



Chicago Summer Mission 2025

A Call to Love the City

Serving the Lord in the Chicagoland

"As you have sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world." -- John 17:18

June 2025

Welcome to the **Windy City, Chitown, the Second City** -- birthplace of deep dish pizza, Italian beef sandwiches and Polish sausage! Setting to movies like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Home Alone* and *The Bear*. Chicago is home to ethnic and cultural groups from every continent (we live in "**Greektown**," thrift in **Andersonville**, the US's second largest Swedish population, and got the best churros of all time from **Pilsen**, Chicago's Mexican-American neighborhood), accommodating stunning parks like **Lincoln** and **Grant** and **Millennium**, and curating **over 60 incredible museums** such as the **Art Institute of Chicago** and the **Field Museum**! We have nine professional sports teams, two international airports, a vibrant public transportation system affectionately known as the L -- there is no shortage of things to do, people to meet, and cuisine to experience! Chi is known for a burgeoning economy bolstered by manufacturing, healthcare, food processing, and tech with headquarters for **McDonald's**, **Grubhub**, **Caterpillar**, and **Walgreens**! Most importantly for us, **Chicago is home to over 100 institutes of higher learning which embodies approximately 217,000 people**. And yet, in the midst of the affluence, activity, and novelty...there is a longing for God in a way that surprises and delights us.

The Chicago Summer Mission consists of 81 staff, staff kids, and students who are all here to share the good news of Jesus to the hub of the midwest. Students and staff hail from VA, OH, IN, KS, MI, and WV and work part time in Chick Fil A, Cru Inner City, McDonalds, and other local businesses. During the day, they are building relationships with coworkers and learning how to witness to those around them through their labor. On their off days, they are initiating spiritual conversations at local colleges with students, using conversational tools like Soularium and Perspectives cards. At night, we hold weekly meetings, nights with the Lord, Bible studies and socials. Weekends are filled with sightseeing and attending our local church!



We have been amazed at the spiritual interest here in Chicago! Thus far we have collectively had 134 spiritual conversations and seen **30 people indicate decisions for Christ!!** One such conversation Jena had with **Julian, a PhD candidate at UIC** (University of Illinois - Chicago). During a Soularium picture survey, Jena asked Julian what he wished his relationship with God was like, and Julian chose a picture of a friend whispering into another friend's ear. He said that he had grown up attending church but it was a superficial experience, but his fiancée had a vibrant faith - he regularly observes her attending church and Bible study, praying and journaling and reading her Bible regularly, and wanted the kind of relationship *she* has with the Lord. We were able to take him through the gospel presentation outlined in Cru's Knowing God Personally booklet, and **he joyfully placed his faith in Christ!** Julian is being followed up with a male staff member and now preparing to begin his marriage and household on Jesus Christ, the most sure foundation!

SHE DID IT!

Our beloved Olivia graduated from Northwestern this past week, receiving a BS in Civil Engineering! We had a wonderful week celebrating her. We threw Liv a celebration brunch with a literature theme where guests could write Liv a congratulatory note on library card catalogue index cards, create haiku jewelry, and look at all the “chapters” of Liv’s life through photo collages. Jena even snuck on Liv’s Goodreads account and placed her favorite books all around to remind her of the stories that have been a part of her life thus far. Finally, everyone contributed to a hilarious Mad Libs that culminated in a toast to her achievements and her next life installment! We are grateful for the family and friends that came to celebrate her as well as those that were cheering from afar!



Prayer Requests:

- Staff will soon turn CSM25 over to student leadership. Please pray that they continue to love and serve this city well!
- Praise the Lord for Olivia’s graduation and please pray for her transition to “real life!” She will be moving to Philadelphia to work for AECOM in their roads and highways division.
- Please continue to pray for the Lord to raise the remainder of our summer support goal (\$3200)! If you would like to contribute, you can do so online at give.cru.org/0498095



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