



Fighting the Good Fight

The Ministry of Andrew Brandt, reaching the students of Chicago for Christ

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Major Outreaches Hit University of Chicago



Bears Chaplain Harry Swayne poses with Athletes in Action students and leaders after speaking to 25 Athletes.

“I’m a polytheistic Hellenist.” That was the response from one of the students who attended our focus group at the University of Chicago a few weeks ago when she was asked what her religious beliefs were. I wasn’t sure what that meant when I heard it but she later confirmed that she believed in the gods of Greek mythology. She also shared that she was a Lesbian. It struck me that this wasn’t they type of student who normally shows up at a Campus Crusade for Christ meeting. There were about 10 other students who showed up to get free pizza and talk about life, relationships, and religion with us for an hour. One of the ground rules was that we couldn’t do

anything but ask questions. Once the hour was over however, students stuck around to talk to talk, often asking for the Christian perspective on what we were talking about.

That focus group was the final event of an evangelistic thrust that had taken place at U of C over a period of a couple weeks. One week earlier a Doctoral Student of Philosophy from Purdue, who used to be on our staff, spoke at an outreach entitled “Can Man Live Without God”. 75 students packed a lecture hall to listen to him talk about whether the atheistic worldview could answer life’s important questions, and about how he thought the Christian worldview could. After a half hour lecture, most students stayed an hour and a half longer to ask questions and discuss the topic.

Our Athletes in Action group had their first outreach as well. Harry Swayne, who currently serves as the Chaplain for the Chicago Bears shared his story with 25 athletes. Normally there are about 5 students at the group. Harry is a former NFL player and won 3 Super Bowl Rings in his career, two with the Denver Broncos and one with the Baltimore Ravens. A huge part of his testimony was that he was getting ready to run out of the tunnel at the Super Bowl and realized that he had never thanked God for anything in his life. The students seemed very engaged as he spoke and many stuck around afterward to talk to him and take pictures. We have seen an increase in students coming to Athletes in Action since the outreach.