



DISCIPLEMAKERS

Reaching the campus...Reaching the world



News from the Robergs' ministry with DiscipleMakers

November 2020

Why We Don't Give Up

One of the challenges of the pandemic has been coping with the loss of what we previously took for granted. This feeling varies greatly in magnitude depending on each person's situation, but there's at least one way we've all felt it: the loss of opportunity to gather together with other people.

In our campus ministry context, our annual Fall Conference is normally the pinnacle of the year in terms of student gatherings. This year we held our Fall Conference online, which meant that students didn't experience much of what we normally associate with Fall Conference. There was no worship with 400 people singing together, no hanging out with students from other schools, no sense of excitement from being in a special place for a special purpose. Instead, students watched the conference on a screen either alone in their dorm room or masked and distanced in a classroom.

But there was one thing we did not lose from Fall Conference this year: God's Word. Let me share just one example of how we saw this play out on campus.

My co-worker Zack, who ministers at Bucknell University, noticed as the conference approached that his students were mourning the loss of the normal conference experience. Zack empathized with what they felt, but he also wanted to help them see that God is not bound by the limitations we face. So he asked the some of the leaders in the fellowship, "What would it look like to have a perspective of faith?"

Students made a plan to center the "conference experience" not around the excitement of a big gathering but around encountering Jesus in the Word.

Thus prompted, the students started coming up with ideas to center the "conference experience" not around the excitement of a big gathering but around encountering Jesus in the Word. They prayed that God would meet them where they were and transform their community.

The Bucknell fellowship spent that Friday night and all of Saturday sitting in a lecture hall, watching teaching from the book of Hebrews. They learned that Christ is the Prophet, Priest, and King they are longing for, and therefore that they "must pay much closer attention" to Him in His Word.



Left: the DM fellowship at Bucknell University, taking part in our Fall Conference via streamed video. Right: Brian's department produced the videos and ran the conference livestream.

Afterward, several shared how their desire to see their friends know Jesus grew. Others made a plan to begin praying every day at 8:30 am as a community. Following the conference, six Bucknell students have done that, intent on continuing in daily prayer for the rest of the semester.

Finally, one student summed up what she'd learned by sharing how encouraged she was that she doesn't have to wait to hear from the Lord, but that He has already spoken through his Word, the Scriptures.

We are living through an unsettling season, but by God's grace the loss we feel is not the whole story. He is still at work drawing students to Himself!

Praise and Prayer

- Praise God that He continues His work through His Word despite the disruption of many aspects of life. Pray that students would continue to have ears to hear.
- As the semester winds down—many schools are not bringing students back to campus after Thanksgiving—pray that God would give our staff the love and wisdom to minister to students well.

Thank you so much for your investment in our ministry with DiscipleMakers!

Grace and peace,

Brian & Carin