

30 March 2021 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update

Dear Partners,

You wouldn't believe how glad our students have been to meet together again for live, in-person meetings! Actually, I bet many of you would!

One year after COVID-19 deprived us of our meeting space, High Point Church generously opened their doors to our Badger Cru ministry. Though masked and



in small groups spread across a sanctuary located a 15-minute drive off campus, many of us were together again, enjoying worship, teaching, prayer, and community. It was like an infusion of fresh vitamins to those feeling deficient. People who had not seen each other for a year and others who had never met were energized to share a worship space. No wonder Hebrews 10 exhorts believers to meet together.

Last week was "freshman takeover," an annual occurrence when new students plan and run the week's activities. Even though freshman numbers are lower, we were encouraged by the many sharp new women and men leading the charge. Thank God for this freshman class who are growing and excited to be involved.

Furthermore, we are grateful that a good number of these freshman and sophomores interested in leading with Cru are signing up to participate in a Cru summer mission. After a year of missed opportunities, a summer boot camp-like experience will help prepare these younger students to multiply their lives next year.





Recently the pastor of Midvale Baptist Church reached out with the opportunity to give away 30-pound boxes of food. Several of us seized the opportunity and gave over 70 boxes to neighbors and strangers.

American students and international families from Belarus, China, India, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey were glad for the food. Off campus, we interacted with immigrant families and others in the community we met at laundromats, gas stations, a bus station, and their homes. We came across one couple as they were moving into an apartment after four years of homelessness. It took effort, and it wasn't ministry as normal. Yet it was fun to have great conversations that allowed us to share the gospel with people we couldn't have otherwise. During a time when many are skeptical of Christianity, we were able to display the love of Christ in word and deed, leaving a "good taste in people's mouths" as we turned their attention to Jesus.



One of the new initiatives this year has been the *Working at the Wheel* podcast hosted by Wisconsin Cru students. The name is a reference to Jeremiah 18 and is another way to inspire and equip others to be usable vessels for God's purposes. Guests address issues such as dating, mental health, evangelism, sexual purity, media consumption, college life, worship, and a surrendered life. Currently it's at 19 episodes and counting.

Thank you so much for the prayers and financial investments you offer to the Southern Wisconsin Cru ministry. Jesus is changing lives.

The Southern Wisconsin Cru Staff Team

VISION DINNER NOTE:

As our nation is still affected by COVID-19 realities, we decided to forgo our traditional Spring event at this time. Stay tuned. We will reach out to you with an alternative plan.

