CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

OCT 2020

Cru on the Lawn



Pray for the Smiths

-Pray for our staff team as we **follow up** from Cru on the Lawn. Our hope is to take each new student to lunch on us and get to know them.

-Pray for our November emphasis on **sending**. We will be highlighting summer and long-term opportunities for students to go overseas. (All dependent on how under control Covid is by the summer)

-Pray for **hope and peace** for students. Many students are honestly struggling and anxious about the state of our world and what that means for their future.

-Pray for our **family** to live this verse out: "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 1:22)

In mid October we were thrilled to be able to do an in person event-finally! Since we have had to cancel so much, including our Fall Retreat, we wanted to have a safe place for students to gather. Thus "Cru on the Lawn" was born. We met outside at a local church and had 85 students attend! We broke into 2 groups to adhere with state and Cru guidelines and everyone wore masks. Due to a donor gift, we were able to make this a free event for students. We had lots of social time, Chick Fil A for lunch, field games, praise and worship and a talk from our Cru director.

Students commented that it was a highlight of their semester to be gathered safely again. Some even drove from home- 2 hours away! And thankfully 10 freshmen came, as well. As you can imagine it has been so difficult to meet freshmen during the pandemic. We are now in the



process of following up to connect more with those freshman in the hopes that they will be able to plug in and find community.

An imperishable inheritance

One of the roles I have consistently had during my time at UNC has been leading an upperclassmen Bible study. This year we are studying I Peter and have had between 15-20 girls join us each week. We meet on Sunday evenings over zoom. Since my last letter we have added discussion groups to our format and encouraged students to meet in person if they feel comfortable. Myself or another staff gives a short talk on the passage and then prepare questions for the groups to discuss. We have talked about our "imperishable inheritance" as believers- a very timely reminder in the midst of a chaotic season. We have also discussed authority, marriage and having an eternal perspective. Pray this time each week would ground students and give hope.