



# Fighting the Good Fight

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

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## Chicago Students Share their Faith at Panama City Beach



*Myself, Brittany, Kelly, and Maribeth just before an evening session on Big Break.*

A few weeks ago Brittany, an intern on our team, and I took two students from Loyola down to Panama City Beach Florida for a conference called Big Break. Panama City is the top Spring Break destination for college students and is known for its dance clubs and wild parties. Over 1000 students from CCC were there for the conference and hit the beaches talking to spring breakers about their faith. In total for the week over 70 students indicated a decision to receive Christ. This past week 7 students from the University of Chicago went for another week of the Big Break conference.

One of the highlights of the trip was staying in a room with seven guys from Central Michigan University, my alma mater. I was able to spend time with Tim, a student I disciplined in college as well as several of the younger guys who will most likely be leaders there in the future. I was so encouraged to see the CMU and Loyola students take steps of faith throughout the week.

Jeff and I walked into a building at Illinois Benedictine University looking for some students to share our faith with. Normally it's a pretty high traffic area but there weren't too many students around. We came upon a group of students sitting on a couch that we thought were probably Muslim students. We asked them to take a survey and began to get to know them a little bit. When the survey was over I asked them if they would be interested in hearing how we believe one can know God personally. They agreed and we began to go through a gospel presentation with them. There were about 10 students in and out of the discussion. It was fascinating to see the different perspectives that we had on God, but also see them start to understand the gospel message. At one point when talking about how our sin is what separates us from God, Rizawai, one of the students, blurted out, "Well that sucks". Then, when we talked about Jesus' death being what paid the penalty for your sins if you trust in him, he just could not get over that that wasn't fair, and that the fair thing would be for us to pay for our own sins. I was struck by how correct he was. Our sin does separate us from God and it does suck. Christ's death on the cross paying the penalty for what we deserve isn't fair. How funny that from the mouth of a Muslim student came the thought I'll be focusing on this Easter season.