

# CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

## SCOTT & KRISTEN EBSEN

CrusadeEbsen December 2008

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”  
Psalm 118:1



### Christmas Conference December 28-January 1

The lyrics of the hymn “Come Thou Fount” resonated throughout the Indianapolis Convention Center in powerful unison, as the praise band Hello Industry led more than 1,850 animated young men and women in worship. This was the first night of the Indianapolis Christmas Conference, an annual event hosted by Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). **College 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.

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. Singer 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, adding, “Sometimes God has a vision and He wants us to buy into it without [us] knowing exactly what it is.” Singer then expounded on what it may mean for the young college student to develop a vision that glorifies God, whether it be in his or her ministry or personal life.

The next speakers, **Erick and Elizabeth Schenkel**, have had a rich life of ministry, both in America and in the Muslim world. They continued with the theme of active faith, sharing with the students the true meaning of Jesus' words, **"Pick up your cross and follow Me."** The Schenkels reminded the students that God does not force this cross on anyone, and that it is, rather, a personal choice and a joyous opportunity to watch Him transform lives.



**Indeed, the Christian life is about changed lives.** Each morning, students watched short videos of their peers sharing personal faith stories. One of them, Ali, committed her life to Christ just a little over two months ago and has experienced tremendous healing in her relationships and a new-found purpose to live for Christ. Another student, Jesse, has been a Christian since the age of seven but only recently developed a heart for the lost and is considering a one-year mission trip to New Zealand. People like Ali and Jesse, who come from such diverse backgrounds and all walks of life, were brought together as a living testimony to the transforming power of God's love.



Miami University students & staff at Christmas Conference

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, 3117 people were spoken with. Of that 1479 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.



Chris Sarver, Cru student ministry director at Ball State University, closed the conference by challenging students to live surrendered, poured-out lives. 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 the world as a multitude of beacons of God's light.

*-written by Campus Crusade for Christ staff*



## Thank You

*Thank you for your continued prayers & support. God continues to move in great ways & we are grateful for your partnership in expanding His Kingdom!*

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