

December 1, 2017

"...I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." - Luke 2:10

The Scriptures help us understand the current condition of our hearts- we are shaped by what we find beautiful and our lives transformed into that which we love. College students are no different and the university continues to be an essential platform to help answer the bigger questions: ***Who am I? What should I do with my life? What is the meaning of it all?***

We love that we get to help shape students' view of God and help them as they wrestle with these realities. Here is one student's account of her freshman year.

"I came to college with the expectation that I would finally experience the "freedom" I so desperately wanted, fleeting pleasures like sex and drugs that I thought would satisfy. In high school I lived like a chameleon, pretending to be the devout girl at church yet being outspokenly atheist everywhere else in my life. I was constantly searching for an identity through things I thought I could control like my appearance and friends. I had no intention of joining a campus ministry, going to church, or even THINKING about God. It was truly by the grace of God that he placed me in a suite with two girls who went to the Cru pizza picnic which I begrudgingly went to because of FOMO (fear of missing out) and the allure of free food. It was here at UNC through Cru that I finally saw the complete picture of the Gospel; I saw it lived out. I have come to understand that my previous reasons for why God can't possibly be real are actually disproven by His very nature. God is good and He always has been, even when I hated him and defied Him."

This year within our movement at UNC, stories just like this are taking place in students' lives. What a gift to walk beside the 600 students involved with us and the thousands of others all over campus! Our prayer is that many others can be transformed by the beautiful message of the hope in knowing Jesus.

As 2017 comes to an end, would you consider making a special investment in our ministry? Our hope is that God would provide \$8,000 in year-end gifts to enable us to finish this year in a healthy place. One significant current need is the cost of seminary class Josh will take in January. Would you prayerfully consider making a special gift of \$100, \$500, \$1000 or some other amount significant to you?

If you feel led to give, please make your check payable to **CRU** and use the enclosed envelope to respond. Please reply by December 31 in order to apply your donation to the 2017 giving receipt. As always, gifts are tax-deductible. You can also give online at **give.cru.org/0549860**.

Thank you for the many ways you already partner with us! May the joy of knowing His presence with us mark your busy holiday season!

In Christ,

*Josh, Erin
Harrison &
Allie*

