



Jan 18-21, 2013 | 420 Students | 54 Campuses | 20 Students Accepted Christ

Once upon a time...

Speak these four words and your listeners will settle in and prepare to be transported to another time and place. Stories are powerful. Cru staff member, Matt Mikalatos has paid close attention to the Master Storyteller and is coming close to perfecting the art.

Mikalatos held 420 Northeast Collegians spellbound as he spun Jesus' stories into modern day parables over the course of Cru's MLK Weekend Epicenter Experience Winter Conference. See if some of these sound familiar:

100 "underprivileged" 3rd-graders at the San Diego Zoo, but each time teacher Andrew counts, he comes up with only 99...Juanita, who KNOWS she has five one-hundred dollar bills, but one seems to be missing...Frank talking his dad into selling half their California ranch so he can take the proceeds and pursue his dreams of stardom in Hollywood...

Struck anew by the majestic presence of Jesus and His love for them (thanks to Mikalatos' fresh renderings) these students worshiped, fellowshiped, and spread the Good News DIGITALLY!

Cru staff hosted 17 outreach stations, assisting these fledgling evangelists as they stepped out in faith. Some chose from a variety of options for posting on their Facebook page, like: inviting response to a provocative and Gospel-centered article from Cru's website, filming their

testimony, and/or posting a significant Bible verse and image. Others emailed or texted three "God-selected" friends, offering to pray for their specific requests, with a promise to follow up with them. Graffiti boards, exploratory questions, intentionally inviting fellow students to the next Cru meeting back on campus...these and other media techniques created pathways for the Gospel to travel, from Albany, NY to perhaps the far-reaches of the Earth.

It's hard to say how this evangelism would measure up on a Richter scale. Among the buzz created, we heard about Jesse, who utilized a number of these digital pathways at last year's Epicenter, conveying the Gospel to his friends. One of those friends, Steve, came with Jesse to Epicenter 2013. Hearing that Jesus regards him as precious and valuable, as a child that has run away, Steve came "home" to the Father who has longed for his return. Now Steve is learning to share his story with others.

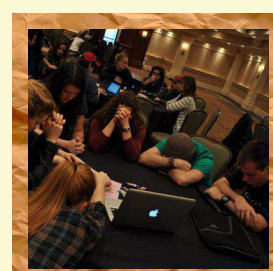
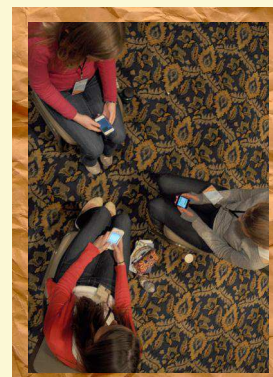


After careful prayer and consideration, 239 students pledged their availability to go, do, say and give whatever God asks of them! Picture the impact as these students return to their Northeast campuses, participate in summer projects, serve a year or two on an overseas STINT, follow their Lord in faith steps large and small. You can take the pledge here: <http://pledge.cruoncampus.org/>

Without folks like YOU, there would have been no Epicenter 2013. Thank YOU for investing in the lives of the influential students in the Northeast.

Nate oversaw the finances for this conference. We also led a seminar on financial stewardship together. Thank you for your continued impact in seeing students come to Jesus and grow in relationship with Him.

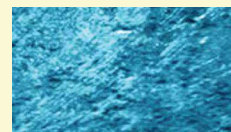
Nate and Kim Miller



“Last year, shortly after Epicenter I began to have a personal relationship with God”, said Eric. Before then, Eric did not know God as a friend or as powerful. These “preconceptions have changed 360 degrees”. I watched Eric make a video about the God he knows now. This is a God who loves powerfully, who has even brought his little sister into “His eternal family in the love of God and Jesus.”



“Nothing you can do will ever be enough. So stop trying to put on a performance and accept My love.”
-Sharon, U Mass Dartmouth



I met Sarah while she was smiling at a text message response she had received during Faithwave. She had asked a friend how she could be praying for him.

“It finally hit me, God has come to actually give me Life” -Anonymous

I stumbled upon Hayley at the prayer bar. She was writing a letter to a friend. Hayley had collaged together a nice card with a verse to her friend Savannah who she told me has been far from God. This had taken a toll on their friendship. Hayley told me a little about herself. It was actually at Epicenter last year that she re-centered her life in Christ—stepping away from an unhealthy relationship and receiving the love of community in Cru. She pointed out one of the girls who is now interning as someone who spoke truth into her at the time. For her, heeding that call to follow Jesus is truly rippling out in ways I see today. When asked what she felt the Lord was putting on her heart for this year’s Epicenter she said, “I want to care for people, for the students, the way I was cared for last year”.

She later shared with me that God is really showing her He wants her to be “making disciples”! She confides that she realized that as she had been growing in her walk with God she had been selfishly using her time and not reaching out to her non-Christian friends. With this upcoming semester, she wants to be living and loving sacrificially.

