



Starting the Summer Right

Many students who participate in Summer in the City are most impacted by regular, daily ministry in the communities where they live and serve. During her very first week in Milwaukee, Jessika had a brand-new experience that started the summer off right.


It was the first day that the students were encouraged to start conversations in the community to share their faith. Jessika paired up with Kara, a Cru staff

This was the first time she had shared her faith

member, to go to Bradford Beach on Lake Michigan and look for opportunities to strike up conversations.

Here, they met a young couple, Daniel and his girlfriend, Paris. As Kara and Jessika started getting to know the couple, they eventually asked about their spiritual journeys. Daniel shared that he grew up in the church, one of his parents was a pastor, but he didn't have a faith of his own. He explained that his history left him with more questions about God than

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College students like Jessika minister in cities across the United States each summer with Cru Inner City. They serve alongside inner city churches, share the gospel, and see God working firsthand in the inner city.

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answers. Paris' background was different, but she expressed as much spiritual hunger as Daniel did.

After Daniel and Paris revealed their desire to know God, Kara and Jessika asked if they could share the *Knowing God Personally* booklet with the couple. Daniel and Paris were very interested and agreed to listen. Encouraged by the couple's enthusiasm, the women shared the gospel with them. Afterwards, both Daniel and Paris expressed their longing to trust God and begin a personal relationship with him. They bowed their heads together to express their new faith in prayer.

This was the first time Jessika had ever been part of sharing her faith. She felt privileged to see God work through her to open up the couple's hearts. Jessika said the summer was full of moments like this one, when the Holy Spirit encouraged her own faith through many opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

We're excited to welcome more students to the inner city this summer to grow in Christ and share the Good News with others!



The Best News

“Dude, I just heard the best news! I think you’re gonna like it...” Eli said to his friend as he bounded out of the doors of S.A.Y. Yes!.

Eli is a fourth grader who lives in Brooklyn with his mom, a Jamaican immigrant. At the start of the school year, Eli began attending the after-school program at Graffiti 3 Ministries in New York City. Throughout September and October, Eli regularly asked Hannah, Owen, and the other volunteers lots of questions during devotional time. He was eager to learn about Jesus!

Toward the end of October, Owen explained the gospel and salvation to curious Eli. He shared with

Eli how much God loved him. Eli told Owen he wanted to believe in Jesus that day, so Hannah, Owen, and Eli prayed together! That’s when Eli went looking for his friend

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who’s also a fourth grader at the Center to tell him about the best news ever. As a brand new believer, Eli was already beginning to spread the word!

According to Hannah, Eli hasn’t stopped talking about how God loves him. She said that in a city that’s transient, where many people come and go, it’s important for kids to learn about a relationship with God. Eli was in awe to learn that God loves him and will never leave him.



That same October day, Hannah and Owen gave Eli his very own Bible. Since then, Eli often brings his mom to church—along with his Bible. He also likes to pray during the after-school program and he still asks good questions.

We can never underestimate the power of a safe place to go after school and the opportunity to learn about a loving God. We count ourselves blessed to share in these joys with partners like Graffiti 3 who faithfully reach out in Brooklyn!



A Personal Word



Milton Massie
Co-National Director

Cru Inner City answers an important calling to be a voice for the rights of the destitute, a defender of the poor and needy, and a resource to the saints.

We work to support urban pastors who face challenges in their communities daily. Often, African-American male pastors serve with the tremendous pressure of having another job, or maybe two, leaving little time for the work of the ministry. This is why Cru's efforts alongside the inner city church are critical and crucial. It's the reason I'm so passionate about staying in Chicago to influence and build "street credibility" with partners. I want to be an example of godliness and servanthood.

Cru Inner City's commitment to "comprehensive biblical justice" by equipping urban churches is vital. We want to address the lack of healthy male role models. I see my pastor friends serve in a time when God's order for sexuality and gender roles is challenged and what the Bible says is His design for family is dismissed.

Cru Inner City's S.A.Y. Yes! Centers for Youth Development® after-school programs and our Adult Development curriculum offer much needed help in equipping partner churches. Similarly, the aim of our Creating options together™ 2016 conference is to offer even more in terms of practical support.

What we do is significant. We want to trust in the LORD, do good, dwell in the land, befriend faithfulness, and be found faithful stewards of the assignment He has entrusted to us.

Standing firm in the call,

Milton Lee Massie

Milton Massie
Co-National Director

Your Investment Multiplied

Through your generous giving last year, the inner city ministry of Cru was able to offer planning, structure, support, programs, and Compassionate Products, such as Boxes of Love, to our inner city church partners.



**We served 2,000 churches
in 25 cities**

**123,590 volunteers gave
617,950 hours of their time**



**227,827 children and adults
were reached**



Hope in Autumn!



Easter is the perfect opportunity to share the hope of Jesus in His death and resurrection.

With the vital help of our partner ministries and volunteers, we pack thousands of small paper bags filled with candy, toys, crayons, and kid-friendly gospel materials, such as bracelets that help explain salvation. Our partners then offer these Easter Bags to children in their communities to open the door to a conversation about the love of Jesus.

Pastor McKizzie from New Creation Baptist, a partner church in Minneapolis, shared an encouraging story from this outreach last year. The

pastor and members of his congregation gave away many of the bags at their food and clothing shelf, open to the community on Saturdays. Church members also distributed some Easter Bags in the neighborhood.

She was swamped taking care of her children by herself

During the outreach, Pastor McKizzie met Autumn, a single mother of four. She had just moved her family to Minnesota. With her husband incarcerated, she was swamped taking care of her children by herself and said that the church's food and clothing would be a big help to her.



Autumn shared with Pastor McKizzie that she had never been to church, and that she was overwhelmed by the special gift of the Easter Bags. Then something unexpected happened: Autumn asked how she could know Jesus! After the pastor explained salvation to Autumn, she prayed to accept Christ as her Savior!

Pastor McKizzie reports that Autumn is still attending the church with her children. She continues to grow and learn about God in the loving community that reached out with a simple gift.

Stories continue to come in with encouraging reports about who was reached for the Kingdom using Easter Bags to open doors!



Brenna, left, and a fellow summer project student



Quench a Child's Thirst This Summer

Every summer, we send volunteer college students into inner-city neighborhoods to minister alongside our partner churches and missions. It's Summer in the City ... and this year, you'll be there, helping students like Brenna make an eternal difference.

For eight weeks, she brought Jesus to children in inner-city Milwaukee. As she hit the parks and playgrounds—ministering through puppet shows and colorful “salvation bracelets,” Brenna’s eyes were opened.

“I saw poverty in the city like never before. But I saw something else too: the children and families I met were all so thirsty for God.”

The highlight of her experience? Brenna was able to pray with a child who accepted Christ! This story continues, in various forms, again and again, every summer—thanks to friends like you.

Please pray for Summer in the City—and please give a generous gift to reach children this summer ... and quench their thirst for Christ. Thank you! God bless you!



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Cru is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Occasionally the names of people featured in this report are changed to protect their privacy.

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