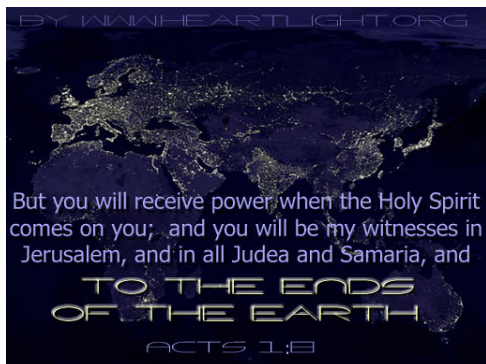


Baptist Student Ministries



The Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) on the campuses of Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas, provide a Christian environment on campus where students can find personal encouragement and friendship, Bible studies, and mission opportunities. Both BSMs encourage students in the sharing of their Christian faith. It is through this ministry that many of the churches find the path to connect with college students. Denton Baptist Association provides the funding for the program ministries on both of these campuses. Stephanie Gates is the director at UNT and Mika Sumpter is the director at TWU.

During the 2010-2011 school year, students at both universities are being challenged by Acts 1:8 to take the Gospel to the campus, the local community, and around the world. The BSM students have planned and participated in numerous conversations and events in an effort to impact the community where God has placed them.

At the **UNT BSM**, ten small groups each planned two campus outreach events to help them minister to other students.

These diverse events included World Series watch parties; trash pick-up; baking and delivering cookies; game nights in the dorms; and cleaning windshields around campus.

The **TWU BSM** had an exciting semester of campus outreach opportunities which included decorating cookies and game nights. They also have a partnership with the International Student Association with monthly gatherings to build relationships.

One of the student leaders at TWU,

Stephanie M, is a music therapy major. One of her goals has been to reach out to her fellow music majors to share Jesus. Since the BSM building is located across the street from the Music building on campus, it made it easy for them to provide a meal with the music students before a choir concert. Knowing the students would not have time to eat before a performance, they hosted a meal for them. While the meal that night was a success, they were not prepared for what would happen during the following days. Music students came into the BSM to simply hang out and ask questions. Relationships began to develop between the music students and the students at the BSM. Today those relationships are reaching the point that God is using them as witness opportunities for students.



Not all of the ministry at the two BSMs is done separately. The **TWU & UNT BSMs** partnered together to provide an

opportunity for students to get to know one another while ministering to the community of Denton. The two groups worked with local churches, ministry organizations, and

Mission Denton to involve students in numerous mission opportunities around the city. A large amount of time was spent ministering to children in various community settings. Since both groups of BSM students spent the weekend at Camp Copass, they had time to worship, pray, and fellowship together.

While BSM students not only have the opportunity to involve themselves personally in mission and ministry projects in the Denton area and in more distant areas during the summer and Spring Break, they also learn



that missions often have a financial cost associated with them. The **UNT BSM** was able to raise over \$3,000 for Go Now Missions this semester. The leadership team members participated in the Dirty Duel Off. Team members were paired against each other. They attempted to raise mission money to be placed in their opponents money jar. The jar with the most money gave the other student the opportunity to



throw a pie in their competitor's face. Additionally, each small group planned a missions fundraiser. These events consisted of: making and selling T-shirts, a garage sale, selling breakfast and lunch outside of the BSM to students, and an outdoor movie. Go Now Missions provides money for sending college students as summer and semester missionaries throughout the United States and to many other countries.

Students have a need for study and spiritual growth as well as mission action. The **UNT BSM** had over 150 students participate in small groups during the fall semester. They studied 1, 2, and 3 John to understand how God's love impacts their own lives and the lives of people around them.

A new study group, *Doctrine and Dialogue*, formed in the fall with meetings every Friday at noon. Thirty to forty students participated each week to read and discuss Wayne Grudem's *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*.

The **TWU BSM** made a big change that is really paying off. They moved their evening worship gathering, *Whatever*, from Thursdays to Mondays. By moving to Monday nights in the Student Union their attendance has doubled. Many of the additional students are new to the worship time.

Both **UNT BSM** and **TWU BSM** host weekly lunches on Wednesdays. Churches in Denton Baptist Association volunteer to provide the food for these free lunches to the students. With between 200-300

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attending each week at UNT and over 100 attending at TWU, these are the largest weekly gatherings at both BSMs.

Mika reports that at the **TWU BSM** a number of students are beginning to deepen their relationships in order to share Christ. Students were encouraged to look at where they spend their time and to invest it with others. One of the student leaders at TWU has a friend who is a Muslim. She has been investing in her friend's life. One particular day the student leader needed to practice the piano for worship and asked her friend to come with her. Listening to the music was not only beautiful for those in the BSM, but it was a testimony to her friend that proclaimed the gospel of Christ!

Both BSMs continue to find ways to reconnect with alumni who were part of the BSM during their college days. The **UNT BSM** hosted a reception over the summer for alumni from the 1970s. Over



70 alumni came to enjoy the fellowship and lunch. Many shared stories of how God used the BSM to impact their lives

during their years on campus. Any alumni can be added to the mailing list of the BSM by contacting their particular BSM via phone or email.

Through the ministry of the **UNT** and **TWU BSMs** students are finding ways to live their faith and build relationships that will help to draw others to Christ. Cooperation of the churches, individuals, and the association enable this ministry to continue reaching and challenging college students with the love of God.