## CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

**UNC-CHAPEL HILL** 

NOVEMBER 2021



## Pray for the Smiths

-In November our team spent time visiting each bible study and talking about summer opportunities. Pray students would consider how to use their **summers** to be part of the Great Commission. (Whether that be with Cru or having a ministry mindset with their job, time at home, etc)

-Pray for students as they enter the **exam** period. Pray they would be at rest trusting God in a stressful season.

-We will be **traveling** to KS over Christmas! Pray for safe travels, health and a good time of rest as a family.

## Training Time

When someone joins staff with Cru, a main focus for their first year is ministry training. This year I have the privilege of meeting with Bekah,

one of our staff interns, to do this training. Over lunch we talk about how to share our faith, how to communicate our stories, how to resolve conflict and how to develop ministry partners (among other things). I asked Bekah to share about training in her own words: "Wednesday lunches at Brixx have easily become one of my favorite parts of my week. Being trained by Erin has truly been such a blessing for me. She is consistently showing me that the heart of ministry is played out in relationships. This means caring for not just the spiritual well being of the students I



lead over, but also caring for their overall well-being, just as Erin does for me. I've seen this time grow me and how I approach ministry in ways I never could have anticipated. Erin has, time and time again, challenged me to take on new perspectives, think of new ways to do things, and find ways to look at ministry from both the small minute details to the larger picture. As I look toward my future with Cru, I know these times will be integral in my ability to grow and care well for those I work with or am leading over."

## A holistic God

This semester has been a sobering and difficult time on campus. As you may have heard, there have been 3 suicides at UNC this fall. It has been heartbreaking. It is a reminder that we must talk more about mental health, as well as how our faith intersects that. In that vein, we brought in a panel of counselors to speak at a Cru large group a few weeks ago. Some were counselors through UNC, some in the community. One counselor reminded us that God cares about our mind, body and soul- he cares for us holistically. There is brokenness in and around all of us and God cares about it. Please join us in praying for students as they continue to grieve.