

CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

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Winter Conference

Over MLK weekend, our family joined 500 staff and students in Raleigh for Cru's Winter Conference. We had 26 students from UNC there this year! Over the 3 days we heard from speakers, had amazing praise and worship, talked about world missions and had breakout sessions. Students were able to choose breakout sessions on topics like sharing your story, walking through suffering and navigating church hurt. Many of our UNC students went to a session on how to incorporate your faith in the healthcare field. Maya, a student I disciple, said it was very impactful. "As a nursing student it resonated deeply with me. I learned how to reflect the gospel in healthcare settings ethically, and hearing the speaker's stories about pointing people to Christ was both eye-opening and encouraging. I'm grateful I took the time to come to winter conference to grow spiritually and build community." Pray the Lord would continue to grow fruit in the lives of Maya and other students like her!

Prayer requests

-Pray for students to continue to grow in what they learned at **Winter Conference**. One focus of the weekend was "surrender." Pray UNC students would live lives more and more surrendered to Jesus.

-Pray for the **upperclassmen Bible study**. Pray we would all be challenged by what we read in Philippians.

-Pray for our **spring break trip** in March. We will be doing a beach trip to FL. Pray people would invite their friends and for this to be a week of transformational community!

We went skiing over President's Day weekend (pic above). The kids had a blast and no broken bones!

Gospel Over Self

This semester I'm leading an upperclassmen Bible study (with another staff) and we're studying Philippians. Although it is a pretty familiar book, we have had such rich discussions each week. Wednesday mornings, 10-12 of us gather at the NC Study Center on campus (in their beautiful library, usually with a cozy fire going.) We have snacks and chat over an ice breaker to get to know each other better (what are your highs and lows this week? What is bringing you joy right now?) Then for 45 minutes we dive into Paul's letter to the Philippians. Over and over again we have seen how Paul lives his life focusing on the Gospel over himself- as he says, to live is Christ after all. What a gift to walk alongside and teach these students!

