



JANUARY 2019

WINTER CONFERENCE

The lights dimmed, and a hush came over the crowd. It felt almost unnatural, the quiet that enveloped several thousand college students who had been making deafening noise only moments before. Looking around, I saw students literally on the edge of their seats, notebooks in hand, ready to hang on the every word of the speaker up front, as he preached from the Word.

Every year, Cru Winter Conference has this effect. Students, some Christian, some not, all at different points in their spiritual journeys, gather to have fun, learn about God, serve the Indianapolis community, and move toward God. This year, Winter Conference touched on many “hot topics” on college campuses - assault, trauma, race, relationships, sex, and power. All of these topics were examined within God’s word, and students soaked up a Biblical world-view on these issues like sponges, hungry to make sense of the confusing and conflicting messages they hear everyday back on their campuses.



Here are what just a few of our students had to say about their time at Winter Conference: (Names omitted to protect privacy.)

“God can use me in spite of my imperfection. God is the one doing the work in me.”

“I have been praying to be sent somewhere on mission...”

“I have loved getting to talk about the narrative of racial difference; I’m really hopeful that we can continue to have discussion and see the gap between people bridged.”

“These discussions on race have challenged a lot of my privilege, especially in my discussions with prisoners during our day of outreach.”

“Coming here has really brought a lot of clarity and a renewed focus on the Lord that I really needed.”



Students share their experience with sharing their faith on stage, explaining how God used it to grow them.



L-R: Sun Joon, Renee, and Maren, all women in Emily’s freshman Community Group, study the Bible on a Monday night.



A Cru staff member prays with a student as he committed to answering God’s call on his life to missions.

FAMILY UPDATE

ELLIOTT'S 1ST CHRISTMAS

We got to enjoy celebrating Elliott's first Christmas with all of our family. Just before Christmas we visited Clay's family, and then spent Christmas Eve and day with Emily's. Elliott, the first (and currently only) grandchild on both sides was completely spoiled. We think he enjoyed playing with the boxes more than the toys, though.

WINTER CONFERENCE & THE COLD

Elliott unfortunately got a cold just before Winter Conference (which he seemed to enjoy anyway) and is still not quite better. This led to a nasty ear infection that we're still battling, but he seems to finally be on the up and up. We also have experienced snow (clearly not a favorite), and extreme cold (also not a favorite.) Same Elliott, same.



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God with us that virtually our entire financial need to cover Elliott's health insurance for the year was met! We are so grateful and praise God for His provision through you.
- Please continue to pray for the students as they take back what they've learned to their campuses.
- In particular, pray for our students as we are currently doing an outreach called "Know Your Neighbor." The goal is to have our students engage in spiritual conversations with their friends & classmates, and hopefully get to share the gospel with them. Pray for supernatural boldness and divine appointments.
- As a part of this outreach, we're also doing a month of talks at our weekly meeting about hot button topics. Please pray spiritually interested students would fill the room!
- Please pray for Elliott's health and wellness. He has been pretty sick the past few weeks.