

CRU at UNC

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A People of Welcome

During UNC's spring break this year, our Cru movement joined campuses across the US in Orlando for a week. Cru, whose national headquarters are in Orlando, has numerous ministries besides just the university campus. One of those ministries is called Unto, which focuses on humanitarian aid and this trip was centered on refugees. I was unaware that there is a large population of displaced people in Orlando. Our trip was called "Becoming a People of Welcome."

Each morning we had training and talks to prepare us for the ministry we would be doing. We heard about how to listen well, how the Bible addresses suffering and how to articulate the Gospel. Each afternoon we had hands-on experience with people in the city. Our staff and students helped with ESL classes for both adults and children. It was a very sobering week in many ways. One family I met had fled Venezuela because of violence. Through my broken Spanish, I played with their kids (the same ages as my own) and taught them some words in English.

Another day we helped at a food pantry. A Cru staff woman named Joy opened the pantry a few years ago in Orlando. She not only provides food once a week but also helps people get their GED. People in the community can come there to practice for job interviews, see nurses on site and get clothing items. Joy does a short program where she consistently presents the Gospel (if people want to stay) and when we were there she asked if anyone from our group wanted to share their testimony. One of our students, Owen, a sophomore, shared how knowing Christ has shaped his life. It was a very rich, impactful week. Pray that those we interacted with felt encouraged and provided for and that they were pointed to Christ. Pray for our staff and students that we would be people of welcome in Chapel Hill, both on campus and in our city as a whole.

Prayer requests

-Pray for our annual **Men's and Women's retreats** (April 12-14). The guys will be in TN and the ladies in Black Mountain, NC. Pray for students to attend, to grow in their walks with God and to experience community.

-Pray for **leaders** for next year. So far we have had 30 students apply. Pray God would multiply their lives (2 Timothy 2:2).

-Pray for the Cru **summer mission to Prague**. 3 UNC students and 2 UNC staff will be going. Pray for them as they raise financial support.

