

August 22, 2023

Dear Friends,

The ministry of presence is something I've often thought of when someone is going through a difficult time; I realize it's importance in leading others, too. Knowing it's value made me prioritize getting in person with 8 out of the 11 New York leaders in two 2-day trips. While it made for very long days and took me a little time to recover, it mattered to each person I was with.

After a delicious Peruvian lunch, my meeting with Doran and Erin included important topics ranging from their own walks with the Lord to their strategic priorities. The Manhattan team leaders and I enjoyed fun coffees in Vanilla Gorilla Cafe not far from Time Square. We covered similar topics to Doran and Erin, but as the teams are physically and figuratively in different places the problems to solve within the priorities are different.

My second trip was to Syracuse and Rochester. Students were not back on campus yet when John, Bonnie, and I walked and prayed together. We prayed in particular places like the student center, the room where Cru's weekly meeting is, the quad where they'll have opportunities to engage with new students, and more. We can do a lot of activity - sowing and watering, but it's the Lord who draws people to Himself and causes the growth.

Dakota leads our Hands of Fire ministry, which is a deaf ministry he helped start while a student at Rochester Institute of Technology more than 10 years ago. Sitting in Panera with two interpreters, we had our first one-on-one in person leadership connection time. The work Dakota and his team does is important and relevant for 1200 deaf students at RIT. The desire is to start Hands of Fire on other campuses with a deaf community.

There was lots more to these trips and the 2 3-hour video calls. All worth it to start the year off well.

1. Praise God the work we are doing is the very thing He longs for: people to know He alone is God and they can know Him through Jesus.
2. Please pray for God's Spirit to be moving and draw students to Himself during these critical first few weeks of the semester.
3. Please pray our staff and returning students would develop relationships with incoming students, show love and kindness, and share the gospel with boldness.
4. On a personal note - please pray for me and Dr. Horst. On Friday he is performing carpal tunnel surgery on my right hand. Sept 22nd he will do my left hand.

Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel. Your support - financial, prayer, encouragement, care - all makes me able to spend my life that others may know the Lord.

Liz



I attended one of the fall planning meetings of the Manhattan Team. They meet in a WeWork space.

Kelsey with her husband John behind her, Lydia with her husband Brandon behind her, Meghan, me, and Sam (Meghan's husband.). Brandon and Meghan are the team leaders.



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