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THE BRANDT BULLETIN

Chicago Metro Campus Crusade For Christ

2008 Indianapolis Christmas Conference

The lyrics of the hymn "Come Thou Fount" resonated throughout the Indianapolis Convention Center in powerful unison, as the praise band led more than 1,850 animated college students in worship. This was the first night of the Indianapolis Christmas Conference—an annual event hosted by Campus Crusade for Christ. Students from 92 campuses all over Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio took four days out of their Christmas break to worship God, to fellowship with each other, learn to follow Him more intimately, and to have an opportunity to impact the lives of those around them... more than 50 of them came from our Chicago campuses!

This year, the conference theme was, "You can't walk standing still." The students heard from four speakers about what it means to have an active faith in God and learned about practical steps they can take to grow in their personal walk with Him, to surrender to His will, and to become a part of His redemptive work in this world.

The first speaker, Randy Singer, is a successful lawyer, an award-winning novelist, and a pastor at Trinity Church in Virginia Beach. He offered a unique perspective on what it means to truly follow God. He said, "The only thing that can change your life is having a high, exalted view of Jesus Christ." He encouraged students to trust God with the things He can accomplish through them. The next speakers, Erick and Elizabeth Schenkel, have had a rich life of ministry, both in the United States and in the Muslim world. They continued with the theme of active faith, sharing with the students the true meaning of Jesus' words, "Pick your up cross and follow Me."

On the third day of the conference, the students had the opportunity to take a step of faith by going into different parts of Indianapolis to deliver boxes of food and to share the gospel with low-income families, women in prison, and others living in the inner city. People across Indianapolis heard the good news about God's love. A student named Devin led someone to Christ only a day after accepting Christ himself! That afternoon, 3,117 people were spoken with. Of that 1,479 heard the message of the gospel with 175 making decisions to believe in Christ. Later that night, the students had an opportunity to become a part of God's worldwide work by giving and pledging more than \$39,000 to Cru's ministry in Mumbai, India; to its ethnic student movement in Chicago; and to its humanitarian efforts in Southern Africa.

A number of Chicago Cru students were able to share with the entire conference about our vision for giving every student in Chicago a chance to respond to the gospel. One of the students that we work with, Esther, talked about her friend, Gina, responding to the gospel message this semester.

The conference concluded with a joyous celebration of Jesus, prayers for the world, and the ushering in of the New Year. The worship band brought the conference full-circle by leading the students in song and prayer— sending them back into to their campuses ready to act on the things they'd seen God do in their hearts.

We are so privileged to be a part of this ministry! Thank you for your participation in this with us! We hope you are all doing well and had a great Christmas season!

With Jesus' Love,

Andy & Amy



Chicago students (with many others) at the New Year's Eve celebration.

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