

March 2011

GRACE REPORT

Jared and Dominique Dawson
Jared.Dawson@studentventure.com
C: 219-902-1729

TO GIVE:

Mail checks made payable to "Student Venture"
with inserted note containing our staff number
0623200 to:

Campus Crusade for Christ,
Attn: Contributions,
PO Box 628222,
Orlando, FL 32862-8222

or

ONLINE: www.give.ceci.org/give/0623200

CULTURE IN THE CITY

Ministry Partners,

Training and being teachable is an essential part of any ministry. This month we got to be a part of an excellent training conference through the Urban Youth Workers Institute (UYWI) called Reload. At this conference in Atlanta, urban youth workers from Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia came to be refreshed and trained in urban youth ministry. It was really a great time to connect and learn about what's happening in the Southern region of the US, in regards to urban youth work.

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 1 Cor 9:22

Crazed Culture

While at the conference, we got to connect and learn from others: best practices, ministry strategies, as well as focused training on ministering to people dealing with homosexuality and abusive environments. The seminars we attended were very well put together and very informative.

The presenter of the "Bruises on the Soul: Healing for the Abused, Hopeless and Helpless," was a Christian child psychologist who talked us through some of his experiences. He spoke of one young lady who was entrenched in a promiscuous

lifestyle as she dealt with finding identity issues.

The issue was that she had been sexually abused as a child and was lacking the love and protection anyone of us would expect from our family. So she began to interpret the sexual abuse as love and justified her behavior as "natural". She only associated promiscuity with a negative connotation because she was labeled as "fast," by her teachers and peers. So the



Jared and Dominique working the Student Venture information booth.

presenter showed us how he would use stories from the bible to speak truth and encouragement into the lives of students with these types of mindsets. In her case he used Rahab to show her that she could change, and showed where her true identity and source of love comes from, Jesus Christ.

The "Ministering to Youth in the homosexual lifestyle" seminar was our favorite. The presenter was steeped deeply in the homosexual lifestyle at one time and was a testament to God's saving grace. He grew up in the church and his

father was a pastor. He had been steeped in religion and moralism and didn't genuinely trust and find his identity in Jesus until after reaching a crossroads in his life. We learned from him that for some, homosexuality isn't just a sin that can be done away with, but just as with some other sins (i.e. alcoholism, drugs) it may be something that some people struggle with their whole lives. He also showed us on the other hand, statistically that a significant number can come out of the lifestyle. He taught us that the issue isn't the homosexual attraction but rather where they find their identity. As youth workers our focus, should not be on changing them from gay to not gay, but helping them find their identity in Christ and allowing him to work in their hearts. He showed us that their identity does not need to be found in sexual preference but Christ.

As we have been meeting with different ministries and schools in the city, homosexuality and abuse are going to be huge issues we will have to face in the schools and having the training was great preparation for our future ministry. Through our meetings with people who work in urban youth ministries we have been learning that this is a highly sex crazed culture and there needs to be more Godly voices that tell God's views on these issues. We are so grateful for your prayers and continue to need them as we prepare to face these issues in the schools.



www.svatlanta.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

- PRAY FOR THE BABY AND DOMINIQUE'S HEALTH.
- PRAY FOR THE LORD TO CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR MINISTRY VISION.
- HOUSING DECISIONS
- PRAY FOR OUR ADJUSTMENT TO ATLANTA.
- PRAY FOR OUR ONENESS IN MARRIAGE DURING THESE TRANSITIONS.
- PRAY FOR US TO FINISH RAISING SUPPORT BY THE FALL.

WE ARE CURRENTLY AT 54% OF THE NEW GOAL.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PRAYER REQUEST PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO US AT:

JARED.DAWSON@STUDENTVENTURE.COM

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:
8884 LONG BEACH CIR
ATLANTA, GA 30350