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Faculty Commons is part of the global faculty network of Cru/Campus Crusade for Christ. We are men and women who love the academy, who find the person and works of Jesus of Nazareth to be satisfying and true, and who look to Him as the beautiful hope for the world.



"For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:11-15

I hope this update finds you all well and that you are experiencing the joy of the Lord! I just returned from a mission trip to Santiago, D.R. and I am so excited to tell you about all that the Lord did through our team (you are included in this team! As my ministry partners, when I (we) share the gospel, you share the gospel or when we do any ministry you are there with us doing it, as 3 John 8 says, you who send me are "fellow workers for the truth!"). What a blessing of God it is to be missionaries with you, I cannot express this enough, your prayers and encouragement mean more than you may ever know. It is also so wonderful to see how God works in response to your prayers for our ministry. This past week was full of answered prayers through the movement of God in the lives of the students in Santiago and in our lives as well. It seems as though there are hundreds of testimonies to God's faithfulness to share from this past week and I am excited to share with you a few of the key highlights!

Our specific goal for this week was to go to UTESA (a large university in the heart of Santiago) to share the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and trust the Lord to lead students to faith and to also surface Christian students who could be key volunteers and potential student leaders of the Cru movement there. This was our teams third trip to Santiago over the last few years to launch a Cru movement in that City and so far, no ministry had taken hold. So, we prepared for this week with much fervent expectant prayer, asking our ministry partners to pray, and with fasting. Last, Monday 14 of us boarded a bus to Santiago with a sense of excited expectation for what the Lord was going to do, but this was also mixed with a feeling of slight anxiety as we knew this would be a full week of stepping out in faith and sharing the Gospel for hours a day. However, God's faithfulness and presence was with us the entire time as he gave us the divine strength, stamina, and energy we needed for long days in the sun seeking people to share the hope of Christ with!

Before arriving, we contacted a few of the Christian students we knew, and we met with them on Monday night and got to know them and explained to them the vision and mission of our ministry, to win people to Christ, build them in their faith, and send them to be live long disciple makers. They all were very receptive to the vision and mission and agreed to hearing more and receiving evangelism training throughout the week. Throughout the week we split up into groups of three and went out to share the Gospel. On Tuesday morning, God blessed my group with seeing three women place their faith in Christ in the morning and in the afternoon, we were able to share the Gospel with 5 more students, what an amazing first day. Most of the students this day gave us their contact information and indicated a desire to be a part of the Cru movement there. On Wednesday, in the morning I had the privilege of training one student who indicated that he would like to learn more about being a student leader on our evangelism tools and the biblical basis for Cru's vision and mission and in the



Sharing the Gospel on Campus



Our Team!

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afternoon, we spoke with a group of three students and one of which received Christ and the others indicated that they were interested in learning more.

Wednesday and Thursday nights were two special nights as a local pastor of a church invited our team to come to a park by the church where many students and families spend time after work and share the gospel with them. So, for two nights we met with teenagers, families, and even little children and shared the hope of Christ with them. Through this time God brought 8 people to faith in Christ and we had 23 conversations where the gospel was shared, it was truly a remarkable time.

On Thursday and Friday again I saw God, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of His Word, change the hearts and lives of students as my group shared the Gospel with 7 more students and 2 more received Christ. I cannot express to you how amazing it is to be there when someone joins the family of God and become a brother and sister in the body of Christ. After one time when a woman received Christ, I thought to myself, "do you think that when she woke up this morning she knew that her life would never be the same, not just now, but eternally!?" Wow what an amazing privilege and opportunity God has given us as His ambassadors to this lost world! Thank you!

Throughout the week, God blessed us with the opportunity to share the Gospel 138 times, lead people to a point of decision (meaning asking them if they would like to receive Christ as their Savior) 71 times, and we (You and our team!) had the amazing and awesome privilege of God of seeing 31 people receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Now numbers are never what we measure success or failure by, we only measure it by being obedient to the Lord and doing what He asks us to do. But, it is a blessing and encouragement how certain times he allows us to see great fruit.

At the end of the week we had a meeting on Friday afternoon with all the students, who signed a student leader agreement for some training and fellowship. 9 students signed the student leader agreement and all of them reaffirmed their desire to lead and share the hope of Christ on their campus at this meeting. Then after the student leader meeting we invited all the students we met to come and spend time with us for fellowship, snacks, and some worship. It was an amazing day!

Then on Saturday we had another day of training for the student leaders and they all were so receptive and excited to lead Cru at their university and share the hope of Christ there! Pray for them as they have their first meeting today, Monday 3/12/18 at 3 pm. Also, pray for us as we will be coaching and discipling the leaders from a distance, but will also make a few trips to be with them in person.

Lastly, I just want to say that the Lord seems to always be teaching me so much through these experiences, but I would like to share a lesson and a blessing. First, though I am growing in my Spanish speaking ability, at times it can be very difficult, and I feel like my voice has been taken from me, like I have no words to convey what I want or even the truths of the Gospel. However, in the midst of one of these moments, the Lord helped me to understand that I should despair or be frustrated, but actually rejoice, because in these moments all I have is Him, I have to depend totally on Him, to help me and this should be the way I want to live whether or not I have words or not. Through this experience the Lord showed me His power, by still using me despite my inability to communicate in the way I wanted. What I learned at a deeper level is that it is not my Words, but truly the Word of the Lord which is the power of salvation for all who believe!

Secondly, one major blessing I had on this trip, was to do ministry with my wife, Natalia. She made a large sacrifice of time and studying to be there with me sharing the hope of Christ this past week. I just wanted to give her recognition for her selflessness and sacrificial nature to see the hope of Christ go forward!

Thank you all so much for your faithful partnership with us in ministry, we are truly a blessed couple by the Lord through you all!

Jesus is More!

Josh and Natalia

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the new Cru Movement at UTESA Santiago to establish itself and for many students to come to know the Lord and grow in their faith through this ministry.
2. Pray for us as we follow up and coach and disciple student leaders at UTESA.
3. Pray for us as we continue to disciple and share the gospel on our campuses here in Santo Domingo, that our movements would continue to grow, and many students would come to know the Lord.



*Sharing the Gospel in the Park
by the Church*