

MARCH 2013

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH
CRU GIVING#0549860

CAROLINA CONNECTION

CRU AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL



Pray for the Smiths

- Charleston Summer Project is right around the corner. Pray for a fruitful, fun-filled summer and that the 51 (yay!) students joining us would greatly grow in their faith! (May 19-June 29)

-Pray for Charleston preparation. There is a lot of administration and details that Josh is in charge of. Pray obstacles would be removed for students to raise their support and be able to come!

-Join us in praising the Lord for raising up 120+ student leaders for next year at UNC! Pray that they would walk closely with the Lord this summer and come back in August excited and prepared to pour into others!

-Pray for our personal time in the Word. That connecting with Christ would remain a priority in the midst of all the "to-dos" of a busy season.

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Spring Break NYC 2013

What happens when you combine 39 UNC students and 5 staff to be a part of the ministry happening in New York for a week? Life change happens!

I (Josh) was able to head up our spring break trip in March and it was a great week with students. Each day we split up into groups and headed to campuses all over the city, where we initiated spiritual conversations with students (using tools such as Soularium, a picture survey). We also tried to connect with potential leaders who might be interested in leading a Cru movement at their school (many campuses don't have Christian ministries at all). During the week nearly all of our students got to share their faith, some for the first time in their lives. We initiated 350 conversations and shared the gospel 113 times!



We also participated in a day of service. While helping gut a house that was flooded by Hurricane Sandy, we spent a day in the rain in one of the most broken parts of Brooklyn.

Leadership 2013-14

It is an overwhelming privilege to see spiritual generations be raised up every year on this campus. We are in the process of installing new leaders to help us reach the campus. Our staff team is going to be smaller and in some new ways we are more dependent on energetic, faithful students to trust God alongside of us. Leading gives students chances to participate not only in what God wants to do on campus in more students lives, but in their own lives as well. Pray for God to move in a unique way and give our leaders vision to help change their roommates, hallways, dorms, this campus and the world.

APRIL 2013

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Pray for the Smiths

- Pray for our condo to sell this summer and for God to provide a new place to call home!
- Pray for the seniors who are transitioning from UNC into the next chapter of life. Pray for relationships of Christ followers to meet them in this new season and for ever-deepening walks with Christ.
- We praise the Lord for YOU, our ministry partners. Know we are so thankful for another year to minister at UNC. We couldn't be here without your investment and prayers! THANK YOU!

Harrison update:

Harrison continues to thrive. Most days we are totally exhausted keeping up with him! He is around fifth percentile in height and weight, but is on the right growth chart now (no more "adjusted age!"). Doctors are still amazed at his progress! He is curious about EVERYTHING, loves making animal noises, watching trucks and building legos. Things he is learning how to cope with are the word "no" and separation anxiety!

Rooted

The first weekend of April I (Erin) got to attend the annual Women's Beach Retreat with 150 students and staff from UNC. This is always one of my favorite things we do as a ministry! Not only does it help girls across the movement connect with each other, we are also able to tackle real issues that are especially pertinent to us as women. The theme this year was "Rooted" and centered around Jeremiah 17, which reminds us to be rooted in the Lord rather than ourselves and the things of this world.

Saturday morning we held breakout sessions (led by staff and seniors) to talk about issues such as sexual purity, having healthy relationships and struggles with body image.

I was able to lead a session this year about dealing with grief. Preparing that seminar was so good for me as I "revisited" the early days of Harrison's birth and thought about what God has taught me since. I was so grateful to have a chance to share part of my story with the girls, talk with them about the challenging things they have gone through and discuss what it looks like to walk deeply with Christ in the midst of those times. (Honestly, things I learned much later looking back on the NICU days!)

The last morning of the retreat we had a time of sharing- always a highlight for me! Two girls shared that they almost didn't come but that the weekend was very significant in moving them closer to beginning a relationship with Jesus. One girl shared about a recent breakup that had her reeling, as she had placed her identity in that relationship. During the weekend she understood the Gospel for

the first time and began a relationship with Christ- seeing Him as her sole identity!

Another girl shared that she feared coming because it had been such a lonely year for her. During the weekend she was embraced by the Body of Christ and felt pursued and loved. Girls shared that the vulnerability modeled by the seniors and staff upfront helped them feel like they could be more honest about sin in their lives. "The issues

we talked about (body image, relationships, depression/anxiety) were real and present issues in most of our lives. It was refreshing to talk about these issues that sometimes so easily can get swept under the rug," said Hannah, a freshman. "I was so thankful for this because I realized EVERYONE has struggles, not just me." Praise the Lord for such a great retreat!

