



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ohio University + Marietta College

April 16, 2012

"Big Break definitely made my relationship with the Lord even stronger. Being able to share my story with others and just share my faith made me feel closer to God,"
Katie, a sophomore at Ohio University, told me (Niki).

Fifty-five students and Cru staff packed into a charter bus and journeyed 16 hours from Athens to Panama City Beach, Florida for Cru's annual Spring Break conference, Big Break. Katie was one of those who joined us for a life-changing week. Katie and I met during the first week of Winter Quarter. Having just transferred to OU, she didn't know many people on campus. The first time we met, Katie made the incredible decision to accept Jesus as her Savior! At Big Break, she stepped outside of her comfort zone to help bring others closer to a relationship with God through initiating conversations.

For seven sunny, fun-filled days, Katie and nearly 800 other students from around the country gathered together to grow spiritually and reach out to college Spring Breakers on the beach. Our conference trains and equips students in how to engage in spiritual conversations and helps them grow in overcoming their fear of evangelism.

Many of the attendees at Big Break had never taken the initiative to share their faith with anyone before. In our culture, it's easy to believe the lie that people won't be interested in spiritual things or that we'll be portrayed as pushy and overbearing for talking with others about Jesus. But 3,500 spiritual conversations later, our group was humbled by how receptive the parties on the beach were.

Nearly 100 people, most who originally intended to spend their Spring Break partying, made the decision to begin a personal relationship with God that week, turning from their sin to receive the gift of forgiveness offered by Jesus' death and resurrection. The men and women from OU grew in their hunger to reach people for Christ as a result of stepping out in faith and proclaiming the gospel. Katie experienced this in an especially powerful way and left Big Break encouraged and strengthened in her faith, able and excited to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

Reaching students for Jesus through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Katie and I pose for a picture after a late night run to the local ice cream shop in Panama City Beach.

Prayers

- o For the nearly 100 students who accepted Christ during Big Break to continue growing in their relationships with the Lord and find a community of Christians to plug into on their campuses
- o For Jordan and I as we prepare to speak at our weekly gathering Thursday, April 19

Praise

- o The 55 students who attended Big Break from OU have grown deeper in their love for God and desire to share their faith in Christ as a result of the conference
- o Katie's spiritual growth over the past few months and her steps of faith are evidence of God's work in her life

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