

RUF=INTERNATIONAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Welcoming the Nations & Equipping Kingdom Ambassadors

JUNE 2018

In Their Own Words...



Swati & Mary at the Finish Line Party

“This semester has also blessed me because I've gotten to volunteer with a campus ministry called RUF. We serve international students here at UT. Being a part of this has been such a blessing in my life. I've met so many friends from all over the world! It has been a pleasure to live life with them and also get to share Jesus and the gospel with them.”

Mary Klepzig (right) - UT undergrad and RUF Volunteer



Friends Enjoying Ice Cream Sundaes

“Lee, Thanks so much! I can never move away without meeting you and thanking you and your gracious family for all the wonderful and insightful time you have given not only me but to every international student who came in touch with you all.”

Abhijit (left) - PhD student in Journalism from India

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! Because of your faithful prayers and generous support, we've been able to meaningfully minister to students from places like Uganda, Russia, India, Palestine, Honduras, Saudi Arabia, China and so many more! We hope you'll be blessed by these few snapshots of how God's been at work through RUF International to welcome the nations to UT.

Finishing the Race

This has been a year where we've seen roughly 350 people from more than 50 countries involved in our ministry. Some of them came to social events like a trip to the beautiful Smoky Mountains or to our “Finish Line” Party at my parents' home. Some attended an ESL class or a Bible study led by various ministry team members. Some experienced unforgettable hospitality and cultural moments in homes during holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter, and others even attended a Christian worship service for the very first time.

We have also been able to support international friends in need of a ride to the store or airport, as well as those facing difficult issues related to things like an apartment or professor or visa. We especially celebrate the personal relationships we've developed, where internationals have chosen to give us access to what's “really” going on. We've carefully and prayerfully sought to speak into their lives with the wisdom and hope found in Jesus Christ. It's often difficult ground in which to sow, but we're encouraged to see God's Spirit at work among our Hindu, Buddhist, Atheist, Muslim and Agnostic friends.



RUF “Finish Line” Party

Food for the Body and Soul

On 6 Thursday nights last fall and 8 nights this spring RUF International invited UT's international community to eat a free catered meal with us and engage in an optional post-meal discussion around the tables. We hosted as many as 95 people one week, and our spring topic was “Making Sense of the Signs” in the Gospels. (i.e. “The Miracles of Jesus”)

A Russian PhD student shared how she was impacted by our final Dinner and Discovery event: “It was a very strong and very nice impression for me to attend your



International Dinner & Discovery

dinner, to meet so many interesting people from all over the world, to share our mind with each other. I'm very pleased to have this experience, and I'm happy, while thinking of this. Thank you very much for your kindness to these students and to me! I think all of them are missing home, (and so) such talks and dinners with friends (provide) a great chance to find new friends and become better and closer to God.”

A Year of Transitions



Daniel Heading to Wheaton College



Final Dinner with RUF International Coordinator, Al LaCour, and his wife Elaine



Ready to Sell Houses!

We lived through lots of transitions this year, some of them challenging, but so many evidences of God's kindness to our family. Daniel "signed" to play football this coming fall at Wheaton College, and is officially a high school grad! Phillip will be returning to West H.S. for his junior year, and is excited to have the chance to be in the halls (and possibly on the basketball team) with his cousin, Noah. Annie (rising 5th grader) and Neissa (rising 4th grader) both did very well in school, and love spending free time making "slime" with friends. And lots of study Jen took and passed her real estate licensing exam, and is ready to help some folks find houses!

One expected bittersweet transition was my boss and RUF-I National Coordinator, Al LaCour, and his wife (Elaine) stepping away from RUF-I after 14 years and into retirement after 43 years of ministry. Al has become a trusted friend and mentor, has given visionary servant-leadership to our organization, and has loved our family well. Praying for big shoes to be filled!

YOU Are Helping Us Make a Global Impact



Painting "The Rock" - a UT Tradition

Recently our RUF-I interns, Drew and Jenny, led our friends around the world in painting their flag on the iconic "rock" on campus to celebrate the plethora of countries represented at UT. Even as we gladly welcome students and scholars from around the world, we also gladly point them to the "Rock of Salvation." For Jesus said the wise man is "the one who builds his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

Thank you for helping us "build" into the lives of internationals and point them to "the Rock" through your investment of prayer and financial giving. We could not do this without you. It's a privilege to partner in this ministry with you!

So That the Nations may be Glad and Sing for Joy,

Lee, Jen, Daniel, Phillip, Annie, & Neissa Leadbetter

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Prayer & Praise

- ❖ **Praise** God for so many conversations about life and faith this past year with international friends. And for spiritual fruit!
- ❖ **Praise** for the 40 who attended our Movie & Discussion of *Black Panther* last weekend (largest group ever!)
- ❖ **Pray** for some family rest & fun this summer as we prepare for our firstborn to leave "the nest."
- ❖ **Pray** for RUF-I's ministry team as we continue connecting with UT internationals this summer.
- ❖ **Pray** for new (and "old") ministry partners to freely give financially to meet expanding ministry needs.
- ❖ **Pray** for a new RUF International Coordinator to be called by God and confirmed in this role soon.
- ❖ **Praise** for the opportunity to officiate the wedding of Kelsey Vaughn (former RUF-I intern) on 5/26, and also to preach at Sarang Korean Church on 6/3.



Contributions Information
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Please make checks payable to "RUF" & designate the memo line as "RUF-I @ UTK / #241010510". All gifts are tax-deductible. You can also give to RUF-I at UT by credit card or bank draft at ruf.org/utrufi

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