I began this short-term job in March and dived into finishing our church website (www.lvpc.org) and a couple of preaching opportunities. I have been helping campus ministers, and am engaged to teach at a regional summer conference in May.

I will leave it to RUF to keep you informed of their ministry in the Northeast, but here are a few final reports from local campus ministers.

Campus Reports

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

One new endeavor this spring that is bearing fruit is our 2021 Reading Through the Bible Group. Students are asking questions in one-on-ones and bringing up passages from the readings in our Bible studies. One student has been really enjoying going through the plan so far and has been asking lots of questions, particularly about Genesis. In those conversations I've been able to highlight how

Genesis is not about how great Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were, but about how merciful and faithful God was to these men and their families even despite their sinfulness.

After several of these discussions, she texted me: "I have never read through the Bible this way and it is truly life changing." It was particularly encouraging to hear this from her because her past experiences with the church have been negative. When I first met her she seemed completely done with Christianity. I prayed for her often last year and it is wonderful to now see the LORD at work in her heart, drawing her back to Himself. *Oliver Pierce, Campus Minister at Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Ask Oliver for his updates: oliver.pierce@ruf.org.

University of Maryland

Thanks so much for your prayers for our Mid-Atlantic Training Conference all done through Zoom with seven schools participating! UMD had seven students participate with the bulk of them in the *How To Study the Bible* track. This is crucial because we are seeking to train new students leaders in how to lead a good small group Bible study discussion.

One highlight was former RUF Maryland Alum Bryan Selby, in his third year at Westminster Theological Seminary, who taught the *How To Study The Bible* track. Bryan is passionate about the gospel and brings an energy and excitement to his teaching the Bible that is going to impact the church for decades, Lord willing! Pray for Bryan as he considers Ph.D. work possibly in the UK next year. *Chris Garriott, Campus Minister at University of Maryland*

Ask Chris for his updates: cgarriott@ruf.org.

Lehigh University

What if I told you that the majority of our students were happy, even joyful? No doubt you would be shocked. I was too! At a recent Ministry Team meeting students made comments like these:

"I'm really enjoying my classes this semester."

“I’ve never had a better semester than the one right now.”

“RUF has been really enjoyable lately.”

I was surprised. Not only are the in-person conditions the same as last semester (online for most students), they are worse! With a recent spike in cases shown from surveillance testing, Lehigh has recommended that students not gather in groups larger than five. Yet, in the midst of unchanged circumstances, these students have changed hearts. They are experiencing joy, real joy, which is only a result of the Holy Spirit’s work. It is my prayer that those changes continue to unfold over this coming year.

Michael Goodlin, Campus Minister at Lehigh University

Ask Michael for his updates: michael.goodlin@ruf.org.

The Rest

I hope you will continue to follow and support the ministries on our campuses. Ask a campus minister close to you for his updates. You can find information about campus ministries in our area with contact information here:

<https://rufmidatlantic.org/ministers/>

Stay Connected to our Ministry!

In this hybrid ministry of congregation and campus, we still need prayer and financial support. My ministry is operating as “LVPCA Special Projects.” Our church is receiving donations and paying my expenses.

You may contribute to our ministry by making checks to “LVPC” and mailing them to:

LVPCA Special Projects
31 S. 13th St.
Allentown, PA 18102

You may also contribute online at <http://bit.ly/3vx9A19> or click this QR code. → Put “Special Projects” in the note box.



My blog, sermons, newsletters, and ministry materials are on my new website: www.cdavidgreen.org. → If you would rather receive these news-



letters by email, or if you would like to receive weekly prayer requests by email, contact me at cdavidgreen@gmail.com.

Spring Reflections



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Transitions are always challenging – even happy ones. The familiar past often is more comfortable than the unknown future. The past 22 years with RUF have been good ones for Ruth and me. By God’s grace I think I was able to be of some help to students and ministers, and we leave many happy memories behind.

Ruth wrote this verse from Jeremiah on our refrigerator whiteboard. God is sovereign and good, so of course all His works are good for the people He loves. But it can be hard to see that, can’t it? It can be particularly hard for those trapped in impoverished conditions or caught up in violence. God spoke to Jeremiah as the Kingdom of Judah was collapsing. Jeremiah lived to see Solomon’s beautiful temple destroyed and the nation carried into exile. Nothing looked good, and God – if He was sovereign – had a strange way of demonstrating care for His people.

In this deeply troubling time God spoke to Jeremiah and affirmed that everything was going according to plan – and that the plan was “for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Not just any future, not just survival, but a future with hope! That is our God. That is our confidence. I pray it may be yours as well.

David Green