

Notes From Dan and DeAnn!



C 2:8

DeAnn and Elijah with the leaders of the Outreach team, Brenna and Jake, at the dodgeball tournament. (right...the card we handed out for the outreach.)



Community 2:8 is the name of our major spring outreach at UW-Madison. It is a bit different than outreaches we've done in the past. Many times we'll do one big event that we'll promote heavily with maybe an athlete as a speaker, a band, or a very relevant or potentially controversial topic which will draw a large crowd. This spring our outreach was different. It was centered around 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." This outreach was set-up in four stages...Pray, Share, Introduce, and Invite.

Any time you want to impact others for Jesus you must begin with prayer. It's a must. We do not change people. God changes people. So we began praying. Next we would intentionally talk with people about Jesus. We didn't wait until the end to say, "Oh, and by the way, Jesus loves you." We had those conversations early so that it didn't seem weird when we would talk about Jesus later.

Then came the two unique elements to the outreach. First were introduce events. We would, in small groups, hang out with our friends who hadn't yet made a decision for Jesus. As small groups of friends there were game nights and movies and hanging out at coffee shops and playing basketball...basically just sharing our lives. The idea is that it is good for people who don't know Jesus to rub shoulders with those who do. We felt that knowing the names of five or six Christians, actually spending time with them, would positively impact their lives and make it easier for them to come to know Jesus and even to get involved in Christ-centered activities. Which brings us to the next step which is Invite.

We did have a few different events that we invited people to. They were not necessarily religious in nature, although some were. We watched a Badger game, had a men's overnight, a house party and a dodgeball tournament. We wanted to give people a place to come and experience what Christian community really was all about and allow them to see Jesus in the body of believers. Last night we had the dodgeball tournament with around 60 students there, many of whom I had never seen before.

Over the last few weeks I've heard the stories of many students who share how getting to know someone who truly follows Jesus changed their lives and helped bring them into relationship with the Lord. While we don't yet know the outcome of this outreach, please pray for all the students who have stepped into a community of people who are Christ-followers. Pray that they too would come to know Jesus.

Prayer Requests:

1) Pray that significant spiritual conversations would continue to happen and that students would be leading other students to Jesus. Pray for courage to share and for real wisdom to know what to say.