

# CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH



UNC-CHAPEL HILL

SUMMER 2016

## Charleston Summer Mission 2016



### Pray for the Smiths

- Pray that our ministry this year would come from **an overflow** of a deeper walk with Christ.

- Pray for **our staff team** (12 of us) to love each other well and connect in meaningful ways as we walk beside each other this fall.

- Pray for opportunities to **share the gospel** with new students the first 4 weeks on campus.

- Pray for **life change**, in the lives of incoming freshman and in the lives of our leaders as they pour out into others.

- We are tired after a busy 8 wks traveling, working and not sleeping well as we tote around a 8 mo old! Pray for **physical and spiritual rest** before the busy semester begins.

- Pray for **new monthly supporters to join us** as we work on our support before the the school year.

This summer 48 staff and students participated in the Historic Charleston Summer Mission. It was a summer of a lot of “firsts” for many students: sharing their faith, working in a job intentionally to influence others, reading their Bible consistently, seeing how the gospel influences all of life not just a part of it, owning their faith as their very own, taking steps of adulthood, seeing their need for grace and trusting God with their future.

Our prayer was (and is!) that the gospel would inform their core identity and that they would catch a vision to walk with God for a lifetime because of what they experienced in Charleston. If the gospel will continue to move through them, it needs to be in them. Each night of the Summer Mission was geared toward helping students grow. One night was Bible study, where we went through 1 John in small groups. Another night was a devotional and praise and worship. Mid-week they had a night of training, where we covered things such as understanding how to communicate your testimony and how to share the Gospel. There was also a men’s/women’s time and reflection night each week.

In addition to helping these students grow themselves, there was also a focus on ministering to the community we were living in. A large portion of the ministry this summer was relational as students just got to know their co-workers and had opportunities to dialogue about spiritual things there. In addition, we did some outreaches downtown (Souliarium picture surveys for example) to get a feel for what people in Charleston think about God and how to know him. The first week there, two high school girls we met accepted Christ during one of these outreaches! We also had the privilege of partnering with two churches downtown to be part of what they were doing to minister to the city (such as helping with a homeless ministry to serve food each week). Many significant things happened in and through these students’ lives and we were so honored to be part of it!





Lots of training to help students understand and communicate their faith



9 staff kids kept us all laughing



Weekly worship on the pier



4 UNC students joined 3 of us staff this summer!



Cooper River Bridge reminded us to pray for Charleston's healing

### *In her own words:*

*I wish you could have seen and heard first-hand what happened this summer. I came in about as far from God as I've ever been and left closer to God than I've ever been. This mission project wasn't the answer to my problems; it just put me in a place where I was forced to face my questions and work out my faith and equipped me to continue that process for future highs and lows.*

-O'Malley, junior at UNC



The staff we got to serve with this summer was definitely a highlight

### **Personal Notes:**

- We spent 18 days in July traveling to see family and friends in Kansas and Tennessee. It was a rich time to connect with loved ones and introduce everyone to Allie.
- Josh preached at his home church in KS on July 10 when we connected with supporters and friends at home in KS July 8-15.
- Josh officiated his first wedding June 16 with 2 UNC 2016 graduates.
- The last week we were in Charleston Allie began to pull herself up to stand, began crawling and cut 2 teeth. She is beautiful and Harrison loves being a big brother.
- Harrison turned 5 years old on July 30! We are so amazed and grateful for his life and the gift he is to us. Thank you for celebrating him with us!
- **Thank you for the giving response to our our summer ask in May.** We had an overwhelming response and God provided for all our summer needs! Thank you for standing beside us and trusting God with us. He is pursuing a broken world through the faith of college students and we love to see God work in their hearts and minds.