

# CAROLINA CONNECTION

APRIL 2011



## Prayer Requests

-Pray for our team. Many of us are in transition for the summer assignments and will be working on support. (2 are going to East Asia, 6 will be in Colorado.)

-Pray for our marriage, that repentance and faith would portray gospel re-enactment toward each other and that fruit would exist in our lives from faith in the gospel of grace.

-Pray for Josh as he has taken a new role as a deacon in our local church here in Chapel Hill. Pray that he would serve faithfully.

-Pray for the students who are wrestling with "Truth" and purpose from the Os Guinness lecture. Pray that God would pursue them and open the eyes of their heart.

-Pray for students who are entering into leadership with us next year. Pray that God would do a work in them and through them.

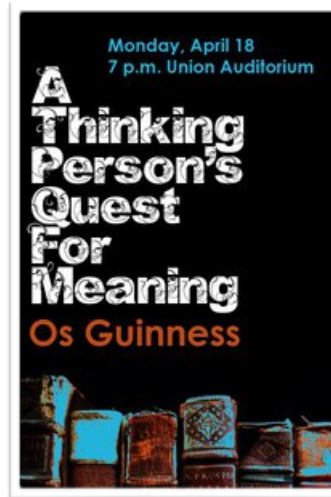
May God Bless you and keep you!  
Thanks for being a reflection of His grace in our lives.

## Veritas Forum - Os Guinness

April 18th we partnered with the Veritas Forum to bring renowned sociologist and author Os Guinness to UNC. Nearly 500 students gathered to hear what he had to say. He has lived on 3 continents and critically studied history and culture to understand how we have arrived where we are today.

The heart of his message was to help students understand the process of thinking well and coming to an understanding of Truth. One thing he shared was that being a person of faith has been more fulfilling and actually helps answer questions he could not before he understood who Jesus was. He covered a lot of material in an hour and I think a lot of students left challenged. There was also a time for questions and answers at the end.

We have had several follow-up conversations and pointed students to some resources that have helped them grapple with this idea of truth. Please pray for many of the students who are on the verge of belief.



## Men's / Women's Retreats

One of our favorite times of the year is the spring when we do our men's and women's retreats. This year 140 women came to Wilmington, NC, to partake of a retreat together as women. The theme of the weekend was "Crave." Many of the seniors helped prepare much of the content. The seniors who shared were very honest about their own brokenness, which helped many underclassmen bring things into the light that they struggle with. Since the retreat, many students have continued to talk about the issues that surfaced and begun to deal with those things in their lives.

Meanwhile, about 40 guys took off for Kinston, NC, and enjoyed a weekend at The Refuge camp, where we stayed at Spring Break. Many of the seniors helped plan the weekend that focused on "Brotherhood." One of the highlights was spending 3 hours with dozens of kids affected by generational poverty. We played basketball, fished, and enjoyed being outside. It was a special time of bonding together, and experiencing Christ our true brother.

## Summer Assignment

This summer we will be in Colorado taking classes to continue to be developed personally and theologically. We will be in Ft. Collins, CO, from June 18 - July 27. I (Josh) feel like I've grown more in my understanding of the gospel and its implications in 8 years on staff than at any other time, and I attribute some of that to the leadership of our organization and the care they take in continuing to invest in us. I will be taking classes focusing on Leadership Development and Erin will be taking 3 classes- Worldview, Marriage, and Engaging Atheists.

# CAROLINA CONNECTION

MAY 2011



## Sending Seniors

I'm pretty sure I say this every May, but I can't believe another year on campus is drawing to a close! Wrapping up this school year has been somewhat bittersweet this time, as Josh and I have had to say goodbye to many seniors we've invested in the past few years. That is truly one of the hardest things about staff life - getting to know and love students and then having them leave! But while that is sad in some ways, it is also exciting to see what God has for them after leaving UNC.

## Prayer Requests

-Pray for seniors who recently graduated. Pray that they would walk closely with God during this transition and for Him to provide new community for them as they leave UNC.

-Pray for those joining staff or STINT with CCC (9 from UNC). Pray for them as they begin raising support to report in the fall.

-Pray for our time in Colorado this summer. We will be there for 6 weeks taking classes. Pray that time would be refreshing and developmental.

-Pray for our financial support. With our little one on the way (among other things) we need to raise about \$500 in monthly support, as well as \$6000 one time for our summer expenses.

Thank you for your partnership with us in taking the gospel to the nations!!

We love you all. Thanks for being a reflection of God's grace in our lives.

A few weeks ago we had a dessert night to celebrate the seniors and pray for them as they head off to the "real world." We had everyone share what they would be doing next and it was so encouraging to hear all the different callings God has for them. Some will pursue grad school, teach, go into the business world, and become nurses, to name a few! 9



students will be working full time with CCC next year in the US, East Asia, Argentina and Sweden. Our prayer for all the seniors is that wherever God is leading, they would walk with Him closely and have an impact for Him.

A highlight for me (Erin) recently was my last Bible study with the senior girls I've led for awhile. I had them each write one word down to describe what God had done/taught them during college. Here are some of the words they shared: identity, peace, grace, surrender, transformed. Girls shared that college was the first time their walk with God became real. It was a time, one of them shared, where she finally understood her identity and acceptance was rooted in Christ, not other people. For many of them, it was when the word "grace" became something real and beautiful. As I heard them reflect, I was so thankful at the mighty, life-changing work God does during the college years. Please join me in praising God that these 20 senior girls are different people today than they were when they first came to UNC, because of God's power!

## Coming in October...

Well, on the personal front we have some exciting news to share...we are expecting!! We are thrilled to announce that Baby Smith is due to join our family on October 24th! I am 16 weeks along now and have turned the corner with morning sickness, thankfully! We are excited to find out the gender of little Smith in late May. We would love your prayers for a healthy pregnancy and for God to grow our little baby strong.