



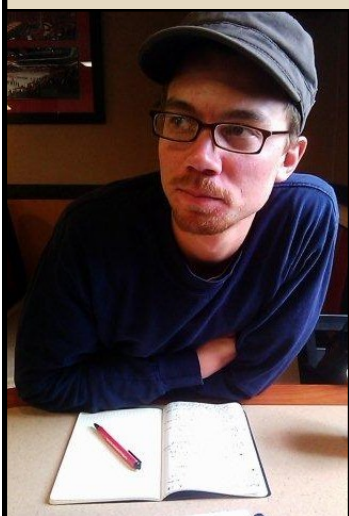
Big Break (and More...)

Big Break is such an amazing event that I feel I must put it in our prayer letter. Some of you got the email updates (*if you do not receive emails from us and would like to please email me at dan.gerard@uscm.org*) but as a reminder, for Big Break this year we took 72 students to Panama City Beach to learn how to share their faith and then put that into practice on the beach by engaging with the 100,000 partying college students that showed up that same week! Needless to say it was amazing!

Personally one of the most powerful pictures of the impact of this event happened at the beginning of each meeting. Throughout the week we would text the first names of those we had talked with about Jesus in to the conference and then those names would go out to a prayer team. At the beginning of each meeting they would scroll these names across the big screens. Needless to say, it was quite motivating to see the names of all these people who had heard about Jesus! In all that week there were 5,900 spiritual conversations, 2,332 gospel presentations, and 209 indicated decisions for Jesus. Thank you for helping send Madison students as missionaries to Panama City Beach!

and More... (sharing Jesus doesn't end at Big Break!)

In their own words, Clay is an agnostic Jew, Nathan is an agnostic Catholic and Ben is a theist who rarely if ever set foot in a church after being baptized Lutheran as a baby. So you are asking, "Where is this going?"



Evan looking very philosophic.

Evan and I were following up some contact cards in a dorm. We were down to the least promising contact card we had. We decided to finish out the cards even if we were pretty sure this conversation was going to be a dead-end.

Spiritually apathetic and uncaring would best describe these guys. But they invited us in and said they had a couple minutes. So Evan shared some of his story and we talked a bit about their spiritual backgrounds and beliefs. When Evan made a statement about believing the Bible, the conversation shifted. Clay, Nathan, and Ben all pounced with questions like, "Where did the Bible even come from?" Now we could've given a bunch of evidence for the Bible (because there is great evidence!) but instead of answering I said, "Well, first a question. 'If God exists and wanted to communicate with us, how would he do that?'" The ball was back in their court. Nathan was the first to respond. He said, "Well... I guess, He'd probably write a book. And you know what... He might send His Son too." (Keep in mind this is the agnostic speaking, not me!) From there we had a great

conversation about what characteristics you would expect from a divinely inspired book.

Evan ended the conversation by inviting them to our weekly meeting, Prime Time. Nathan, the "least-promising-contact-card-we-had" said, "You know what. I won't promise. But I will tell you this. Thank you for stopping by and talking. If I do decide to investigate religion more, I'll go to that first." None of them came to know Jesus that day. But we left feeling that all of them had taken a step closer. Pray that God would continue to work in their lives. Pray that Evan, who leads a study in that dorm, would be able to reconnect with them. Pray they would take a look at the material we left with them as well.