

22 June 2021 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update

Dear Partners,

Summers are back to being an opportune time to develop students and help them engage in ministry. Last year almost every summer venue was canceled because of Covid. It was quite a hit to miss out on the momentum we gain from those intense, faith-stretching growth situations.



But praise God, there are places students could go and the Lord is working.

In May I returned to help staff our short-term Leadership Trek, geared for younger students who desire to have a ministry. I think we had students from 17 different campuses attend for equipping mixed with outdoor adventure.

After teaching on the gospel with various training sessions on different ways to share the gospel with others, we set aside one afternoon to meet people and strike up spiritual conversations.

It can feel free pretty scary to initiate with a stranger and ask permission to talk about their perspectives and spiritual background, especially if you've never done it before. You wonder if it will feel awkward or if anyone would really be interested. Nobody wants to feel foolish.



Yet taking new students out to get their feet wet is one of the most fun things we do. Generally, once the first conversation gets started, people relax as they see an example of a respectful, yet intentional, conversation. It helps that we try to pair inexperienced students up with someone more experienced. Sometimes a new person won't say anything during the first conversation, but given the opportunity of a few good encounters, even the most reserved usually find they can initiate and be successful. In fact, we

share a helpful definition of success in witnessing which is *taking the initiative to share Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God.*

At the end of the night, we celebrated the day and shared stories of people's encounters. It's so fun to see how our students experienced the day and to hear how those they got to meet and talk with responded.

A few of the people we talked with were believers who were excited we were out there. Some others had no interest in talking. More commonly, people were willing to talk, but had little knowledge or appreciation of Christianity.

My final conversation that afternoon illustrates this sobering reality. After receiving permission to hear about two young women's backgrounds, a student and I sat down and I notice what was either a sword or an up-side-down cross tattooed by one girl's eye. As we talk, she expressed that she was a Satanist and I knew her tattoo expressed her anti-Christian posture.



I listened as she shared about her perspective, what she wanted to get out of life, and what it was about Satanism that was attractive. She expressed that she wasn't really following the person of Satan but was opposed to what she perceived as Christian culture and refused to conform. We talked for a while, and I answered questions about scripture, science, whether there is life on other planets, etc. It was easy to talk about grace, forgiveness, and Jesus as creator and Lord.

When our time ran out with these ladies, they shared their appreciation and enjoyment for our friendly conversation. Though they still seem far from acknowledging Christ as Lord, they were positive as we taught biblical truth and offered them kindness and respect even in the midst of our obvious disagreement.

While conversations with a self-identified Satanist isn't common, the changes in our culture seems to be bringing more and more young people with anemic biblical understanding who are skeptical and too often have an active disdain and resistance to Christianity

Even so, God is still moving across the nation with students lovingly sharing the gospel and people responding. For instance, the North Myrtle Beach Cru summer mission which includes 19 students and 3 staff from Southern Wisconsin, has been sharing with lots of people. In the last few weeks, the staff

and students have already initiated with 2,522 people which resulted in spiritual conversations with 1,944. Of those, they shared the gospel with 1,029 people and 53 of them indicated decisions to put their faith in Christ.



As encouraging as it is to have students sharing the gospel with others on summer missions, pray they faithfully continue to reach out as God's ambassadors back on campus and for decades to come.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we influence the next generation of influencers,

*Scott Roe*

**The Southern Wisconsin Cru Staff Team**