

Speaking Opportunities

February 2024

“ . . . but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, . . . ” 1 Peter 3:15

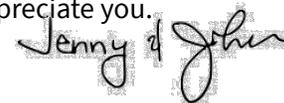
So much of our work in Cru involves public speaking. And most of us consider standing in front of an audience a very uncomfortable experience. In a typical week, we address university faculty, undergraduate students, and middle schoolers. Once a month we even work in the nursery at church. Thank the Lord that we've learned to trust the Spirit in our preparation and delivery.



The heart of our message is always the privilege of knowing God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We gave one of these messages to a public middle school group early in the morning before the school day. The topic was "worldview." The parent sponsors wanted these young people to recognize the distinctiveness of the Christian perspective. The message was a big hit mostly because Taylor Swift was mentioned in an illustration. This week John is speaking to undergrads involved with Cru at one of the campuses here in Indianapolis. The topic is Christ in the Old Testament - not a simple subject! It would be easy to get lost in the details. So the challenge is to make it interesting, relevant, and heart-engaging but most importantly, to make the gospel clear.

Finally, at the end of this month, we will be conducting a conference for Christian faculty. Five speakers are participating, 3 live, one online, and one by video. We will also include two seminars related to helping professors share their faith. We're excited about this conference and are hopeful that it will accelerate our efforts to build a spiritual movement among Christian professors in this city. Please do pray to that end.

Public speaking is part of our call as campus missionaries. We're so grateful for the partnership we share with you that makes it possible for us to step out in faith in this way. We appreciate you.



Getting ready to travel



Our Belgium spring break team has started meeting to get ready for our trip. The students and faculty need to be oriented not just on how to pack but also on what living "on mission" is like. We're committed to helping the students live and relate to one another as servants in the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be stress. There will be surprises and unexpected moments. All of us are raising money to pay for the trip. None of us is fluent in the languages spoken in Belgium other than English. But all of us are ready for the Lord to use us.

Twenty students, 6 Cru staff, and 2 professors are part of our team. Please continue to pray as we prepare. Ask God to make us flexible and bold.