

Dear Friends,



Greetings from Colorado! August 11th marked my first year anniversary of being here in Fort Collins. I cannot believe how much has happened in that time! The fall semester has started here and so has RUF. I've needed all the excitement and energy that I told ya'll I had for the fall in my last newsletter, because we have been BUSY! It can break down into public relations, events and "ethos".

After being on campus for a year I realized we really had no name recognition, not just with non-Christian students but even with 98% of Christian students. So being an artist myself, and dating one talented graphic designer, I thought this was something we could begin to tackle. Last year I learned that the "table tents"--little 4"x6" flyers in plastic frames on all the lunch tables--in the Lory Student Center were free to use for all student organizations. All that has to be done is develop a flyer and reserve the date you wish to use. So for two weeks our flyers will be up in the table tents! Cameron, my sweet boyfriend (of ten months) volunteered to keep with the new flyer theme and redo our 11"x17" Large Group signs, which I put up every Tuesday to remind students of the time and place where we will meet that evening. We are also planning on a make over for the website, but have not begun the actual work. Side walk chalk is allowed on CSU campus, and I think next week we will be getting the word out that way as well. Now, let's talk about what we've been advertising for!

We started off with a back to school picnic and Ultimate Frisbee game for the returning RUF students before they even had their first day of classes.

Then during the first week of school, we had an Ice-cream Social near the freshmen dorms to meet new students. We also had a free tie-dye booth in the main plaza and that was so fun. I'm not bragging, but I thought it up and God blessed it! We met over twenty new students who spent around ten minutes each with us, which is really unheard of for campus "hand-outs" (not only did they get a free shirt with our logo on it, but they took a newly designed 4"x6" flyer with them). I wish I had a picture to include for ya'll, but I had lost my camera at that point. (Found it this weekend...whew!) Our first large group was September 1st. We are studying Galatians this semester and examining "the only source of power for this life and uncovering the many wrong ways we try to prove our worth that lead to disaster." --That's a quote from Ryan that we put on the back of our flyers. Then we had a table in the CSU Student Involvement Fair and gathered a few more student names in exchange for Laughy Taffy and Sweet Tarts. We were able to invite all the students from the tie-dye booth, the student involvement fair and our existing students to a game of ADVENTURE BALL this past Friday. It's a Capture the Flag derivative played in the dark with glow-sticks. Sounds like we've been busy, right?

Well, I am delighted to say we have help! (God of course, but that's not where this is going.) We have a ministry team! Newly formed and with a fresh zest and interest in ministering to the campus at CSU! I put ethos in quotes at the beginning of this letter because when I first came to Colorado State, Ryan kept talking about the ethos he

wanted for the group, and finally after the 50th time, I had to ask him what he meant by that. He began describing his vision for the atmosphere of our group--one that had energy, that cared for the lost all around us, that loved Jesus, but also that was searching and seeking out truth; not just blindly accepting what the leaders said. The growth towards this type of group dynamic is happening before my eyes. I am getting to help train up leaders who don't even realize that they are helping create this ethos. Also the new freshmen that God brought to us add so much. They are networkers by nature and have been bringing their friends, which is exceedingly encouraging!

Ok. So what can you pray for?

1. The non-Christian girl I mentioned in my last newsletter has returned to Large Group and wants to be in the girls' Dessert and Bible-study on Acts that I'll be doing!
2. For God to build the ministry team to be fully functioning and healthy.
3. That Ryan and I would be faithful to be on campus and to network with the students.
4. I have got to raise 8,000 more dollars and need to be faithful to call and to thank you! My sweet--sweet donors!
5. My dear Cameron just moved to Denver, which is only an hour away, but is the furthest apart we have had to be, and I already miss him and his helpful encouragement.
6. I've been missing my friends a lot, and hate that I am not able to be apart of their lives like I used to be able to.

Thanks,  
Christy Chapman