

January 2025 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update

Dear Friends of Cru,

We started the new year with our region-wide Winter Conference in downtown Minneapolis. 80-some students from Southern Wisconsin made the journey for electric ballroom worship, pertinent biblical teaching, practical seminar equipping, frigid yet heart-warming evangelism, and life-changing vision and challenge.

Sometimes more happens in a 4-day conference than a year of discipleship. We trust with more time we'll see more of the seeds planted blossom into maturity. Already we're encouraged by the budding new growth.

Often having a couple of years is really encouraging to see growth. Here's the unfolding story of Mekhi, a student leader I'm glad to have in a junior Bible study. Mekhi entered college as a driven student from a childhood marked by trials, including his parents' separation and his mother's severe struggles with addiction. As the eldest sibling, he often bore the weight of responsibility, ensuring his younger siblings were cared for even when resources were scarce. The pain of a fractured home left a lasting impact.

Arriving at his first Badger Cru meeting and overwhelmed by the energy and love from the student leaders and staff, it was almost too much to process. He recalls being greeted with smiles, lively music, and a welcoming emcee.

After the main meeting, there was a gathering for new students. It was a bit overstimulating and even confusing as he hadn't been in a church for years so Mekhi retreated to a corner, phone in hand, to detach and avoid engaging with anyone.

But God had other plans. Emmett a fellow student approached him and as they talked he asked "Do you like Lego sets?" This turned out to be a passion they shared when Mekhi responded, "I love Lego sets!" This paved the way for a relationship with Emmett, now one of his closest friends, as well as an entry into feeling comfortable in the broader Cru ministry.

Shortly after Mekhi's first meeting, I (Scott) reached out and met him on campus. After hearing Mekhi's traumatic background, I began to share the gospel, including compelling truths about the Father's love. This was different from how Mekhi had heard it before.



God also used a UW graduate, Zane, who was serving on our team as an intern that year. Zane led a Bible study for students where Mekhi lived which helped him grasp God's faithfulness and his identity in Christ.

Mekhi put his complete trust in Jesus his first fall and really grew. One of the pivotal moments in Mekhi's spiritual growth was his participation in a summer mission to North Myrtle Beach. There he learned to share the gospel boldly as that mission amazingly saw 172 people indicate decisions for Christ. The last few days in North Myrtle Beach, Mekhi wrote a letter to his mother, extending forgiveness for the pain she had caused as she left their family for drugs and alcohol. This act of grace marked the beginning of a slow but meaningful redeeming of their relationship as his mother began steady progress in rehabilitation.

God's faithfulness is revealed through a traumatic life transformed into hope and purpose. We don't know how Mekhi does it. As a full-time student who is an active leader in Cru and involved in so many people's lives, he also juggles three jobs where he seizes every opportunity to share the gospel with his coworkers. One of his fondest memories is an encounter with a friend named Krishna. He explicitly asked Mekhi to share the gospel with him. Like so many students, Krishna wants to find truth and a reason to live despite life's struggles.

As God continues to work in and through Mekhi, he credits Cru for providing a community that's nurtured his faith. He has been an encouragement to so many now and we trust God will continue to use him after graduation. Last year he helped with the weekly meeting.

Now, midway through his junior year, he is leading the prayer team, with plans of joining as an intern with Cru after graduation. Mekhi is one more salient example of why we are glad to partner with you in campus ministry as we seek to turn lost students into Christ-centered laborers.

With great appreciation,

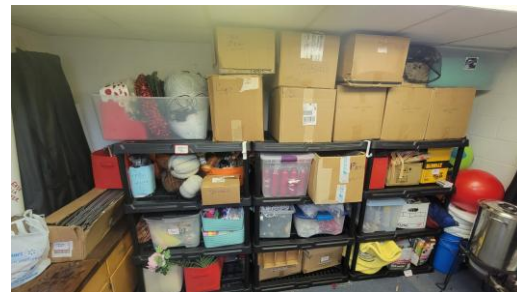
Ben Newton Scott Roe

Team Leaders

Southern Wisconsin Cru



Can you tell that the joyful and triumphant Mekhi is an overcomer in the power of Christ?!



HELP US FIND STORAGE FOR OUR SUPPLIES!

The building we use for storage will be torn down soon, so we need to find a new home for two rooms full of ministry supplies.

We're looking for a storage space near UW campus (or within a reasonable drive) that can hold assorted items including sound equipment, books and paper materials, tables, sporting equipment, giveaways, decorations, and ideally food.

How You Can Help:

1. **Do you know of a suitable space?**
 - A garage or basement?
 - A business, church or facility with extra storage?
 - A tip on an affordable, accessible option?
2. **Spread the word.** Share this need with your network, church, or community groups.
3. **Consider partnering with us.** While we'd love a donated space, we are open to renting at a reasonable price if needed.

Why Not a Storage Unit?

While storage units are an option, they come with drawbacks including limited access and higher costs over time. We're hoping for a solution that better supports the mission.

If you have ideas or leads, please reach out to Ben Newton: (847) 732-8655