

# Matt Williams - Campus Crusade for Christ

Building a Christ-centered Movement at Cal Poly

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Stepping onto the campus of Cal State Fullerton, one of the first things that goes through my mind is, "I feel like I'm in a movie right now." It's lunch hour on Thursday and a sea of students are hurriedly passing through on their way to class. Old classmates and friends are catching up with each other, while an audience across the courtyard listens to the punk rock band playing. Amidst all the bustle you will find students of various backgrounds and ethnicities: Hispanic and Asian, agnostic and Christian, timid freshmen and arrogant seniors.

Last week I spent four days in Southern California at a conference for all the new staff and interns in our region, where we learned how to better engage the culture on our many diverse campuses. We spent one afternoon on the campus of CSU Fullerton initiating spiritual conversations with specifically Latino students. Our desire was to find out more information about the Hispanic population on campus, and how we might be able to serve that community for the sake of the gospel. I found myself in

one conversation with Alex, a Latino student getting his Civil Engineering degree. After learning about Alex's background growing up in a Catholic home, I asked him what his spiritual life was like currently. Alex responded by saying, "Well, I'm still open to religion but not sure if I want that anymore." The conversation progressed into an opportunity to share the gospel with Alex, but there were still many barriers in the way of Alex truly placing his



conversations with  
Latino students at  
Fullerton

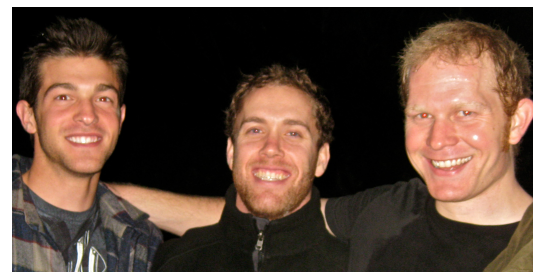


getting trained by Priscilla

trust and faith in Christ alone. This is the reality for most Latino students today. They have been taught to believe in God, but the idea of knowing God personally is foreign to them. Would you pray with me that **God will teach us and others what it means to know him, not just know about him?** J.I. Packer, in his book *Knowing God*, puts it this way: "A little knowledge of God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge about Him."

## Intentionality Matters

"Things in life that matter take intentionality." God has been at work in my own life teaching me that the relationships I have play a crucial role in allowing me to bond with God and others. They even impact the way I view and relate to God. One way this plays out is with the men that I disciple here at Cal Poly. When I am being led by the Holy Spirit and becoming more like Jesus, these men are growing more rapidly. Just the opposite is true when I struggle to walk with Jesus well; these men suffer the affects. Pray that I count the **privilege and responsibility of ministry**, and that I would **daily walk in the power of the Holy Spirit** so the gospel may go forth.



Mike, me, Josh

The past few months have been filled with important lessons and big decisions such as **deciding to step down from leading the trip to East Asia this summer**. Through these hard decisions I'm watching God shape my character before my eyes and teach me how to walk humbly with Him. It's comforting to know that God is "a refuge in the day of my distress." Psalm 59



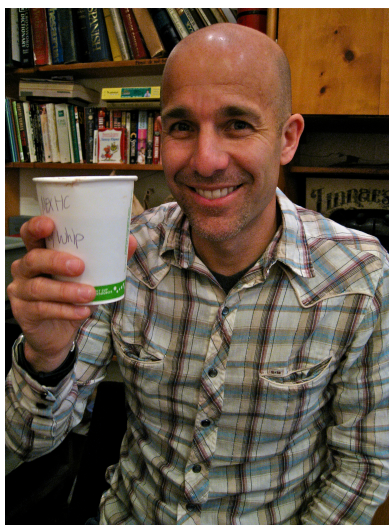
**me and Laura at ski retreat**

Another way that God is teaching me about Himself is through my relationship with Laura. If you don't know our story, we started dating just after Christmas and we have been growing together ever since! Laura is an amazing woman of God who lives with great faith, passion, and trust. She is a great encourager and visionary so her passion is very contagious. Laura is also on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ in the Pacific Southwest region, and since our relationship is currently long-distance, it is a great blessing to see her at conferences and retreats. Laura is getting ready to transition to a new campus and we are praying that she can move closer to me on the central coast of California and work at UC Santa Barbara. Please pray for God's favor in this process. Also, pray for Laura to have **energy and strength as she leaves her current campus to raise support** for her new assignment (yet to be determined) in the fall. Lastly, pray that I would **seek God and gain wisdom about His character** that would shape the way I pursue Laura and for our relationship to bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

#### **Grace** - disposition to kindness

God's grace has been abundant as I have been trusting Him to lead me through the process of grieving the loss of my father. As Scott says, "Grief has a way of leading itself, but it needs to know when it's safe to come out." I'm learning that I need to create more "space" in my life in order to have the emotional capacity to sort through and handle all that is being brought to the surface. This summer I will be in Colorado for a month with Lifelines, a character growth, outdoor ministry of CCC. More details to come!



**Scott, my counselor**

#### **Truth** - being in accord with reality

Just this week I told Scott that whenever people ask me how things are going in this area I'm just about clueless about what to say. It's so hard to really verbalize what I'm thinking and to recall the events of my father's death since it was over 16 years ago. Please ask God to give me **clarity and understanding** in this process. Also, would you pray that I **enjoy and cherish the journey**, letting God's Word be "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119

*Thank You*

Almost every day when I am on campus and the days are long, I stop and think about how blessed I am to have so many people supporting me and making my presence on the campus of Cal Poly possible. Please know that you are very special to me; your endless prayers that move the heart of God, your sacrificial giving, and your heart to see college students reached with the love of Christ. THANK YOU for being a part of this movement. It is a privilege to partner with you in the Great Commission!

- pray for 200 students from our movement to be sent on summer projects
- wisdom as our staff team selects student leaders for next year
- pray for continued blessing in the area of financial support
- discernment about where to live next year and roommates
- pray for a renewed sense of joy in my salvation

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