So it begins...

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST @ USC SEPT 2008

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **So far we have had 6 students make decisions to trust Christ! Pray that they would continue to grow**
- **Fall Retreat is coming up: Sept. 26-29**
- **Pray that we would be able to launch a Destino movement this year**
- **Pray that we will be faithful to find new ministry partners and that God will provide the new monthly support that we need**

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A Fresh Start with Fresh Blessings

We are at the beginning of the third week of classes (already!!) and we've already seen God doing tremendous things! This time last year, we were just getting started at USC, trying to learn our way around and figure out what the ministry here was all about. This year, we are in a completely different place. We've had a year to figure things out, see the needs, and plan for this year. We had a lot of ideas during the last spring semester—ideas about how things might be better. God has been blessing those ideas beyond what we imagined!

We started this year with about 28 student leaders in place, along with about 40 younger students committed to serving. Before classes even started, ministry teams were meeting, planning, and helping us reach out to the incoming freshman class. During move-in days, we did about 1500 spiritual interest surveys on campus. Our students have been helping us to follow up on those and talk with students ever since!



Our staff and shepherd team for the 08-09 school year.

We've had a packed room for our first 2 weekly meetings—and last week 5 people decided to trust Christ at that meeting! We've seen quite a few older students deciding to get involved as well, which is unusual. We are both very excited to focus much more on the sophomores, juniors, and seniors in our movement as they reach out to the freshmen.

This week, we'll be kicking off our upperclassmen bible studies and getting into a routine of discipling our leaders, which will happen much more in the group context this year. But we still have plenty of opportunities of meeting with other students to talk about the gospel.

In just about 2 weeks, we'll have our Fall Retreat to round out the crazy first 5 weeks of "winning" the campus and we'll move into a time of "building" up the body. We'll transition from our focus on who Christ is to who we are in light of His grace.

Reaching the Latino Community

One area at USC where there is a decided lack of Christ-centered influence is Latino students. There are over 50 religious groups on campus and only one has a Latino focus. It is the Jewish Latino organization. The typical Latino student faces many pressures the average student does not.. Often the first in their family to go to a reputable college, some face pressure to succeed and come back and take care of the family. Many are also raised in nominally Christian homes and view religion as a tradition rather than a personal relationship with God based on grace.

A true relationship with God can alleviate these fears and prejudices and give them a perspective on their culture and identity that is captivating and exciting. Pray with us that Destino will be started and that we will find the right students to reach this community for Christ.