

## Preparing Students for their Next Steps in God’s Mission

It didn’t take long to realize that we are no longer college age as Steve and I tried to keep up with the praising, jumping, excited students that surrounded us! Their enthusiasm and worship were so fun to see as we all rejoiced in God’s presence.

We had a wonderful time attending Cru’s Orlando Winter Conference, January 15-19, with about 360 students from Florida colleges eager to follow Jesus. Thank you for your prayers for us and for the conference. We served at the conference in various ways: helping with registration, unloading, encouraging staff while serving at the Staff Lounge, and doing setup and tear down work in the ballroom for the Festival of Opportunities (more on that coming up).

From late December through early February Cru hosted 7,223 students at 12 Winter Conferences across the country. Winter Conference is a gathering of college students experiencing Jesus, growing in their faith, and discovering their next step in God’s mission. For some, that may be to consider a summer mission trip, or an overseas long-term commitment. For many, that step may be to share their faith for the first time, either back on campus or while at the conference. During these designated outreaches, 271 people who heard the gospel indicated decisions for Jesus!



**Hundreds of students worship and learn together at the Orlando Winter Conference**

### *Not “just a conference”*

Nevaeh, from Westfield State University, participated in Winter Conference in Washington D.C. “This experience was unlike anything I’ve ever been part of. Worship was especially impactful for me. Singing alongside so many believers lifted a weight I didn’t even realize I was carrying. It allowed me to be completely honest with God about my gratitude, my struggles, and my questions. I felt His presence in a way I never had before and was reminded that even when faith feels shaky, I’m never walking alone.

“It also pushed me far outside my comfort zone through evangelism outreach in the city. The experience strengthened my relationship with God and gave me more confidence in sharing my faith! This wasn’t just a conference. It was a defining moment in my faith journey.”



**Students gather to pray before the outreach time, then head into communities to share Jesus.**

### ***Rescued and Sent***

Luis, a sophomore at Murray State University, put his trust in Christ in October! He's a first-generation college student and the only Christian in his immediate family. During an evening session at the Indianapolis Winter Conference, the speaker, Candice Siewert, shared about God's heart for the lost people of the world. "Who will go?" she asked. Growing up in Mexico before coming to the U.S. with his family gave Luis a greater global perspective. Still, he exclaimed, "I didn't realize the need for the gospel was so great in so many places!"

Later that night, Luis went to the Festival of Opportunities. He was both shocked and encouraged, seeing the many opportunities Cru offers for missions around the world and hearing from leaders engaged in those missions. Luis is strongly considering going to Chile this summer, using his Spanish to take the gospel to those ready to hear.

**Special News! Steve and I will join a mission trip to Japan with Cru's Church Movements, June 24th to July 6th. We will share the gospel and help a new church being planted in Tokyo. We plan to stay longer to see Japan staff, church friends and neighbors too. Let us know if you would like to join us!**

### **Prayer Requests**

1. Pray for all the students who attended Winter Conferences that they would continue to seek the Lord, grow in their faith, and make Christ known on their campuses.
2. Pray for the 23 new staff we onboarded at our January New Staff Orientation. Pray also for many who are being evaluated to join us in May.
3. We appreciate your prayers for our health. Too many sicknesses are going around!

Thank you for your partnership, your prayers, and your generosity that make it possible for students to play a part in God's mission!

*With love in Jesus,  
Steve & Rochelle*