



God is at work in the lives of college students. He demonstrated that again this school year! So many things compete for students' attention, jostling to be at the center of their lives. In the midst of this spiritual battle, we get to see God set students free, re-form their identity, and empower them to live as difference-makers going out to change the world.

The 2017-2018 school year had many ups and downs, but here are some highlights:

- ✦ The first-ever team of WMU students traveled to Guatemala over spring break to serve with Filter of Hope. They demonstrated Christ's good news by installing water filters for families who need clean water. They used those filters as an illustration to present the gospel. 25 Guatemalans put their faith in Christ through our combined WMU/GVSU team.
- ✦ We are reaching out to more and more students on the way to our goal of every WMU student being given the opportunity to place their faith in Christ. We started the year seeing hundreds come through our root beer social event at the WMU flagpoles. During the first week of class, 1400 WMU and KVCC students filled out Cru interest questionnaires. Cru staff and students initiated hundreds of conversations about God and faith. We presented an outline of the essence of the gospel 150 times.
- ✦ In our increasingly "post-Christian" society it takes more than one conversation for students to become followers of Christ. While we continue to share the gospel boldly, we also develop ongoing relationships with spiritual seekers. A number of not-yet-Christian students have been actively involved in Cru this year, studying scripture with us and participating in small groups and weekly gatherings. Cru staff Andy Nichols and student-leader Steven have been meeting weekly with an agnostic student Rick to discuss Tim Keller's The Reason for God. Rick enjoyed the conversation so much that invited another non-Christian friend to join in!
- ✦ The staff team is growing! WMU alum Anthony Trobeck completed his support and joined the team in October. Kelli Morin and Jordan Matthews are also raising support to join us.
- ✦ We are impressed by the maturity and commitment of this year's class of new students. First-year students stepped up to serve and lead in a number of areas. Two freshmen even went on the Guatemala Spring Break!

It's tempting for us staff to focus on the day-to-day grind on campus and on the students who are still struggling or far from the Lord. I'm reminded of the need to keep it in perspective. We do see so many lives changed by Christ in large and small ways, and it's evidence that God is at work (Philippians 2:13!). He's accomplishing his will among students. We get the gift of being a part of that work.

I just received a text from a couple of former students who are now married and starting out their careers. I have vivid memories of meeting them as new students and watching them grow in Christ as they took steps of faith in Cru. "Y'all were a big part of our walk thru college... Thanks for all you are doing to reach peeps for Jesus!"

YOU are a big part of students' walk with God in college too! We wanted to pass their thanks on to you who pray and give and care. Thank you for joining in God's life-transforming work.

\*Names changed for privacy.



WMU students on mission over spring break



WMU Cru on Thursday nights



Kate with a student just starting in her faith



The Staff Team at Fall Retreat

Please pray...

-Pray for the summer Cru group in Kalamazoo. Pray that students would grow in their love for Christ! Pray for a student Kate met with monthly who is exploring Christianity, that her faith would become solid. Pray for another student, who just went through a break-up, to fully rely on God.

-Pray for our 1-month sabbatical: We have the opportunity to step completely away from Cru ministry June 8 through July 7 to focus on developing our relationship with God. It's a gift to have this time, and we believe it will deepen the dependence on God that we need to sustain long-term in ministry.

Family update...

We'll officially kick off the summer with our tradition of getting ice cream on Max's last day of school. Lucy tried baby oatmeal for the first time with a lot of joy and messiness. Max and Zoey absolutely loved serving as ring-bearer and flower girl at our dear friends' wedding (right).

Know anyone heading to college?

No matter where they are going, have them connect with Cru at [cru.org/collegebound](http://cru.org/collegebound)!

