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CRU: Building Christ-Based Relationships at Illinois State University

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Evangelism: active faith-sharing

Cru members actively share the Gospel to students who are uncertain about their path. Multiple leaders remarked that it is the Holy Spirit working through them to soften the hearts of non-believers to hear the word of Jesus Christ. Cru provides different spiritual conversation-starters: Knowing God Personally booklet, Soularium, & various spiritual surveys. Sharing faith beliefs can be intimidating, but for Eric, a Cru leader, “seeking to make His name known” through evangelism is one thing that sets Cru apart from other campus ministries.

Bible Studies: Getting to know God Personally

Nearly 70-80% of Cru members actively participate in a Bible Study on the ISU campus. Studying the Scripture is one way for Christians to get to know God personally, and leading a Bible Study is another way for Cru members to challenge themselves in their journey with Christ. “When explaining a passage or faith, the believer can engage in one-on-one spiritual dialogues with non-Christians.”

Conclusions

The ISU Cru movement is a Christ-centered evangelistic campus ministry whose members focus on building and living in community with people while creating disciples and sharing faith with an emphasis on evangelism. Experiencing the Cru movement in person illustrated the ways in which Cru members believe God is actively at work in their lives.

References

* Bill Bright & Campus Crusade for Christ: the renewal of evangelicalism in postwar America (1), 9


Ethnographic Methods:

I used visual anthropological methods (interviewing and participant observation) that included the collaborative production and selection of images of people, places, and events Cru members believe to be important.