

# RUF-INTERNATIONAL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

### Welcoming the Nations & Equipping Kingdom Ambassadors

Christmas 2016



RUF International Christmas Party

#### Volumes Spoken on a Silent Night

In cross-cultural ministry there are always questions like: “Did I say that clearly? Was my tone offensive? Did they feel welcomed? What do they really think of Jesus and our Christian hope in the King of Christmas?” While we are always wanting to get “better” at what we do, I don’t know how the first half of the semester could have gone better.

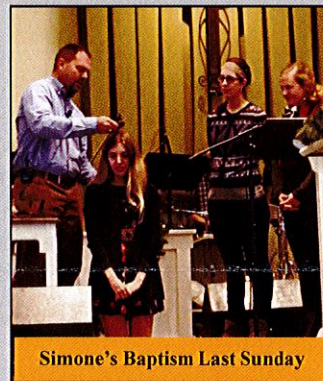
And yet, with between 90-110 people going to each of our final RUF events - Dinner & Discovery, the Thanksgiving Celebration, & also our Christmas Party - we enjoyed God’s smile and a “full house” the second half of the fall. Sitting with students as they wrestled with tough questions related to faith on Thursday nights, hearing them express thanks for great food and for love they don’t fully understand from volunteers, and inviting them to learn about - and even enter into the Christmas story...these have caused us to rejoice at how the Christ of Christmas has been speaking to the hearts of many our international friends.

#### New Life in the Cold of Winter

Almost from the moment I met Simone I “knew” there was something different about her. Not afraid to speak her mind, even if everyone else in the room saw things differently. Hungry for truth, searching for something real...for Someone real. Like much of 16<sup>th</sup> century Scotland in the time of the Scottish Reformer, John Knox, Simone found religion in her home country uninspiring and heavy. This semester Simone didn’t find religion but – like Knox before her – found Jesus Christ as she became captivated by his Gospel of grace. Hear her beautiful testimony of his grace in her life these past few months:

*“I came to America in August to study journalism, perhaps pessimistic towards the idea of religion altogether. However, I wanted to immerse myself in the culture. Without thinking, I joined RUF International and went to discussion groups. I met Rachel. Then Lee, and then Kelsey. I can now call these people my friends, my family. It was through them I heard the voice of God. He called to me through their words, and through other Americans I met inside and outside of class. I read the Bible for the first time and heard him calling to me through Scripture. When I finally began to open my heart to Jesus, I felt him with me. No longer was I lost and scared, I knew there was nothing I could do without him...and that's okay. That's totally okay. I don't want to do anything without him anymore, I can't.”*

I had the really special privilege of baptizing Simone at Redeemer Church this past Sunday, on her very last Sunday in the U.S.!



Simone's Baptism Last Sunday

#### In Their Own Words...



RUF Thanksgiving Dinner Kitchen Crew  
(Jen, Rachel, Kati & Heather)

“We had so many mashed potatoes. So many. Like I almost never want to see another batch of mashed potatoes again there were so many...There was so many side dishes. So so many...Man, the fruit! They like their fruit.”

*Kati Hurst - second from right,  
new RUF Volunteer*



Kongyu & RUF Friends at UT game

“I want to thank God. I’m not a Christian but all of the Christians here have welcomed me and shown me love. I thought I would come to America and be lonely. But that is not true. Instead, I feel cared for and have learned a lot. And I know it’s because there are so many Christians who love God. So, if it were not for God this would not happen. That’s why I want to thank God.”

*(Kongyu Li - bottom  
PHD student from China)*



## Prayer & Praise

- **Praise** God for Simone's new faith in Christ and for her baptism! **Pray** she will grow and find a Gospel-centered church back home in Scotland
- **Praise** for having the chance to impact lives from all over the world, including those from 20 countries at our Christmas Party!
- **Praise** for the countless ways RUF International leaders have befriended, counseled, served, and loved international students & scholars
- **Praise** for 2 of our RUF International leaders applying for the RUF International internship!
- **Praise** for God's provision for this year and **Pray** for strong year-end giving, as well as for \$18,400 in new giving needed for 2017
- **Pray** that each of our family members would daily rely on the love God has for us in Jesus

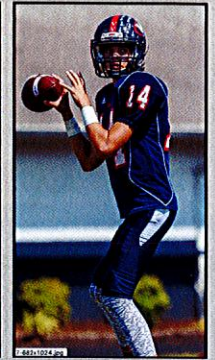
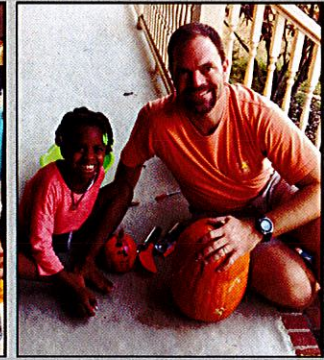
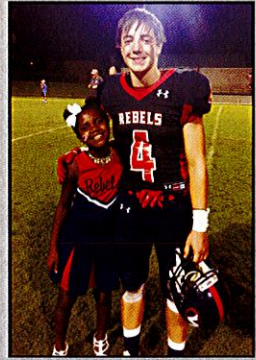


Left: Phillip (14), Daniel (17) & Jen,  
Right: Neisse (8), Annie (10) & Lee

**Contributions Information**  
Reformed University Ministries  
P.O. Box 890004  
Charlotte, NC 28289-0004

Please make checks **payable** to "RUM" and designate the **memo line** as "RUF International / #241010510". All gifts are tax-deductible. You can also give by credit card, bank draft, or stock options at [www.ruf.org/utrufi](http://www.ruf.org/utrufi).

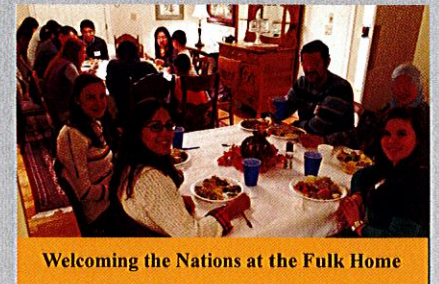
## When We're Not Sleeping



The Psalmist of the Old Testament asked this of the Lord: *"Teach us to number our days that we might gain a heart of wisdom."* There are plenty of days within the life of the Leadbetter family when we're just trying to make it through...trying to keep our eyes open as we get breakfast ready, shuttle the girls to running or gymnastics, cheer the boys on at their football games, or help with homework late at night. And yet we're grateful for those moments when we're enabled to walk in wisdom and see that, because of the Lord's presence and promises, each activity of every day has meaning. We get to slow down and remember his incredible goodness to us, and reflect on just how far He has brought us as a family.

## Why YOU Matter

Because of YOU - as the Lord has used *your* commitment to pray, *your* desire to serve, and *your* willingness to give to the ministry of RUF International - WE have been able to touch the lives of hundreds of students and scholars from around the world in 2016. If you could spend a day with us on campus...having coffee with our friends from Beijing or Ben Ghazi, or jumping into a discussion group with students from Iran, Germany, Japan or Algeria, or experiencing God at work on a Fall Retreat weekend...you might be tempted to quit your day job and come on RUF International staff! But we are indeed blessed to know that as WE seek to welcome and engage our foreign friends with Christ's love and truth, we do it together - with YOU. Thank you!!!



Welcoming the Nations at the Fulk Home

*So That the Nations May Be Glad,*

*Lee, Jen, Daniel, Phillip, Annie, & Neisse Leadbetter*

Lee and Jen Leadbetter  
1717 Cliftgate Rd., Knoxville, TN 37921  
[www.rufinternational.org](http://www.rufinternational.org)  
[lleadbetter@ruf.org](mailto:lleadbetter@ruf.org)  
(865) 292-3439