

Baptist Student Ministries

Fall is here and Denton is bustling with lots of college students. Both TWU and UNT are coming to life with new and returning students.

Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) eagerly prepares and trains student



UNT students at Taco and Game Night

leaders to look for opportunities to build relationships, make connections and share the love of Jesus with people who do not have a personal relationship with Him. Pray for students as they make connections in classes, dorms and apartments.

First Flight Week

The first week of classes is always a busy time for our BSMs. Many activities were planned during *First Flight Week* to help students connect with one another: these included a Hotdog Cookout, Scavenger Hunt, Game Night, Dodgeball, Open Mic Night and a Church Progressive Dinner.

Student Missionaries

This past summer there were over 10 UNT BSM students and 3 TWU BSM students serving around the world on mission! Some of the locations where they served were Africa, Paris, London, Peru, Russia, Thailand, Latvia, New York City and Laredo, TX. There were also students who spent their summers



Brie with a

servicing at Texas Baptist camps. It is wonderful to see students giving their summers to serve and share the Gospel. Students would love to share their mission experiences with churches in the area.

Contact Mika at the TWU BSM or Stephanie at the UNT BSM for information.

New Staff

Three new staff members have joined the UNT BSM this year. **Jeremy Spray** is the new intern and will be spending the semester focusing on discipleship ministries. **Randy McSwain** and **Amanda Ratheal** are the new campus missionaries. Randy will be working primarily with international students, and Amanda will be working with connecting new students to the BSM and local churches. All three will be active participants in campus outreach.

Ways your church can get involved

- Provide a Free Lunch on Wed. (both UNT & TWU need help)
- Help mentor and disciple students
- Have church families “adopt” students to help them have a family here in Denton.
- Minister to International Students: Come to **WorldLife** on Friday nights at 6:30 PM, or help an international student practice their English by being their conversation partner.



A Summer Mission Story

- The following story is from Cristin, a student at UNT.

I traveled to Volgograd, Russia this summer to partner with a local church and lead an English camp. The campers ranged in age from 16-28, and they came from all over the city. Some were believers but most were not. My group of campers were fluent English speakers, so in all honesty we just played games and talked about our lives during English lesson time. (I'm a great teacher, I know) My campers were an extraordinary group of people. They were all so very smart and curious about American culture.

During the week I was in charge of teaching all 53 campers how to play baseball. Day 1 most of the campers struggled to even get on the glove much less catch with it. However by the end of the week my group played for the championship. I felt like a proud parent! One of my campers, Grisha, may in fact become the next big baseball star, by Russian standards anyways.

During the day I had the opportunity to have one-on-one time with a camper of my choosing. This time was mainly meant for delving deeper and helping them practice conversation skills. I took Nastia, who was a medical student. I started out asking her how she heard about the camp. She replied that she heard about it through some friends and she wanted to work on her English. However, she had apprehensions about coming to the camp because it was a Christian organization. I strongly felt the Lord put

a hand on my shoulder to not push the issue, so I didn't say anything further. We continued on with our conversation and the week went on. By the grace of God I was eventually able to have several spiritual conversations with her. One of my favorites was the day we spoke on “purpose”, using Romans 8 which addresses God's specific purpose for our life. Nastia became my one camper who by the end of the week was asking the most spiritually based questions. I'm now in contact with her and I pray that Jesus will continue to work on her heart.



Cristin

God taught me that conversations matter.

I can't tell you how many conversations I got to have with people on the plane that were curious about the trip. God can work in every single instance, and the world outside is our mission field. UNT is a campus of lost individuals hurting for something. We were called to go out and make disciples of men, love on people, get to know them, build a relationship with them, and show Christ's love to them. I'm well aware of how simple yet complicated this task is... But seeing it all in motion was such a glorious wonderful opportunity.

- This story is from Kim, a student at TWU

I went on a mission trip to Boston, and it changed my life. I gave out granola bars, talked to people in random places, and realized how God can use me in Denton. Upon returning to school, God has opened several doors allowing me to build relationships with new students. I am anxious to see how God will grow the ministry of the



Kim

BSM. I am excited to partner with other believers who want to share Christ with those who do not know Him.