CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

APRIL 2020



Pray for the Smiths

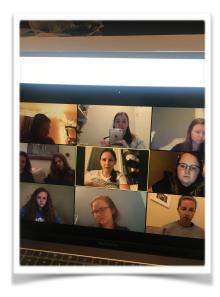
- One of our UNC team leaders (Kelly) is having a baby this summer. I was asked to step into her role during her maternity leave (June-August). Pray for my new role. August specifically is our busiest month on campus and now there are additional unknowns with the virus.
- Pray for **seniors** being sent from UNC. Pray God would provide jobs and community for them.
- Pray for our extra time as a **family**. I am homeschooling the kids which has been great in some ways but tiring too. Thankfully Josh's job has been unaffected. In their own words: "I miss my friends. My favorite part of being home is more time together." (Harrison). "I miss my teachers. I love having parties* " (Allie).

*we have had no parties

Zoom Ministry

Well it's a whole new world since my last newsletter isn't it? Things really came to a head on campus during spring break. Many students were already home or had trips cancelled. Some of our staff and students were on a Cru spring break trip in Ecuador right before overseas travel was banned. (They had a great trip ministering with a group called Filters of Hope, where they installed water filters in underprivileged areas.) Getting back to the US was a challenge but they ended up getting a flight thankfully!

Since then the challenge has been figuring out how to minister to students remotely. We held 4 more weekly meetings on Thursdays via Zoom. Our staff team took turns leading a devotion and having some prayer time with each other. About 80 students joined us for that each week. My co-worker Lauren and I have been able to keep teaching a women's Bible study virtually on Sunday nights, as well. Although very different than normal, I have been able to check in with the girls I disciple over Facetime. These students are weary. They are sad for the abrupt ending to the school year. Many are lonely and dealing with anxiety. Please join me in praying for them!



Student Spotlight

Liz Yardley is a junior. I had the privilege of meeting her last summer through the Bible study Josh and I had at our house. I've been meeting with her this year for discipleship.

"Thinking back on this semester, the Lord has really showed me more of His character as a refuge and provider. Through a really challenging first half of the semester and then the sudden transition into quarantine, His presence has been so tangible to me, and He has provided all that I need each day. Psalm 34:15-22 has been a huge encouragement to me: 'When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them.' "

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