



Close-up On Campus

Campus Ministry in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic



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Year 6 Sum/Fall Review

Bible Thought:

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse... And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth. *(describing Jesus)*
Isaiah 11:1, 3, 4

Book Recommendation:

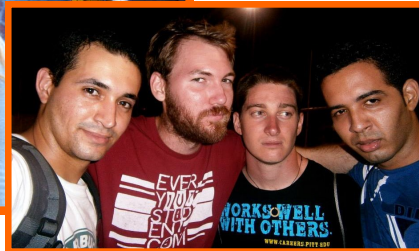
Mere Christianity

by C. S. Lewis

A Warrior In Venezuela



Our team (left to right): Jon, Tyler, Me, Matt, Ben / Christi, Jess, Jenna, Kaitlin



Jose Angel, Me, Matt and Nohendry at a men's event

'Be strong and courageous..'

Those immortal words from Joshua 1:9 echoed across 6 weeks of amazing, gospel-sharing ministry in Venezuela this summer. Our team of 7 students (3 returners) and 2 staff shared with over 400 students, taxi drivers, store owners, parents, etc. about how to begin a relationship with Jesus. Over 30 indicated decisions for Christ, most of whom we were able to personally invest in and disciple during the remainder of our time there. God certainly went before us!

Never underestimate the power of personal relationships in evangelism! Urbe, a campus where I spent a significant amount of time, is attended by some of the wealthiest students in the city. Plagued with spiritual apathy because of their over-contentedness, we struggled to find students willing to hear or accept the gospel message there. After nearly four weeks of evangelism and realizing our

time was coming to an end I and returner, Matt, prayed that God would multiply our efforts and lead us to the right people. As soon as we opened our eyes God led us to Christopher. Christopher introduced us to his friend, Lenny. While we were talking Lenny's friend Carlos approached us. Even though he wasn't interested in spiritual things, he called his friend Victor over who just recently started following Jesus! And Victor was God's direct answer to Matt and I's prayers! I spent the next few days discipling him; he was so hungry we covered half a semester's material in less than a week! Now he is connected with Vida Estudiantil (Cru in VZ) and actively reaching his campus!

The family of God is greater than we realize. Tyler (above) is an IUP Junior I challenged to join me in VZ this summer. Though a relatively new believer, he scarcely hesitated to accept. He was nervous, though, that he couldn't see his family and friends while out of the country, and would have to celebrate his birthday away from them. He struggled through the first few weeks. So to lift his spirits we went for an upscale Venezuelan birthday dinner. At dinner a Vida student leader, Jose Angel, stood and thanked Tyler for his leap of faith, understanding the sacrifice of no family around for his birthday, "I want you to know that you always have a family here." Tyler was clearly moved. When we arrived home he really wanted to return. What a beautiful picture of the gospel uniting people!

Please Pray

- Freshman and new transfers will continue to connect to our students in Cru and invite their friends
- Our 5 Freshman Bible Studies would be rich places of growth, fellowship and outward impact
- God would start a Bible Study at UPJ through Garrett
- God would raise up leaders from Penn Highlands through Justin

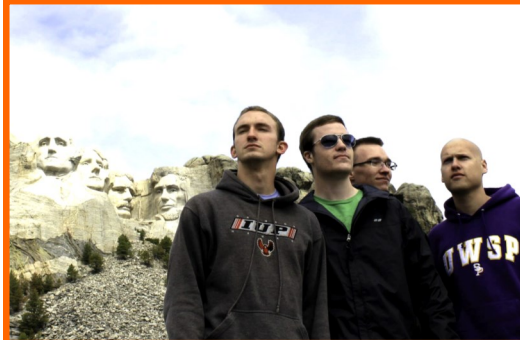
Praise God!

- Number of students actively sharing their faith on campus (personal relationships, Soularium cards, etc) is greatly encouraging!
- For Alex as he trusted God, shared with Nichole and saw her respond in faith!
- Penn Highlands students doing evangelism at UPJ! They're getting it!
- I'm getting married!

So That The World May Know

22 major steps of faith. 22 opportunities to see God raise up thousands of dollars. Countless conversations and countless prayer warriors championing the 22 students that followed God's call to a summer project this year from our region!

This is by far more than I've ever seen from one area in all of my experience with Cru! Some students went to the inner cities of Seattle and Chicago working with orphans, at risk youth, college students and the incarcerated.



Our Weekly Team Leader, Joel (left) returning from Alaska Summer Project

Some to the great outdoors of Alaska and Colorado sharing with locals and grade school campers. Some to the beaches of Ocean City, MD and Hampton Beach, NH to tell graduating high schoolers and international students the good news of Jesus. And still others to the farther reaches of the world, to Venezuela and Africa. Together, they took the gospel to hundreds and hundreds of people all around the world. And they've come back to campus hungry to reach their peers!

Alex Hears And Shares



Alex has connected well with the men of Cru (↑)

It was like watching John 4 come to life! I've been leading a freshman bible study at IUP this year with Tyler, and am so thrilled with the men God has brought! We decided to focus one recent study on how to share the gospel. We walked them through the Soularium (beginning spiritual conversations through pictures) and

the 4 Spiritual Laws, and at the end encouraged the guys to pair up sometime during the week to share around campus.

Mere hours after parting ways Alex, a transfer student from Mt Aloysius, met Nichole who seemed pretty distressed. He thought she would be just the kind of person who needed the gospel, so he brought out the 4 Spiritual Laws booklet he just learned how to use and went through it with her. She was an atheist, so he was nervous to

question her to a point of decision; but before he could get there though she blurted out, "Well after this I guess I'm a Christian now!" (As Alex related the story all the guys in the study cheered and clapped!) I was reminded that amazing knowledge or convincing arguments aren't nearly as effective as just sharing the person and message of Jesus. How exciting!

Cross Pollinating in Johnstown

You may remember Justin, our solid student leader from Penn Highlands Community College in Johnstown. Since last year he has run for and won the Student President position and built relationships with several of the college's faculty, staff and student club leaders! (Wow!) A brand new wave of students are now exploring Cru and coming on a regular basis.

After recently returning from our annual Fall Retreat a new sense of ownership and passion to share the gospel seems

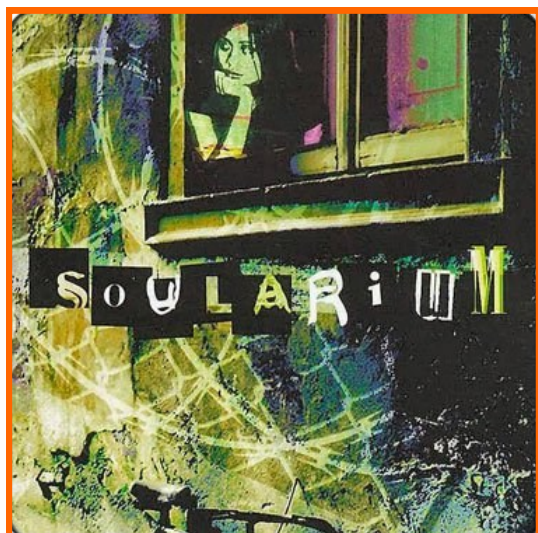
present among these new students. They heard at the Fall Retreat about the priority of the lost hearing the gospel, so during the weekly meeting we went across the street to Pitt Johnstown (UPJ), partnered up with a ministry there called Timeout and shared our faith. We collected over a hundred survey cards of UPJ students expressing interest in discussing the message of Jesus or attending a Bible study (which are the beautiful seeds of a budding spiritual movement on campus!)

The most important part now is your

A new sense of ownership and passion to share the gospel seems present among these new students.

prayers and cheers for these students as they continue to take huge steps of faith to go after Penn Highlands and their neighboring school, too!

A Dialogue In Pictures



Cru may be most well known for the creation of the simple, streamlined gospel-sharing tool, the Four Spiritual Laws authored by Bill Bright back in the 50's. As the culture has shifted Cru continues to grow and adapt with an aim that everyone can respond to the unchanging truth of the Good News of Jesus in a clear and understandable way. It is from this desire the Soularium cards were born!

While many would never ordinarily open up about their lives to complete strangers, I've seen

One of fifty pictures in the Soularium deck that foster great spiritual conversations

While many would never ordinarily open up about their lives to complete strangers, I've seen student after student respond openly to this strategically compiled deck of images.



student after student respond openly to this strategically compiled deck of images. We ask them a series of questions ('What's a picture that represents your life now? Your view of God? Your view of Jesus' message?'), to which, the answers are pictures. While non-believers respond well to the cards, our students also love using them (double win)! This has been a primary tool in beginning gospel focused conversations where non-believers, sometimes for the first time, are able to express and address their obstacles to a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

I'm Getting Married!

It's been years of waiting and praying, (and watching all my friends and disciples get married – even have kids), but now God in His perfect timing has given me the 'go ahead!' I met Ashley in Cru at IUP just over a year ago initially because I disciplined her older brother, Josh Frankenfield. She was passionate about ministry and at the time asked me for assistance with a sticky ministry circumstance. As we worked through it over the course of that semester her beautiful heart was unmistakable and her zeal to let the principles of Scripture rearrange her



life was inspiring! We started dating in November 2012, and as soon as I returned from Venezuela this summer I popped the question! (*To see the official video of the whole proposal search YouTube for: This Life With You by David Coffey*). Our date is set in January, and even though we're unable to invite everyone to the wedding, we'll be having a reception in February that everyone is welcome to attend (more details to come). Feel free to explore our website: www.weddingwire.com/WalkInLove



Ashley and I at the bridge where I proposed



Thank you again for your prayers and hearts for Christ!

Until all hear, (Eph 6:19)

David Coffey 