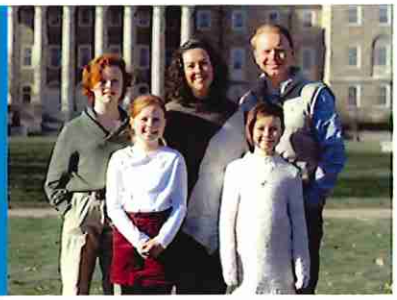
DISCIPLEMAKERS
Reaching the campus...Reaching the world



News from the Robergs' ministry with DiscipleMakers September 19, 2026

The Outreach Table and the Parking Garage

Two interns, two opposite experiences, one story.

One afternoon in late July, fourteen students sat around a set of tables in the largest meeting room at DiscipleMakers' office. The room was mostly quiet as the students typed on their laptops, writing newsletters to friends and family who had supported their summer internship with DiscipleMakers. I (Brian) was there to help them craft their stories, and the students were taking turns showing me what they had written so far.

When an intern named Katelyn sat down next to me, she told me she was having trouble identifying the story she wanted to tell. I suggested we start by talking about what had happened during the summer, and asked her to describe how she had seen God at work.

She answered by describing her feelings surrounding her first day on campus this summer. "Going in, I was feeling pretty confident," she said. "I usually am pretty good at gathering people together, so I thought those skills would help me be successful in inviting students to Bible study. But that first day we did the outreach tables—I've never experienced rejection like that. When I tried to talk to people who passed by, they just ignored me. It was like my body wasn't even there."

I saw that this experience had deeply affected her, but also that she didn't yet see how it could be part of a story she could share with her supporters. So I asked her how she responded to that difficult beginning.

"That night I really wanted to quit," she said.

I knew she hadn't quit, so I asked her what she did instead.

"Well, there were about 20 people who did sign up, so I texted them. But almost all of them ignored me. They never replied. That brought the rejection back all over again. I really didn't want to keep going. It felt like death."



Katelyn and Hannah interned with DiscipleMakers in State College this summer.

I further learned that, starting with those few students who did respond to her invitation, Katelyn had faithfully ministered to the students she met over the course of the summer. I also learned that her ministry had not yielded any dramatic, obviously newsletter-worthy events. (No conversions, for example.) Even so, I heard enough to convince me that Katelyn had an excellent story to tell.

All I had to do was convince her of it.

"I should just scrap this and find something else to write about," she said.

"You can do that if you want," I said. "But I think you've got a great story here."

She looked dubious, so I shared an observation. "You used really strong language when you described how you felt that first day," I said. "Why do you think it felt so much like death?"

We explored this question for several minutes, during which Katelyn realized that something really had died that

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first night. She had had to choose: would she cling to her belief that her abilities made her good enough, or would she accept that God had laid out a path for her that highlighted not her abilities but His faithfulness? The fact that circumstances had forced her to make this decision did not make the decision any easier. She had to decide to put to death her confidence in the flesh.

That was when I saw it click for her.

"That's my story! God gave me exactly what I needed, even when what I needed was rejection!" She was so excited to find her story that she gave me a high-five.

Different Story, Same Story

As I wrapped up my discussion with Katelyn, another intern, Hannah, came over to talk about her story.

"Right before the internship began," she said, "I was really unsure about the whole thing. I didn't think I would be nearly good enough. I even wrote a prayer in my journal before I came, asking God to help because I was afraid it would all be a failure."

I noticed that Hannah's story so far sounded like the opposite of Katelyn's.

> *Lord, I question if this is where you want me or if I have made a mistake. I don't know what I am doing, and I am scared this will all be a failure.*
>
> — Hannah's journal, June 17

"On the first day of outreach," Hannah continued, "when we were helping freshmen move in, I ended up in a conversation with a woman I met while walking through a parking garage on campus. We eventually began discussing what it meant to know God as Father, and I shared the gospel with her. She prayed with me to receive Christ, right there in the parking garage!"

"You led someone to Christ the first day?"

She nodded.

"That's incredible!" I said.

As I registered the full weight of what I'd just heard, I looked back and forth between Hannah and Katelyn (who was still sitting nearby).

"This is amazing," I said. "In one sense, your stories are opposites. But in another sense, they're actually the *same* story. God didn't give either of you what you expected, but He gave both of you exactly what you needed to gain confidence in Him rather than yourselves!"

Share Your Story

When has the Lord brought you something unexpected that turned out to be just what you needed? Send me a note or an email and tell me about it.

Praise and Prayer

- Praise God for His faithfulness to Katelyn and Hannah.
- Pray for the continuing outreach efforts happening now in the early part of the school year. Pray that the connections made during initial outreach will lead to deepening engagement with students.

Grace and peace,

Brian & Carin



The first Bible study at Penn State Harrisburg this fall. About 85 students arrived at a room meant to hold 35 people. Students sat on the floor, stood in the back, and even sat outside in the hallway so that they could read God's Word. Among those in the hallway were a couple of students from the Middle East who had never opened a Bible before.