

He Makes Everything Beautiful in its Time...

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THERE WAS DANCING, and singing, and shouting, and skits and drama and dancing. AND GOOD FOOD. This was the atmosphere of "Fuerza Night": the largest event this semester hosted by Fuerza Latina, one of many student groups on campus that gathers latinos from all over the world who attend University at Albany. I (John) have been going to the "Community Outreach" committee meetings and helping out, getting know students because firstly, I have enjoyed many friendships with latinos

and Hispanics in the past in college. But also I'm hoping to get connected to any students in that community interested in spiritual things and starting up a Latino/Hispanic expression of Christ called "Destino". Cru has many Destino movements around the country and we hope to start one here. I met students at the Fuerza Night who might be interested, Please pray for these students and for Destino to start up soon!



The early church in Acts 2:42-47 is a good model vision for a local Destino movement.

What do \$1bills/freeze pops/Jesus/sunglasses/gift cards have in common?

Hmm not much actually, unless you're running a Plinko table at the freshman block party at UAlbany! We spent hours handing out mostly



Our staff at the UAlbany Freshman Block Party!

\$1bills and freeze pops for conversation with freshman! We literally had hundreds of students stop by our tables between this event and a table we had at the freshman dorms in the dining halls! Not to mention a very hot move in day!!! As a result we had lots of great gospel conversations in the weeks that followed, including the two below.



Moving in can be crazy! This is one thankful mom!

"I've just never been invited!"

This semester we have spent significantly more time at Ualban specifically asking the Lord to launch a new movement there amongst freshman! We've spent the first few weeks inviting students to get coffee in the Campus Center and asking them to tell us about their lives and where they are at spiritually. The most exciting time for me was when I spent some time with a girl named Polly from the Dominican Republic. I shared the Gospel with her and simply asked/invited her to make a choice (I spent a lot of the first 2 weeks telling students that not choosing a spiritual journey was simply choosing against God- which was eye opening for many!) I continued to ask Polly if she knew what was holding her back or what was it that could be keeping her from choosing to place her faith in God. Her response, " Nothing! I just think it's as simple as I've just never been invited by anyone before!"

"Looking for an anchor"

And what about Jamie.. She is a student who has studied abroad (in China twice) and basically grew up with no spiritual background. As she puts it, she's "looking for an anchor in life." She's currently comparing Islam to Christianity! I'm privileged to have her join Polly and I and a few other girls in similar places as we seek the truth of God's word together!



Our Students and Staff at our Fall Retreat!

Praises:

- We made it through the craziness of life and schedules the first 2 months of schools starting!
- For the 12 Freshman who went to Fall Getaway with us! We were praying for 15 but praise God because it was the most ever!
- Thank God for eight ladies who came out to the first "Nail Night" outreach event Ellen threw on campus where spiritual conversations were intentionally started with some "spiritual appetizer questions" while doing their nails! There were several new ladies there who don't know the Lord. It was a very successful event for our launching this year!

Prayer Requests:

- For more of our students to be passionate about inviting outsiders into small group communities and (eventually) the Kingdom of God.
- For our family 's health as it's the season for sick college students to be spending time with our family!
- For the rest of this semester we are looking to step out in faith with our current relationships on campus. Pray for openings in State Quad specifically as John has been meeting a few weeks with a new freshmen small group!
- For the girls that Ellen has connected with that have not made a choice to trust Christ completely that they would!
- For Creativity! We need unique ways to bring the gospel and establish relationships on campuses!
- Pray for us to love each other well in our marriage and reflect Jesus to our students!

