

MARCH 2014

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH  
CRU GIVING #0549860

# CAROLINA CONNECTION

CRU AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL



## Smith family update

This has been a busy semester for our family, with Josh having more responsibilities on campus and traveling more than usual. So we are extra excited to have some good family time this summer and are glad to be heading back down to Charleston, SC for summer project in May. Harrison will turn 3 this summer (how is that possible?!) and is doing great. He's so chatty and we're enjoying seeing his little personality come out! Here are a few ways you can pray for us:

-for wisdom as we parent, especially now that the "terrible two tantrums" are happening!

-for Josh and I to carve out time as a couple during busy seasons of life

-for our time in Charleston, that it would be refreshing and that

## WBR - Know[n]

The last weekend of March, I (Erin) got to go to our annual Women's Beach Retreat (WBR). It was so fun hanging out and getting to know (some of!) the 100 UNC girls that came! The theme this year was Known. We talked about the implications of being fully known and loved by God, being known and knowing others in community, and trusting unknown futures to a known God.



One of the best things about this retreat is that we can touch on issues pertinent to women especially. One of the afternoons we had breakout sessions with topics such as vulnerability with other women, how to have healthy relationships and comparison. I was able to lead a session on having hope in hard times

The last morning we had a time for the girls to share what they took away from the weekend- always a highlight for me! One sophomore shared that she was able to bring some sin in her life into the light for the first time this weekend. Praise the Lord for the work he is doing in the lives of girls at UNC!

## Spring Break in NYC

Twenty students committed to use their spring break with us by going to New York City this year on spring break. We spent 5 full days in the city getting to experience as much of the sights sounds and smells as possible. The entire trip is designed to recruit students to NYC for a summer mission trip or for an internship. And it worked!

Four who went with us are returning for the summer, and nine others are going somewhere all over the world with CRU on a summer project.



We had 3 full days of ministry and praying for the city on college campuses and 1 full day to explore the city on our own. One million college students reside in the most influential city in America and the challenges are great to reach them. Long commutes, the financial obstacles, the drive for success make this environment difficult enter, but the needs are so great. UNC joined about 90 others from all over the country who got to bring the hope of the gospel of grace to them. We shared the gospel over 300 times and 8 people trusted Christ. Students were trained with ministry resources and equipped to the strategy to connect students to the movement across the city. It was the first time many of them shared their faith and even initiated a spiritual conversation. Pray for God to continue to work in NYC and in these students.

APRIL 2014

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## Pray for the Smiths

- Pray for our student leaders for next year. (115 Students have committed to lead with us in the fall.) Pray they would be deeply rooted in the Word this summer and not grow stagnant in their walks.
- Pray for the 40 students going on a summer project from UNC. Pray for life changing summers for them and for many to hear the Gospel through these laborers.
- Pray for our current seniors to be sent well into the next chapter of their lives. Pray for them to love Jesus first and foremost. Pray they would get plugged into good community and keep growing in their faith.
- Pray for our support for our summer project in Charleston. We need to raise \$6,000 one-time.

**Thank you for your part in our life and ministry. We are so grateful for your sacrifice and willingness to be a part of our life and ministry.**

## Sending from UNC

One of the reasons I love being at UNC is for all the potential for the gospel to capture so much creative energy here. In light of all the decisions being made in a person's life, the university is changing the world by sending out a force shaped by its influence. What would happen if a tithe of this campus followed Jesus closely for a lifetime? Not just in the big decisions, but in every small moment that makes up their life? We are trusting and getting to see God work in some great ways. This year we are sending over 40 students (30 internationally).

And over 45 seniors are being sent out this year to pursue the next chapter God has for them. This is always one of the sad parts of our job- having to say goodbye to seniors we've gotten to know the past four years. But it's exciting, too, to see the unique callings God has given these seniors. Some will be teaching, some pursuing the medical field, some in business vocations, some heading overseas as full-time missionaries and some continuing in post-grad schooling! Our prayer is that regardless of their callings, all of our seniors will leave ready to impact others in their spheres of influence with the Gospel.

The past few weeks we have had some time to reflect with the seniors we've discipled about what God has done in their lives in college. I (Erin) had two of my girls think back to one word to summarize what they have learned about God in college. One senior, Kelly, shared that her word was "rescue." "I'm just a different person than I was freshman year. The Lord rescued me from so much- really rescued me from myself." Jess, another senior, shared her word was "faithfulness." College had some challenges for her but through it all she was able to grow in trusting Jesus and seeing his faithfulness to her throughout. This is why we do what we do! We pray for the Lord to change college students' lives and it was so cool to spend some time reflecting back with seniors and seeing how He has done just that!

## Charleston Summer Project

May 16- June 27 we will be in Charleston, SC helping lead a summer project with CRU. We are excited to have 38 students and 17 staff join us and help transform that city and be transformed by Jesus. We want to **GIVE GROW REST** and **REFLECT** out of the grace we need in the gospel and ask God do a significant work in the lives of everyone we interact with in the city.

- Pray for a vision to be seen by these students that would call them to walk with God for a lifetime.
- Pray for their fund raising.
- Pray for jobs in the area to provide their primary ministry outlet
- Pray for our church partnerships to give resources and connections to the city.

