Apr 14th, 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM

CRU: Building Christ-Based Relationships at Illinois State University

Cassandra Jordan  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc](http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)

[http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/posters2/9](http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/posters2/9)

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.  
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Everything starts with the Bible:
Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) is an interdenominational campus ministry with the overarching goal of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all nations. This research focuses on the ISU Chapter of Cru, which actively seeks to “turn lost students into Christ-centered laborers” through evangelism, creating disciples, worship, and actively studying the Bible (Interview with Matt on 2.21.12).

Spiritual growth, spiritual multiplication, and living in community with others are main themes evident in this Cru movement.

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.

References
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.

Cru: Building Christ-Based Relationships at Illinois State University
By Cassandra Jordan, Rebecca Gearhart

Creating Disciples | Spiritual Multiplication
“Cru is not just a social group” [Interview with Eric on 2.24.12]. Jesus tells Christians to go and make disciples of all nations. Creating disciples is more than simply sharing faith; it is about building lasting relationships and living life together. By truly living life with others and sharing discipleship experiences, a discipler equips their disciple in a way that they could do it with others in the future. Throughout the process of discipleship, a Christian pours themselves and their knowledge into a few people, intentionally growing in their life with God. If one person discipled two people, and those two people discipled two more people, eventually the whole world is reached. This growth in disciples by actively sharing faith is spiritual multiplication.

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.

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 to someone, it becomes real to you” [Interview with Jennifer on 2.24.12].

Above: “God gives us the Bible. It is his personality written out for us.” [Jennifer, while leading the Manchester Bible study | Picture taken by Mamie, a female Bible Study leader.]

Above: The Cru band leads members in song praising Jesus Christ during the weekly meetings. Weekly meeting are the beginning of a journey to help people grow in a relationship with God. This is a top priority, just as the “desire to use lives for something of significance” continues to drive Cru members. [Interview with Matt on 2.21.12]

Above: “It helps you know God.” [Picture taken by David]

Above: “At the end of a men’s leader Bible Study, Jeremy (right) and David (left) pray together over their lives. Studying the Scripture in a Bible Study is not merely a way to help other know God, it helps you know God.” [Picture taken by David]