

CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

APRIL 2015

God is doing a new thing...

Behold I am doing a new thing, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19

It is easy to lose focus in the details and not remember the significant things we see God doing in the lives of students here at UNC. We wanted to share with you how God has been working in students' lives over the past year as they have trusted him and been influenced by His grace. In their own words...

The Gospel has challenged me to pursue a personal relationship with God instead of leaving him to Sundays. Lately it has impacted my obedience. I am understanding that obedience is not abstaining from wrong behaviors just because they are bad, but because they keep me from an intimate relationship with God.

Personally, I became a believer during my freshman year. The Gospel has impacted me immensely during college. I was in a place of confusion or loneliness but when God found me, he changed my life. Since I became a believer, I have realized who God is and what Jesus has done for us. I have realized our need for Jesus because he is better and he died for our sins. God has shown me how to love and how to spread that love so others may see the need for Christ as well.

I have seen how knowledge is of little worth without action and that the Gospel invites and expects action. I understand now that the power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power that wakes me up each morning, that gives me strength to go through life, comforts me along the way, and calls me to a greater purpose – being a vessel for His glory, that others might rest in His strength and receive satisfaction in Him.

The gospel has impacted and is still impacting my life in that while my life before college had its troubles, college life has had so many more trying experiences in which the truth of the gospel has helped me. There have been many days at college where the only thing that has kept me going is the truth that I am a sinner saved by the grace of God and loved by Him. The dark places I have found myself in have only made the light of the Gospel shine brighter to me. Things I never struggled with before college have only revealed my further need for His forgiveness and grace.

The Gospel has impacted my life in college tremendously. Coming into college I was sitting on the fence of my faith...meaning I was trying to decide whether to go "all in" for Jesus or back away and have the typical college experience. I am so thankful God placed certain people in my life who led me back to my faith and got me involved with Cru. Through Cru I learned what it really meant to live a Gospel-centered life and I have found so much joy and identity and those truths. It is life-changing knowing there is a bigger purpose and we have a Savior who died for us so we could know Him and know God personally. Now, as believers and active followers of Christ, we have the incredible opportunity to serve Him every day!

We could show you 100 more of these. Thanks for being such a significant part of their stories!



Pray for the Smiths

-Josh will be in East Asia with 22 UNC students and 3 other staff May 14 - June 1. Pray for safety and deep connection with God as we Love Jesus, Love our Team, Learn a new Culture & Launch Movements.

-Pray for our local small group with UNC students to create an environment for students to grow in Chapel Hill June 1 - July 28.

-Pray for Erin and I to connect deeply with the Lord and in new ways this summer. Pray we would be intentional with time he has given us.

-Harrison, pictured above, left his final specialist appointment in April. He is completely healthy and flourishing!!

-Pray for Harrison to learn how to trust and obey our words and to understand how that can glorify God.

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