CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

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Encounter



Over MLK weekend our family attended Cru's Christmas Conference (now called Encounter). This year's conference was held in Raleigh and all the Cru movements in the state of North Carolina were there. We had 7 students go from UNC (220 students were there total).

During the weekend we had 3 main speakers who talked about connecting students to Jesus, building them up in their faith and sending them to the world. In addition to the main sessions, local Cru staff and affiliates led seminars on numerous cultural issues — from technology to sexuality to mental health.

Those were just as purposeful, as evidenced by reactions to the mental health seminar (entitled "Examining Your Self-Talk") from Drew and John, sophomores at NC State. "It covered really cool stuff — a lot on the unintentional things we say to ourselves and about ourselves. We learned

general practices on how to acknowledge [these thoughts] and work on them," said Drew. "It was helpful to compare what we say about ourselves to what God says about us and what's actually true about us," John added. "Specifically, what his word says about us, and how he views us had an impact on me."

It was also great to have extra time with our UNC students (like at lunch, pictured above).

Lilly, a junior who I disciple, attended the conference. She said, "I loved meeting so many different people...it was great to connect with others that you normally wouldn't talk to and learn from them!"

We rejoice in the awesome ways God works in students' lives! He is changing hearts and raising up lifelong laborers for the Kingdom of God. Thank you so much for your partnership, your prayers, and your generosity that make that possible.

Prayer requests

-Pray for the 7 students that went to **Encounter** from UNC. Pray what they heard would continue to impact their faith and walk with God.

-Continue to pray for students to be open-handed with their summer. Pray some UNC students would go on **summer missions** in the US and overseas.

-Pray for **new students** we met at survey tables during the first week of the semester. Pray for our follow up conversations and for many of them to get plugged in to Cru.