

CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

FEBRUARY 2015



Relationship Panel

UNC Athletes in Action (an extension of Cru) invited Erin and I to share our story and be part of a question and answer session. 100 varsity athletes came to hear about our experience with dating and marriage. It is a

lot of fun to take on such a relevant issue and help share God's heart for this area. We heard some great feedback as AIA staff have been following up with students who attended. We hope students continue to process this important area of their lives in the weeks ahead!

Pray for the Smiths

-Praise! Harrison officially got cleared to go off of the thyroid medicine he has been on since birth. We are so thankful!

-Pray for our upcoming student men's and women's retreats (both in late March). Pray for vulnerable environments to be cultivated for both retreats.

-Pray for our Spring Break trips (March 8-13). We have some students going to NYC and some going to Florida for a beach trip. Our family is headed to FL! Pray for a time of close-knit community.

***Summer Assignment:**
Josh will be on a 2 wk summer project to East Asia. We will be (1.)doing a local summer project at UNC for those in summer school and (2.)raising support throughout the rest of the summer.

Justice Week

Often followers of Christ are more known for what we are against rather than what we are for. February 2-6 we hosted events collaborating God's heart for justice in the areas of racism, sex trafficking, and social injustice. We tried to highlight God's character and emphasize His involvement by highlighting

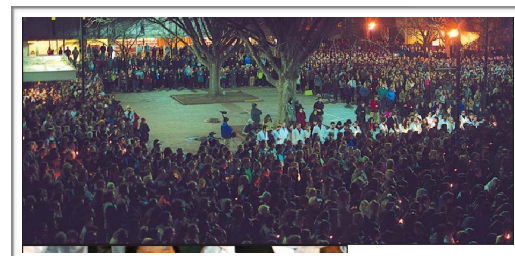
questions - What is God's role in Justice? What is the fundamental problem with the world? What is our part in the solution to that problem? We highlighted ways to get involved in tangible restoration and joining God in how he is bringing healing in these areas. Pray for an God's healing and message of hope to UNC.

Tragedy at UNC

Our community was shocked by the murder of 3 muslim students a few weeks ago. We used to live about a half mile from the scene where it happened. Pray for healing for our campus and for students as they wrestle with very difficult questions. Pray Jesus would draw people to himself during this difficult time.

Here is a picture of a prayer vigil the day after the shooting in the heart of

campus where 1000 students and faculty gathered.



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Jesus is _____ ?

Josh got an awesome opportunity to dialogue about Jesus in front of 180 students. CRU and the Muslim Student Association partnered to host a panel discussion. For an hour we unpacked, “Who is Jesus?” “How is Jesus both God and Man?” “How is your faith expressed in him?” “Why do you personally believe in Him?” What is the significance of the resurrection for your faith?”

I got to share about the narrative of the Bible, Jesus’ uniqueness, God’s heart for the world, and plan for restoration. I wasn’t aware they were going to ask

about our personal experience. Romans 5:1 quickly came to mind. This was a God moment. I was able to share how because believers “have been justified by faith we can have peace with God.” And how this peace can create a great confidence and humility to help me obey and follow him.

One Muslim girl asked if I was from Iowa. She thought I looked and sounded like the Bachelor which was worth a good laugh! All in all, it was a rich experience I am really grateful for. May God continue to cultivate fruit from this night!

Pray for the Smiths

-120 new student leaders are filling out applications to serve with us next year. Pray for the process to lead us to who God desires to be investing on campus.

-Pray for our seniors to finish well and be SENT well into the world- that they would follow Jesus for a lifetime.

-Pray for the 39 students attending summer project from UNC this year, especially as they work to raise financial support.

-Pray for our movement to be marked by WIN / BUILD / SEND. Particularly that our leaders would care about influencing, investing and inviting others to be a part of what God is doing on campus and around the world.

-Pray for our family to experience grace in truth as we learn how to be parents.

Men’s / Women’s Retreat

Last weekend we held both our student men’s and women’s retreats. The girls met in Wilmington, NC and the guys just outside of Boone, NC in the mountains.

The guys got slow time with each other and God. We enjoyed BBQ, NCAA basketball, and a 6800 sq ft vacation home. It was incredible. One guy shared, “*God showed me that He really is better. I felt close and connected to Him all weekend and that filled me with a joy I haven’t had in a long time. That will cause me to seek that in my everyday life, not just my mountaintop experiences.*” Another guy said, “*God*

showed me I am a part of a community that needs me to play a part in God’s plan.

Meanwhile, 150 girls (the most we’ve ever had!) enjoyed hearing from seniors and staff about how to see God rightly, see ourselves rightly and live rightly. One morning there were breakout sessions with topics such as having healthy relationships, body image and cultivating a heart of rest in the midst of busyness. It was a great time of being together as women, connecting and processing with one another. And of course eating cookie dough too! Pray these retreats would continue to impact students as they are back on campus.