



October 29, 2013

Arielle, an intern at Syracuse, sat across from Jill in the student center. As the conversation progressed from discussing Jill's spiritual background, to the essence of the gospel, Jill matter-of-factly told Arielle that she had no interest in having a personal relationship with God. She had already decided that she'd rather party and do things that she knows wouldn't please the Lord.

Hearing this reminds me of an email I sent to friends of mine earlier this month. I wrote, *"Somehow I expect that if people really encounter Jesus - His love, grace, power - that of course they will respond and believe. Today reading in John 15 was a reminder that my expectation is way off. Vs 24 -Jesus said, 'If I had not done among them the works which no one else did.... but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.' This isn't the first time the Lord has needed to tell me of this - over and over I need Him to remind me."*

Not everyone will respond with a "Yes, I believe!" to Jesus. But some do. Just since the beginning of this school year, Arielle has seen seven other students indicate that they do want to know God. Praise God!

Our Leadership Development (LD) team is in the midst of visiting different staff teams around the region. Being in Syracuse (left) and Cornell (right) last week it was great to meet with Arielle and the other interns and staff to help them process how things are going and help set some direction. In LD everything we do somehow relates to people and helping them reach students and faculty. The campus trips are an important part of that "everything we do." On these trips we help people process the ups and downs of ministry, work more effectively as a team, have a clear sense of how they should be spending their time, focus on important next steps, and a whole lot more.

I'm not the person sitting across from 18-year-olds like Jill or the other seven students who trusted Christ this semester at Syracuse. Yet God takes what I do (and my team does) and uses it for His glory. It is such a privilege to help our interns and staff be on campus, effectively ministering on the college campus.

If you remember in my August prayer letter I mentioned how Arielle (and Amanda, another intern) being at Syracuse was such an answer to prayer. And now to think of these seven new believers - that's so cool!!

Thanks for your partnership which is what makes it possible.

Grateful for you!!

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