

August 9, 2021 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update

¡Hola amigos!

Last week Southern Wisconsin Cru took its missions trip with *Filter of Hope*, and it was awesome. The needs we witnessed in town and countryside of the Dominican Republic were sobering. We entered various Dominican and Haitian immigrant communities struggling to hang on with scant resources and limited employment options. The lack of clean water is a daily problem where most of the families we encountered used a sizeable portion of their meager incomes to buy bottled water. Other families succumb to using whatever water they can find. Even if piped in water can be found near their homes, it isn't potable and poses a risk to their health.

This clean water deficit gushed with opportunity for the church to love them well. Working with local churches, we walked through neighborhoods, cared for the dozens of children looking for our attention, and offered families a filter that can purify all the water they would need for 10 years.



With the help of a translator, we explained how to use this filter, while finding out about their lives. We drilled a hole in a 5-gallon bucket, filled it with dirty water and then added a scoop of dirt to show them the efficacy of the filter. After stirring, the brown water was repulsive, and no one wanted to drink it. But after a moment, pure water flowed from that nasty bucket, through the filter, cleanly into a cup. When we held up the two contrasting cups, we'd take a drink from the clear option. I loved when I could see reactions of amazement and thankfulness. Kids, especially, were ready to perform the trick and drink the water.



After demonstrating how to maintain the filter, we asked if we could talk about their relationship with Jesus. At least someone in every household wanted to. This is a culture where the vast majority of people seem to have a religious understanding of Christianity and would say they believe in Jesus, but their understanding of the gospel was commonly incomplete. They believe that Jesus cared for them and hoped their lives would measure up, so God would accept them when they died. When asked what would happen when they died, enough included the word *infierno*, that I now know is the Spanish word for hell.

While talking about the grandeur, holiness, love and kindness of God, the filter was often a very helpful visible metaphor to illustrate the gospel and the reason for the cross. Our lives are filled with sin like the bucket is with dirty water. We cannot add good works to our lives to make us righteous before God any more than we can



add a cup full of pure water to the dirty bucket water to make that water clean. But Jesus' death provides the way for our lives to be purified. He acts like a filter to purify our lives and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. When we turn to him and trust in him and his sufficient work on the cross alone to

clean our lives of past, present, and future sin, he accepts us and brings us into his family forever. As we talked about the gospel and living out a relationship with God in his grace, we gave them a Bible in Spanish or Creole. We regularly found these helpful to read and discuss passages in their language.

Evelio and Yamica [Pictured here with the bucket on table] were one of the couples we met in their home. He was fun and outgoing, but said it wasn't yet his moment to respond to Jesus. She, who was carrying his child, had been more reserved during the bucket demonstration and ensuing spiritual conversation, spoke up at that point and said she was ready now. We talked more and ended up leading Yamica in a prayer to receive Christ. It was a special moment as I offered a prayer which our translator put into her heart language, so Carolina was able to offer here heart to God in her sweet, mild voice.

There were seven times when people we met indicated that they were ready to receive Christ! Additionally, other family members acknowledged that they understood grace and forgiveness in a new way and were interested in connecting to the local church body. Understanding grace can feel like a burden being removed from one's shoulders.

It's hard to believe this was only one week. There were eleven of us from Madison and Whitewater, most inexperienced in sharing the gospel but motivated to offer clean water. By the end, all were glad for the opportunity to offer earthly and living water. In the first couple days since returning, I've been encouraged to hear some have already been sharing the gospel with colleagues and family members, continuing to use the filter metaphor.

¡Muchas gracias!

Scott Roe
The Southern Wisconsin Cru Staff Team ·



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Pray for us as we work with staff and students to get ready for the new year.

Pray for our student leaders to minister faithfully, effectively, and fruitfully.

We just reloaded our give-a-way inventories with sunglasses, masks, stickers, and t-shirts so we can reach out to new and old students with extra intensity during August and September. Pray we engage many, many people one-on-one, at social events, through our gatherings, and online. We want them to connect with Cru, but more importantly, we wish to introduce them to Jesus and help them grow in their faith.

Below are some key upcoming dates and events. Additionally our staff, students, and volunteers will be busy hosting house parties, setting up info tables, and reaching out personally to talk with interested students and faculty as best they can. Please pray.

- Aug 15 Edgewood College students move in
- Aug 15 Older students move into new apartments
- Aug 17-19 Cru Staff Retreat
- Aug 24 Friends of Cru Gathering*
- Aug 31-Sept 1 Leadership Advance
- Sept 1-2 UW Residence Hall move in
- Sept 2 Whitewater Classes Begin
- Sept 3 Chancellor's Convocation for New UW students
- Sept 6 Cru Labor Day Volleyball Tournament
- Sept 7 First Cru Live Weekly Meeting (Whitewater)
- Sept 9 First Badger Cru Weekly Meeting (Madison)
- Sept 12-16 Small Group Bible Studies Launch
- Sept 17 Women's Progressive Dinner
- Sept 18 Spike ball Tournament
- Sept 24 Men's Beast Feast Event
- Oct 1 Barn Bash
- Oct 8-10 Southern Wisconsin Fall Getaway
- Oct 25-29 Fill the Feast Outreach

**See back side. If you are near Madison, we'd love for you to join us!*

Friends of Cru

OPEN HOUSE

We've missed you!

Please join us to **reconnect**, **celebrate** what God is doing, have a chance to **invest** in this year's ministry initiatives, and **be encouraged** through fellowship and good food!

TUESDAY AUGUST 24 | 5:30-8:00pm | ELVER PARK SHELTER

Appetizers + desserts provided



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