



Top: Students gathered at 6:45AM (an hour not many college students see...) to pray during beach retreat. Middle: Fun in the sun on Saturday afternoon. Bottom: Yep. This is us.

Please pray for non-believers who joined us at the retreat to choose Jesus, for new discipleship groups to form on our campuses, & for us as we recruit for some exciting ministry opportunities over spring & summer breaks!

SPIRITUAL SURPRISES

Fifty sets of eyes were glued to the two students at the front of the room. Having such a great time at our annual Beach Retreat, the students in the audience were eager to hear about the next off-campus opportunity to grow in their faith. Josh (the emcee) pitched Jamie a “soft ball”: “So, how did God meet you at last year’s Winter Conference?” Jamie is a rising senior from Coastal Carolina University (CCU) & one of the few students from CCU who could make it due to complications from Hurricane Florence. We had practiced communicating the important details about the upcoming conference & her personal experience before hand, but little did I know she was about to go off script:

“It was there that I started my relationship with God. I thought I got ‘saved’ several times as a little kid, but coming to Cru meetings & then actually being at Winter Conference, showed me that I didn’t really know God at all. It was at Winter Conference when that all changed.”

That was a key detail she had left out! Instead of sharing about how God had used Winter Conference to lead her to go overseas with Cru on a Summer Mission (which He did), Jamie instead shared that she felt that was when & where she truly became a Christian. Our team had no idea. It was exciting to see that over the past 9 months, Jamie had matured to the point necessary to understand & experience the difference between merely believing in God, being involved in church or Cru, etc., & having Jesus as Lord & Savior. It also reminded & encouraged me that God is at work on our campuses even when we don’t see or know of spiritual fruit for some time.

Jamie’s testimony further cheered me as I surveyed the audience: there were students in that very room who I *knew* were not Christians. I am hopeful that these students will continue in our community, & perhaps sometime soon, I will again be surprised to hear how *this* retreat weekend changed their lives for eternity.