

Purdue Baptist Collegiate Ministry 2009 Beach Reach Report

Thank you so much for all your support to make the BCM spring break mission trip a huge success. There were 450 of us serving with the Lifeway Beach Reach Ministry in Panama City Beach, FL that week. There were 32 from Purdue, 8 from IUPUI and 2 from IU that worked as a team.

The ministry provided around 5,000 free van rides and fed approximately 5,500 people free pancakes all while sharing the gospel of Christ. We will never know this side of heaven how many lives that were protected and impacted through this outreach. We rejoice that there **were around 25 people that made decisions for Christ and approximately 12 rededicated their lives to Jesus.** Over the entire three weeks of Beach Reach the following statistics were recorded.

Pancakes: 12,371 people (12 days)

Van Rides: 13,441 people (15 days)

91 First Time Decisions for Christ!!!!!!

Over 2 million hits on www.beachreachlivepcb.com

We want to thank the following churches for donating the use of their vans: *Calvary BC West Lafayette, Faith Family Ministries in Frankfort and Indian Heights BC in Kokomo*. We were blessed by a fourth van from a parent of one of the IUPUI students. This ministry would not be possible without vans to transport people from place to place. We also want to thank *Pat Smith and Jeff Bridgham of Calvary and Van Johnson* who was part of our driving crew!! A special thanks to *Ina Anstett* of Fowler who made sure we had plenty of cookies to eat on the trip down! ***Thank you to everyone!!!! The prayers were felt and the financial support was greatly appreciated!!!!!!!!*** Please pray for all of those that are being followed up on that made a decision and that they would get plugged in somewhere to grow in their walk with Christ. Time and space does not permit me to share everything that I want to tell you about but I've included two stories from students below.

BCM freshmen shares her life changing experience

Going to Beach Reach 2009 was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I actually was not going to go to Beach Reach, even though I had told my friends I was. It wasn't until the day the deposit check was due that I felt that I truly needed to go. Little did I know what God had in store for me?

When we finally arrived at Beach Reach, I was overwhelmed. Our hotel was right in the middle of the strip, which meant that there was no escaping the reality of what we were doing. As we went to worship the first night, I began to feel so inadequate. What did I have that I could make any difference in these spring breakers' lives? This feeling only got worse as we went on our prayer walk that evening. I saw the sin and felt their pain so much that I wept. I wept because I didn't know what I could do. How was I to minister to them, when I myself didn't truly feel like I was going to Heaven?

You see, I have always been involved with the Church. I grew up in a Quaker home and in the summer of my eighth grade year I was baptized at a church camp. I made the decision partly because I was afraid of what would happen when I died and partly because I felt like it was the right thing to do. After a short period of a spiritual high, I began to go further and further away from God. I never really rebelled against Him, but I did question Him quite a bit. This questioning led me to never feel adequate enough for Him. I still called myself a Christian, but didn't really "feel" like I could be the kind that God calls us to be.

Finally, I graduated and came to Purdue University. I got involved with BCM because my cousin invited me and my friends to an open house. Throughout the year, my friends and I became more involved in BCM, along with other campus ministry groups. But, as the year progressed, I definitely felt a stronger spiritual connection to the BCM. I had never seen, or felt anything quite like what God was pulling me towards through the BCM. As the relationships between me, the members, and the leadership team strengthened, I felt even more like God was drawing me towards the BCM and their activities, including Beach Reach.

The second day of Beach Reach we were having a training session. Mat Shockney was speaking about the only difference between us and the spring breakers are that we have the Holy Spirit in us. He said that if we weren't sure of that or if we were going to Heaven we were to take care of that now. As we all bowed our heads, Mat asked that anyone who wanted to know for sure should raise their hand. I raised mine that day. And I prayed the most genuine prayer of forgiveness and grace that I had ever prayed. From that moment when I truly rededicated my life to Christ, I had such a confidence in what I was going to do that week with God showing me the way.

The rest of the week was too awesome to describe in words. God placed so many people in my path to talk to that it was unbelievable. I met a spring breaker who went to school in my small high school conference. And also all through the week, I grew with such passion with my fellow BCM members. As we came back and are now in our "realities" at our schools, we still keep in touch and encourage each other each day. Ever since that day, God has definitely placed me in the situations that I need to be in. I have learned that we can have confidence in Him, even if the "feeling" goes away and that I will always have support from my brothers and sisters at the BCM.

Alexandra Rodriguez

BCM graduate student shares how God impacted him and others for Christ

My first night at Beach Reach this year ended on a conversation with Alex, who, though raised Jewish, was very much agnostic. "I believe that if God existed," he concluded, "that He'd show me somehow." After we parted, I prayed throughout the week that God would reveal Himself to Alex. Whether He did or not I don't know yet, but during worship two nights later, for some reason, I decided to ask for a sign of my own. "Show us fire tonight, God," I prayed.

The night started off slowly as Ben, Brittany, and I hit the streets. We were getting people into vans, but nobody was willing to talk for long or about anything substantial. When we crossed paths with another team from Texas Tech that was having a similar night, we stopped and prayed together. Not much later, we found ourselves in what I think we'd call our first significant conversations of the night. As we talked to this pair of brothers, we heard, "Excuse me, guys. I'd hate to burn you," and behind us walked a man carrying lit torches. There was my fire.

Once those conversations wrapped up, we ended up stopping at Taco Bell, where, through a series of intricately-timed events, Ben and I found ourselves at a table joined by a young man named Jeremy. Jeremy let us know how intricate the timing was on his side of the story, too, and how he believed — in no uncertain terms — that our meeting was no accident.

Jeremy was seeking. Any time he shared his thoughts, he earnestly asked us afterward to share ours. He was raised in a Christian background, but felt that all he needed to do in life was not harm others. He wanted to believe our message, but was hesitant to give God control of his life.

Ben prayed over Jeremy at the end of our conversation. Then Jeremy wanted a turn. He asked God to bless our ministry and asked Him to help him believe. As he left, Jeremy told us he wouldn't believe a word of what we'd said unless we got in touch with him. We did. We've encouraged him to read the Bible, and he's already asked some questions about what he's read. Jeremy is still seeking, and I am still praying that God will work on him and use us as He will to help Jeremy find Him.

Josh Speciale

THANK YOU ALLOWING GOD TO USE YOU TO PARTNER WITH THE PURDUE BCM TO REACH THE LOST FOR CHRIST!

In Christ,

Nettie Beck, Purdue BCM Associate Director