

Why now?

In the coming year, Kerri and I will have the opportunity to expand our impact on campus to an even wider degree. Kerri will have the opportunity to train more teams of staff and students to recognize their gifts and grow deep in their experience of Jesus and ministry. I will have the opportunity to plan more than a dozen conferences and events designed for students and staff to connect with God, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and take meaningful steps of faith to share the love of Christ with others.

These opportunities will require tools and resources that we currently do not have. Also, we have had a shortfall of giving this year, no doubt a result of the economic downturn here in the US. Several of our regular partners have been unable to continue to give as well. All of this represents \$23,000 in additional funds needed for 2011 and 2012.

As you are thinking through your end of the year giving, would you consider giving a special gift to help students to hear the good news of God who loves them?

If you are in a position to give, please make your check payable to Campus Crusade for Christ and send it to us, along with the response card, in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for partnering with us to help every student experience the grace and truth of the Gospel.

In his justice and mercy,

JT

Jonathan

Jonathan and Kerri Thorn  
Campus Crusade for Christ--Northeast Region  
2.3 million college students, 500 campuses  
NY | CT | RI | MA | VT | NH | ME

Give Online: [jonathanandkerri.blogspot.com](http://jonathanandkerri.blogspot.com)

*P.S. Thank you for considering a gift to help us expand our ability to meet students and share the truth about God, sex, justice and mercy.*

Jonathan & Kerri Thorn



What happened at Penn State? It seems everyone is asking that question. It's common for colleges and universities to be mentioned in the news, but the current child sex abuse scandal at Penn State has dominated newspapers, television and the Internet. It might be the worst scandal in college sports history.

As a former Div-1 college football player at Arizona State, my boss, Ryan, knows what life is like in a major college program: "The close knit community and shared identity is pure joy in good times; and pure hell in times of shame and failure." It is difficult to think of failure worse than the leaders of an institution failing to protect children. I am deeply saddened by the allegations at Penn State and the misery that has engulfed that campus.

The reaction of some students has been disheartening as well. Some 1000 students at Penn State protested the firing of their football coach by rioting, blaming their actions on the Board of Trustees.

However, some 10,000 students responded with a peaceful vigil for the victims of sexual abuse, raising thousands of dollars to help the same.

Some students gathered in the center of the storm and prayed to God for guidance.



Meanwhile, on campus, a leader of Penn State Cru ([www.pennstatecru.org](http://www.pennstatecru.org)), Tim Henderson spoke from the Bible about God, love, justice and mercy. He called on students to recognize the failure to love that leads to abuse of the weak, and reminded students of Jesus' story of the good Samaritan as a picture of love for those in need.

We are honored to be a part of an organization that provides a clarion voice on campus, at Penn State and campuses all over the world, calling students to understand themselves

and their world in light of the God who made them. It is in knowing this God and his son Jesus that students will learn who they are and the difference between good and evil. Our goal is the build a generation of Christ-centered leaders who pursue justice and peace for the rest of their lives.

Kerri and I have been given the privilege and responsibility of leading and resourcing hundreds of campus ministers and thousands of college students in the Northeast. We need your help to continue to be a voice on campus for God, sexual limits, justice and mercy.



## God

Who on campus can a student talk to about God as a real person who can be known and enjoyed as a friend today? Today (and for more than 60 years) they can go to a Campus Crusade for Christ meeting, web site or Bible study and hear that God is real and can be known today. We explain continually that God is revealed in the historic life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth who is alive today and the only way that God and man can be reconciled.

Your investment in us is helping put the gospel in arms reach of students. We plant gospel movements to connect students to Jesus before, during and after the kind of crisis that Penn State is enduring.

## Sex

Who on campus will tell students that there are limits on sexuality? Most campuses have classes called something like “Social Construction of Sexuality” where they read articles of the same name by Ruth Hubbard, Professor Emerita of Biology at Harvard in which she states:

*What if we acknowledged the separation of sexuality from procreation and encouraged our children to express themselves sexually if they were so inclined? What if we, further, encouraged them to explore their own bodies as well as those of friends of the same and the other sex when they felt like it? They might then be able to feel at home with their sexuality...*

These words are chilling after these past few weeks. It is ironic that the scandal of sex with a child would occur on a college campus when the most decorated teachers at the most prestigious universities recognize no limits on sexuality, only social preferences.

We are among the few voices on campus that will clearly state that there are God given limits on sexuality, designed by God who designed our bodies for a purpose. To state otherwise is to hold God in contempt and risk confusion and harm. Your partnership with us is helping students find the truth about their bodies and their sexuality: they are made in the image of God who loves us enough to give us limits and wisdom on how to love one another.

## Justice

Who on campus can students talk with to learn that there will be justice? I’m sure in the wake of this scandal many are wondering what the punishment will be for those who sexually abuse children or look the other way when they see abuse. Will the punishment fit the crime? What if they “get away with it”. This is a common desire for justice in the face of gross injustice.

Most students are taught by science teachers that there is nothing supernatural, no spiritual realm, no life after death. Yet rarely do students ponder what that means for justice; even more rarely do teachers state the necessary conclusion: If there is no life after death, then evil doers who escape punishment in this life, will never face punishment at all. In the end, there will be no justice, because there is no ultimate judge or judgement, only physical matter.

Perhaps in the wake of this scandal, you can imagine the despair of victims of abuse in the face of this idea: there will be no ultimate justice. Some might be tempted to take justice into their own hands since there will be no other justice. Others may despair to seek justice since there is no ultimate hope for justice.

We are among the few voices on campus that clearly state that God is just and Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. God is not mocked, what one sows, so also one reaps. You are helping students to find the foundation of justice, the just God who made the heavens and the earth who will in the end punish all evil and reward all virtue.

## Mercy

Who can a student talk to on campus about mercy? Sam is a female student at the University of New Hampshire, who is not a christian but has spoken with staff member Emily and a few others in Cru. She agreed to attend the UNH Cru Fall Retreat in October, she said, “To prove to Emily that I didn’t belong and wouldn’t fit in with christians.” Sam knew she was a sinner, but perceived christians as “perfect people” who would reject her outright. She braced herself for exactly that reaction as she arrived at the retreat with 80+ other students...and was shocked by what happened next.

The community of UNH students was warm and welcoming, and Sam began to connect with a few people. Then, during a men’s/women’s time, both groups began to confess their sins to one another and pray for each other with sincere expressions of vulnerability, love, and acceptance. These people weren’t perfect at all; they were struggling just like

her - only they were doing it together. Sam now attends Cru events regularly and continues to meet with Emily to explore how she can have a relationship with Jesus.

It is through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ that many students like Sam hear the truth about God’s mercy and experience genuine forgiveness. Mercy for sinners comes at the cost of the perfect son of God, who took the punishment for sin on himself. The power of this forgiveness informs the community of Cru and gives me hope that God can continue to change my heart and help me to bless others. Jesus’ mercy has been my source of passion for two decades of ministry. Your partnership gives students hope in God’s mercy on campus today.

**We want you to know how grateful to the Lord we are for you. We couldn’t be a voice to students on campus without your prayers and support. With the economic uncertainty that has affected so many people, we are so encouraged by your sacrificial gifts for our ministry. Whether I'm filling up my gas tank to drive to a remote campus, buying needed items for our family or purchasing materials for the people we lead, we can do this because of your generosity.**

