

# CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

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## The Nations in Chapel Hill

We kick off our year with a big welcome picnic the first day of class. Free Chick Fil A will bring the masses to the bell tower! It was at that event that I first met Ana. Ana is from Brazil and is here for the next 4 years getting her PhD in History. She was loosely involved in Cru in her home country so when she saw our event advertised, she wanted to check it out! Since that time, she has been a regular at the Bible study I lead and came to our Fall retreat. I asked her (pictured below, far right) to share a bit in her own words. "Leaving one's home country to start a new life is never easy. There are many questions, but I left Brazil with the word that the Lord would take care of me. Having the opportunity to join Cru is one of the testimonies of God's faithfulness in my life. It has been an incredible experience to be able to go deeper into the Word while also building connections with my brothers and sisters in Christ. When I feel lonely, I know I will find a place in Cru." This semester, a Sophomore from London is involved in a Bible study too, and we have interacted with many other students from around the world!



### Prayer Requests

-Pray for our **Bible studies** on campus, especially that freshmen would remain connected.

-Pray for our team as we begin to talk about **summer missions**. Pray UNC students would consider spending their summer on a trip with Cru!

-**kid updates:** Allie is cast-free! She handled the setback really well and is happy to be back on the soccer field! Harrison just wrapped up his cross country season and did great. Now he's busy with year round swim and band (he plays the trumpet just like Josh used to!)

## Doers of the Word

This year I'm leading a junior/senior Bible study. Every Tuesday evening we gather at a beautiful space on campus (the NC Study Center) and dive into the book of James. We catch up on our week and kick off with an icebreaker (my recent favorite was "Convince me that Fall isn't the best season." No one could.) Then we get into our Bible study. And James has had some tough words for us to wrestle through! There's a large mirror in the space we meet in which made these words come to life for us: "For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in the mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like." (James 1:23-24) Pray that these students (and myself!) would regularly be rooted in God's word and truly changed by it.