

STEVE'S SNIPPITS

Issue #1

Jan 2014

Dear Friends & Family,

Greetings from the snowy prairies of Saskatchewan! It's been over five months that I've been living away from the familiarity of Manitoba, and while it's not always been easy, not a day goes by that I'm not thankful to God for how he brought me into this new and exciting opportunity. I feel blessed to be working with the dance ministry *Refined/Undignified* and I hope that the following newsletter helps explain the ministry and what my role is with them. Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, I would love to discuss the ministry of R/U with you.

Blessings,

Steve Klassen



WHAT IS R/U?

Refined/Undignified, or R/U, is a unique team that uses the God given gift of dance to impact students with the hope of Jesus Christ. The official mission statement states the goal "to reach a hurting generation by equipping followers of Jesus Christ to present relevant and powerful portrayals of the gospel through music and dance." What that translates into is a group of high school, college students and leaders who train hard both physically in dance, and spiritually through team devotion times, accountability partners, and mentorship, in order to prepare performances that use dance, drama, spoken work, and music to present the message of hope found in Jesus Christ. Having a unique performance like we do gives us the opportunity to travel across Canada and internationally to visit churches, youth groups, and public and Christian schools alike to present to them. We are able to come alongside guidance counselors, pastors, and teachers to challenge and inspire students to think about how they are living. During our performance we are able to share the truth with our audience, the truth that Jesus Christ loves them and that if they are not living for Him they are missing the true purpose of their lives.

WHAT'S IN THE NAME?

The name is derived from two different bible verses. We desire to be refined by Christ and purified to live a life wholly for him. Undignified is a less commonly desired trait, but as King David showed us, we are called to be undignified before our heavenly father, and as a team, we desire to put ourselves last and obey God even if we look ridiculous to others.



REFINED

"This third I will bring into the fire; I will **refine** them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is

UNDIGNIFIED

I will celebrate before the Lord, I will become even more **undignified** than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. – 2 Samuel 6:22



PARTNERED WITH BRIERCREST

R/U has the privilege of partnering with Briercrest College and Caronport High school (CHS), while maintaining autonomy as its own organization. This means we are able to train and perform on campus with all our teams, we enforce minimum academic requirements for our dancers, and we promote the schools when we travel. This arrangement is a mutual blessing for R/U and the schools, and gives R/U the freedom to maintain full authority over the direction and vision of the R/U teams.

DO I DANCE?

No. Well, sort of no. It's not my "job" but I am always learning from the team, and sometimes participate in workshops, training times and dance circles. I was even a fill-in dancer for a small performance recently. So, I guess I'd say, if dance is defined as "movement", aren't we all dancers?

SASKATCHEWAN LIFE

1. I'm officially a Saskatchewan resident now, and finished my paperwork (health card & drivers license) transfer.

2. I no longer own a vehicle as I sold mine once I moved. It definitely works for me at this point, and I'm just trusting God to provide what I need when I need it.

3. I live in a house trailer in Caronport with three other guys, all involved in R/U.

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

My job with R/U is one that continues to morph and develop, but at this point I am the booking agent, road manager, and the directors right-hand man. This means that I am in charge of arranging and planning the details for all R/U shows and then I travel with each team when they go out to perform. I also work closely with the director Adrian as we work to make wise plans for the future of the ministry. This involves writing policies, creating job descriptions, dreaming up new opportunities, and managing the seven non-student R/U volunteer staff this year. I really love my job and look forward to the new adventures of each day. It's really exciting to be in a safe environment where I'm stretched and challenged daily.



STAY INFORMED!

If you'd like to know more about the weekly activities of R/U, sign up for our R/U e-newsletter...delivered right to your inbox every couple of weeks. Visit www.refinedundignified.com/support to sign up.

E-mail Updates

THE 2013-2014 R/U TEAMS

This year R/U is blessed to have four teams. All teams practice three times a week, which also includes a time of team devotions. The total weekly commitment is about 10 hours a week, and more for the leaders of the teams.



"BLITZ" - This non-student team focuses on performing in public schools and building the relationships and reputation of R/U in a three hour radius of Caronport.



COLLEGE - We have two college teams, one with returning members (*below*) and one made up of first time members (*above*). Both teams travel throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during the school year.



HIGH SCHOOL - The high school team has ten members and focuses on public school performances in the Moose Jaw area.

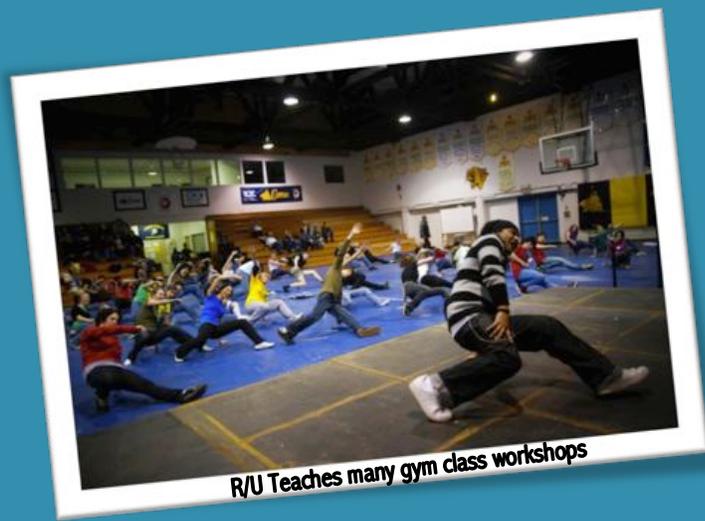


TOURING SCHEDULE

This is the first year that R/U has had a designated booking agent, and so because of that we've been able to perform more often than in the past, and we have many more opportunities coming up in the next few months.

Since August, we've already been in three provinces and travelled almost 7,000 kilometers. These trips include teaching workshops in gym classes, performing in youth groups, churches, and conferences, and leading workshops and performing at summer camps. In the future, we have events such as another week-long tour in Manitoba, as well as Youth Quake in Caronport, and Missionfest Alberta.

If you're interested in having one of our teams perform at your church, youth group, school or event, I'd love to hear from you. We can adapt to a variety of lengths of time and budgets, so contact me at booking@refinedundignified.com, or visit www.refinedundignified.com for more information.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

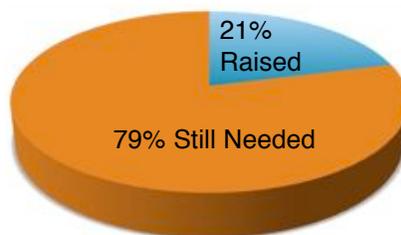
My position with R/U is one where I rely completely on the financial support of friends like you who believe in what I am doing and choose to sponsor me. All donations are received through *The Great Commission Foundation* (TGCF) and tax-deductible receipts are issued through them.

I have entered this new chapter of my life fully trusting God to provide for my needs, and he has been faithful. I was blessed with having savings to live on during the transition time, but I also have some goals to help me be able to continue serving with R/U for years to come.

My personal support-raising goal is \$2,000 per month and I'm currently at 21% of that goal, so clearly I have a long way to go.

There are two ways to support me. The first way is committing a set monthly amount. Even small monthly donations add up and are a huge blessing. A second way of giving is with a one-time donation of any amount. There are many ways to give, including direct, online, and by mail. All of this information can be found on our website, or see the orange section below.

I trust that as God has called me here, he will provide a way for me to do it. I would request that you ask the Lord how he would have you move forward, and if he would have you support me financially. If you would be willing to join my support team, I'd love to hear from you!



HOW TO DONATE

Visit www.tgcfcanada.org and click on "Donate" for information on how to donate by debit, credit card, or online.

To give with a **CHEQUE**, Make payable to: The Great Commission Foundation and include a note: "For Refined/Undignified - Steve Klassen"

SEND TO:

THE GREAT COMMISSION FOUNDATION
#3 - 1335 Trans Canada Way SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1J1

PRAISE & PRAYER

God is
good!

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom & discernment as I help make important ministry decisions
- Patience as I work with many people daily
- Faith as I move forward trusting God to provide my daily needs
- Unity for all our teams

PRAISES!

- Bringing me to a new and exciting vocation
- Supplying amazing R/U members and leadership
- Safety as we've gone out on tour
- Many opportunities to minister to others

THE FUTURE OF R/U

It's an exciting season for R/U and each week there seems to be more shows booked, more opportunities for the future, and a clearer understanding how God is using R/U to grow his kingdom. We have over 20 job applications on our website for both next year and this summer, and we continue to be able to formalize and bring clarity to the direction of R/U. As Adrian and I work together, a word we mention often is "sustainability", and this speaks to the strong commitment we have to enable this ministry to be around for years to come. This requires constantly seeking Christ in our daily decisions and then moving forward in confidence as God leads.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP

R/U has the chance to perform for over two weeks in Mexico this May. This will be the second year that the team is going to Mexico, and the opportunities to speak openly about Christ, even in the public schools, are amazing. The trip will be packed with shows at schools, churches and street ministry. We translate the speaking in our shows into Spanish, but for the most part, the dance speaks the stories clearly in all languages. I'm really excited about this trip and if you'd like more information you can visit our website.

MY PERSONAL CONTACT INFO

I'd love to hear from you, feel free to contact me any of the ways below.

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