

INDYC

WHEREVER YOU ARE

For Matt, the school year so far has been marked with many new places, faces, and experiences. It's been a full six months of learning and listening. The annual winter conference was no different in that regard.

This year's theme, "Wherever You Are," was an invitation to experience the power of the gospel - God mending the broken parts of our lives - wherever we are. While working with college students, we find that for the vast majority, their sexuality is an area they are broken because of self-reliance and rebellion. Two common views that students hold are thinking either: 1. there is no problem and I should make decisions however I want; or 2. feeling ashamed, guilty, or trapped in broken thoughts or sinful behavior.

One of our speakers, Mike Erre, led us through Scriptures to realign our thoughts about sexuality as God designed. We greatly appreciated Mike's desire to re-orient the way we approach the topic; not from the assumption of "Thou shalt not," but grounded by the freedom of God's design for healthy sexuality.



Indy Metro Cru students & staff

During an evening session, hundreds of students responded by expressing their desire to move back under God's blessing and design. We listened to their stories - testimonies of pornography use, non-marital sex, same-gender attraction, rape, abuse and idolizing marriage. We prayed with them and proclaimed freedom in Christ. We listened, pulled them close, and gave our shoulders to cry on. It was incredible to see the students we care about be released from deep guilt and regret! The room was filled with a rich sense of holiness and worship as students turned away from isolation and into the power of Christ!

How to pray this spring semester:

- our team would maintain a gospel-centered focus in all that we do; not get caught up in the "latest and greatest" ideas
- students we disciple will desire to share their faith with the friends and classmates around them
- direction in leading the Athletes in Action ministry at Butler
- developing our student leaders at IUPUI well so there is long term growth, not only short term excitement
- equipping upperclassmen students to think about living with Kingdom purpose and mission once they graduate
- Jenny and I would learn the ministry/life balance; knowing how to serve well without burning out
- rest in the gospel and not strive for approval of others
- communication and grace as we adjust to being married :)
- let go of the perception that we're in control and can change ourselves; only the Holy Spirit can give us freedom and joy!
- wisdom in making plans for our sabbatical this summer

During the conference, we had a day of outreach in inner city Indianapolis. This year we saw:

- 2,764 conversations with people
- 1,203 heard the gospel
- 122 people trusted Christ
- 732 wanted local church followup



handing out boxes of non-perishable goods for the day of outreach

Giving every student the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.