

## October 26, 2021 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update



Dear Partners,

Rejoice with us at what the Lord did through Fall Getaway. Students encountered God, formed solid friendships, learned practical steps to walk with the Lord, and gained motivation to be God's ambassadors to the nations.



This weekend often marks the time when people go from feeling like outsiders into feeling like insiders. They go from knowing few people to knowing many. Unsurprisingly a higher percentage than ever experienced this benefit as students of all ages got to experience an impactful weekend away for the first time in a couple years. Perfect weather for outdoor fun, scores of pumpkins to carve, extended worship, equipping seminars, inspirational student testimonies, a gifted Bible teacher, student-led prayer, and so much

more formed what some consider our best retreat ever.

An unscheduled highlight was seeing a photo Saturday morning of 40 students who gathered on their own initiative at midnight to pray. There is so much more we want to trust the Lord for, so I'm so encouraged that they sense the need to call on the Lord to work on campus.

This weekend was great for students who came in as Christ-followers. But that's not all. On Sunday morning, our speaker invited people to text him their name if they received Jesus as their savior during the weekend. A dozen did!

"BJ" attended the Fall Getaway after only being in the United States for a month and a half. He's a freshman from China that I first



met on Labor Day at our Volleyball Blast. We held this event outside several the dorms on campus which was great for our visibility on campus and for meeting new people.



Sixty-seven teams played in our Labor Day Volleyball Tournament.

Although BJ did not play volleyball, he approached me at the event and said he was interested in our group. He told me he was not a Christian but had some friends who were. I welcomed him to come to our first weekly meeting and attend our other events. I introduced him to some of our student leaders including a junior named Harrison who has taken BJ under his wing and involved him in a Bible study he leads. It's been fun seeing BJ's enthusiasm the last few weeks as he has gotten involved with Cru and seems to have really soaked up a lot of gospel truth. He now believes in God and seems on the edge of trusting Jesus but says he's not quite ready to commit his whole life to Christ.

Even so, he joined me a couple days ago for the purpose of initiating a spiritual conversation with a student on campus. Together we had a great conversation unpacking the gospel with an irreligious freshman who knew virtually nothing about Jesus. Afterward BJ talked about how good it was and much different than he expected it would be. (Oh, how often I have heard that after someone shares their faith for the first time 😊)

BJ's enthusiasm reminds me of the adage *The World is at our Doorstep*. While seeing Americans transformed and sent out with the gospel to transform families and countries is exciting, it feels special seeing change in international students knowing they have the language, culture, and connections to impact their country thousands of miles away with the gospel in ways we never could.

This week we are repeating a pre-Covid outreach called *Fill the Feast* based upon the parable in Mathew 22. We will spend a week pairing up with students to strike up conversations on campus and share the gospel. We are trusting God to guide us to intersect with people ready to contemplate the gospel. This should be an opportune time to help our students see they can engage in healthy spiritual conversation with others that are respectful, enjoyable, and meaningful...just like BJ experienced.

As we celebrate what God does on campus, we are grateful for your prayers, giving, and other kind acts that bolster us in our service.

In Christ,

*Scott Roe*

**The Southern Wisconsin Cru Staff Team**