

CRU at UNC

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UNC-CHAPEL HILL

SUMMER 2020

Campus in the time of Covid

As is the case across the country, things are out of the ordinary around Chapel Hill. UNC was one of the first campuses to decide to open, but with an adjusted schedule. Students will start class on August 10, will have very few breaks and will finish classes and exams before Thanksgiving. As we look ahead to students returning in 2 weeks, there are a lot of unknowns. Cru, nationally, has a high value on keeping staff and students safe during this virus. We are thankful for this! But as of now, staff in our state will only be able to gather in groups of 5 or less to do ministry. As you can imagine this is quite a challenge as we typically have lots of large events to welcome students back.

We have pivoted to do things small scale.

A few things we have planned for the fall:

- online Bible study training for student leaders
- having "Cru tours" (a student leader takes a group of freshman on a tour around campus and tells them about our ministry)
- I've always said our small group Bible studies are the heartbeat of our ministry. This will be even more the case this year.
- we will still do a weekly meeting on Zoom

Pray these altered events still allow us to meet students! (our flyer is to the right)



Pray for the Smiths

- As I mentioned in my last letter, I am filling in as an interim team leader at UNC while my coworker is on maternity leave. Pray for **wisdom** in this role as we walk into a Fall semester that will look very different.

- Pray for our team to be able to meet **freshmen** as school starts up. Pray students that want to grow and explore Christianity would find Cru.

- Pray for the **safety** of our staff team and student leaders as we engage in ministry in August. We want to meet students but in a safe and wise way. Pray we balance that well.

- Pray for our family as we navigate changes with our **kids' schools**. At this point Allie will not have preschool and Harrison will be learning through his school virtually.

"Be Strong and Courageous"

This summer I've been leading a summer Bible study for UNC students on Zoom. We have had 10-20 students joining us and have been studying the book of Joshua. What a timely book! One of the things we have discussed is how Israel is reminded over and over again to be "strong and courageous." They have many reasons to fear. They are walking into the land promised to them but have to fight and be patient to actually possess it. As I have led students through this book, I've also been struck by God's faithfulness. A big theme of Joshua is "God said..and it was so." In this time of so much uncertainty, what a beautiful reminder that God *will* do what he has promised to do and will be *with* his people always.