



A MINISTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH & TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

CRF NEWS

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CRF UI CAMPUS MEETING

CRF has been a recognized student organization at UI since 1995. Since that time we've maintained a regular presence on campus through a large group weekly meeting. This semester we're taking a slightly different approach. We've opted to meet monthly as a large group and emphasize starting more weekly small group studies. We're also planning more parties and social functions in order to provide more venues for our students to bring friends. Our monthly large group

continued on next page

Greetings from Moscow!

Welcome to CRF News. CRF News is a newsletter, published quarterly and designed to keep you abreast of student ministry at Christ Church [CC] and Trinity Reformed Church [TRC].

It's not exhaustive, but it is informative and hopefully edifying. We have approximately 300 college-aged young adults attending our services. This represents a significant part of our community, but among them is much diversity. Students from UI, NSA, WSU and LCSC, as well as college-aged non-students from all over the country are among us. This represents a lot of souls and a lot of energy. Our

goal is to help students grow in their faith and establish them in a godly lifestyle and a trajectory toward maturity. We also desire to proclaim the Gospel and the Christian worldview to the university population and the surrounding communities. We are not an independent ministry. All our activities are supplemental to the teaching and shepherding ministry of the church. Students involved



with CRF are regularly reminded that the most important student ministry takes place Sunday morning, worshipping with all the saints.



FALL BBQ

We're off to a great start! We begin each new school year with a BBQ at

the Gray residence. This fall over 150 students gathered to get re-acquainted and enjoy some feasting and fun as we welcomed in the new school year.



CRF UI Campus Meeting, continued

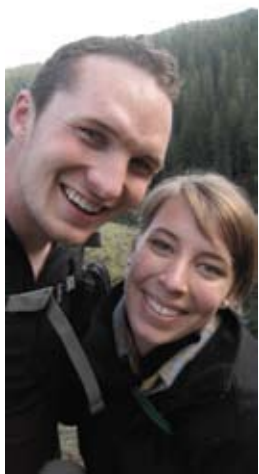
meeting on campus will focus on apologetics. Christian students at secular universities are often very ill-equipped to respond to the typical attacks on their faith. Some of the most common classroom attacks on Christianity are:

- Modern science has proven that God does not exist.
- The presence of evil proves that God is either evil himself or powerless to stop it.
- Evolution has proven the Bible false (especially regarding creation).
- The Bible is not historically accurate (and even if it was accurate, it's hopelessly misogynistic).

Throughout the school year, we'll be putting on events which address these attacks on our faith. The purpose is two-fold. We want to encourage Christian students by giving them intelligent answers so they won't be rattled. Secondly, we want to challenge/dare skeptics and non-believers to participate in a rational discussion about these issues.

SHEEPDOGS

Young Christian men need encouragement and accountability. Some need the basics of the faith reinforced. Some need to hear what they've already heard, but from a different voice. Some need opportunities to serve with their hands. Others need to be exhorted and equipped to minister to their peers. The young men's discipleship ministry I've labeled "Sheepdogs" targets these things. This fall there are twenty-four young men in two Sheepdog groups. In these groups they work through a series of topical Bible studies, memorize Scripture, and are personally mentored by Mr. Gray. The goal is for the Sheepdogs then to team up and lead other student Bible studies through the same material. So far there are eight other studies led by the Sheepdogs. They also volunteer some of their time to serve the church and community. Recently, we gathered, split and delivered several cords of firewood. They'll also be involved in leaf-raking, snow shoveling and other projects usually organized by Sabbath House. *The glory of young men is their strength.* Proverbs 20:29



TY & LENORA KNIGHT



ANDREW, KARA & BONIFACE ISKER



TY ANTKOWIAK

INTERNS

What a blessing it is to have capable and energetic co-workers! This year I have three part-time interns laboring with me, each with specific and valuable gifts. All three of these men are studying at Greyfriar's Hall, our ministry training center. Their added involvement in CRF is already multiplying and expanding our overall outreach. Andrew Isker and Ty Knight are focusing on evangelism at the UI campus, and Ty Antkowiak is focused on getting students involved in mercy ministry in the community through Sabbath House.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FROM LAURIE



There is an interesting combination of dynamics here with the four colleges in such close proximity. On the secular campus there are outreach opportunities as well as Christian kids from elsewhere looking for a church community. Many of them are a long way from home for the first time. Debbie Blakey and I mentor a group of older girls that in turn lead Bible studies comprised of these younger girls. We are very thankful for a godly group of young women who are willing and able to reach out to their younger peers. We are studying through James in small chunks leaving time for fellowship and prayer. We have the opportunity this year to meet in the Campus Christian Center at the U of I which lends a cozy quiet spot for our study as well as another chance to have a physical presence on campus.



DEBATE!

On September 13, at the UI Student Union Ballroom, CRF hosted a debate between Christ Church pastor Douglas Wilson and Clarke Cooper, Executive Director of the Log Cabin Republicans, with over 600 in attendance.

The topic was *Do Gay Rights Conflict with Conservative Christian Values?* While the debate itself was a bit unsatisfying in that Cooper (who claimed to be a conservative Christian) wouldn't engage any deeper than political sloganeering, the venue provided a great opportunity to bring some very important issues to the surface. The topic quickly narrowed to gay marriage and what's really at stake. Wilson argued that if we disconnect the definition of marriage from God's Word, we open the door to whatever the next perversion might be--polygamy, incest, bestiality, etc. Christians need to understand the deeper issue and be able to talk rationally about it. This event, while not the definitive clash we hoped for, was a very helpful example of how Christians should engage on this issue, both inside and outside the church.



FROM YOU...

I graduated from the University of Idaho in 2006, and I am now pursuing a Master's degree in economics from the University of California in Santa Barbara. I was involved with CRF for four years as a student at the University of Idaho. I became a Christian in my sophomore year of college so my involvement with CRF was immensely helpful in my development as a young Christian. The Bible studies and weekly meetings were at least ten times as enjoyable as Philosophy 101 and one hundred times more beneficial.

Through the Bible studies and the time I spent with other young men in CRF, I was pushed to learn more about my faith and to be a bold ambassador for Christ on a secular campus. At CRF, I learned to understand the gospel with my both my heart and my mind, both of which were routinely employed in my conversations with

non-Christians at the university. I also learned how to share burdens with my brothers and to pray for their needs. In the process, I was knit together with a band of men whom I still speak to and pray for regularly.

Later in my time at the U of I became involved with Mr. Gray's group of Sheepdogs. I recall heading out to the woods on cold Saturday mornings, in a van full of sleepy dudes, to go chop firewood and learn from Mr. Gray through both his work habits and his spiritual guidance. I also recall numerous one-on-one conversations with Mr. Gray and with other Christians in the group that helped me to make important life decisions. Looking back, it's amazing how much I was learning while not even realizing that I was learning. Thanks CRF!

- Brian Points



THANKS!

Your prayers, support and encouragement are greatly appreciated!

Matt Gray

Teaching Elder & Campus Minister