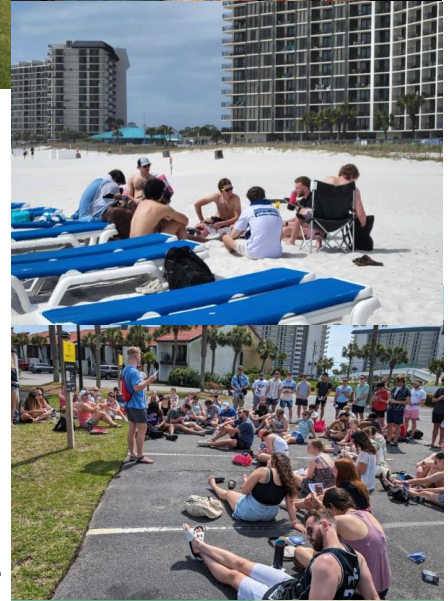


May 2024 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update



Dear Friends,

Jesus said the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Along with taking our Lord's admonition to pray for laborers, our steadfast commitment is to create environments and opportunities for people to step out into the mission field to catch a heart for ministry while doing ministry.

Over Spring Break, 90 students plus a few volunteers joined us staff on two amazing weeklong mission trips.

After seven years, many of our team returned to Panama City Beach, Florida, for a week of beach evangelism. There were other sweet components of the trip, including preparing a meal for the homeless, but the heart of it was helping students strike up spiritual conversations with Spring Breakers hanging out on the sand.

Away from pressing obligations, people often feel free to discuss life, faith, and God. Our students had a blast, learned a lot, and saw 58 people indicate decisions for the Lord.

Across the Gulf of Mexico, 37 of us from Southern Wisconsin participated in an eye-opening, faith-filled journey to Cuba. Teaming up with Cuban pastors and volunteers from a couple churches, we were welcomed into modest homes by lots of grateful people. Many showed their amazement as we demonstrated filters that could turn brown, polluted water into clear drinking water. We provided 99 water filters, had spiritual conversations with 130 people. 39 people prayed with us to invite Jesus into their lives as they realized they needed Jesus to cleanse them of their sin similar to how the filters could clean filthy water.

These eternally significant trips are investments that lead to even more eternally significant decisions and activities.

Thank you for investing in this ministry which helps make this possible!

Scott Roe Benckton
Southern Wisconsin Cru Team Leaders





Scan this QR Code to watch a 4-minute video to see Cuba and from students.

Below is part of a message from a freshman named Hayoung. She's pictured in the middle of the photo to the right.

Despite my lack of experience, throughout the trip, God showed me how great He can work through me, as insignificant as I am.

For sharing, we were divided into groups of 3 to 4, with a translator for each group, and we went to 2 different communities in Havana with our filters. We visited individual houses in the community and demonstrated how to install and use the water filter that cleans out every impurity and particle of bacteria for 10 years. I still cannot forget how the Cuban people were shocked to witness the brown, contaminated water turning into clear, filtered water. I could see the excitement in their eyes to be free from the sicknesses brought by the polluted water.

After that, we shared the gospel with the people, using the filter as an analogy. Everyone was open to listening to God love them so much that He sent Jesus (just like the filter), who cleansed their dirty sins (dirty water) so they could have a relationship with God as His redeemed children.

So many people in Cuba have idols in their houses in different forms, including dolls, plants, and pottery. I felt so sorry for God that His name is not worshiped and praised because of these idols. The spiritual warfare was real; we had to keep praying while sharing. Almost every person I shared with struggled to understand that to accept Jesus is to have a relationship with him; it is not religion. It took numerous prayers for them to understand the unconditional love and forgiveness of Jesus, but eventually, God was graceful and opened their eyes and hearts.

To be honest, I was not confident in my ability to share in the beginning. I tend to use my perception and perspective to pick and choose the person I want to share the gospel with based on their appearance, facial expressions, etc. When I started sharing on Monday, I prayed to God, acknowledging that I am not the one doing the work, and repented for being too focused on my ability rather than His. Witnessing how God works for His Kingdom was an answer to prayer. When God decides to work, nothing can stop Him from working. Our God is a miracle-working God. He even changed the hearts of those who seemed most unreceptive to hearing the gospel. All I needed to do was trust that He would work according to His will.

Diana was the very first lady I shared the water filter and gospel within Havana. Diana had so many idols in her house, and she said she had been struggling with severe chest pain for 2 weeks. There was great spiritual warfare throughout the time we were sharing with her. It took her so long to open up and understand the love of Jesus. After 2 hours of conversation, Diana said she wanted to accept Christ. Upon reciting the prayer of acceptance, she told us her chest pain was gone. This was my first-time experiencing God use me to bring someone into his kingdom right before my eyes, and I will forever treasure this moment.

