

SEPTEMBER 2018



ATHLETES
IN ACTION

cru



FACULTY COMMONS
A Cru Ministry

Dear Friends,

“Can there be morality without God?” This was the discussion question posed after our first weekly meeting of the school year. I had just given a talk about the vision of our ministry, which is to, by God’s grace and Spirit with His Word, **bring the whole gospel to the whole campus to reach to the whole world**. And by whole campus, we mean students, faculty, and *ideas*.

One of these ideas to which we want to bring the gospel is the notion of our existence, the very reason we’re here at all. Universities (generally, and even unwittingly at times) will teach (directly and indirectly) that we’re a **magnificent mash of molecules** built and rebuilt over millions of years via random chance; that the material world is all that exists, and; that whatever we discover with our five senses and the scientific method is the only truth that we can know. The implications are confounding, yet logical: our life is ultimately purposeless and meaningless. (I can remember having this exact conversation with an anthropology professor last year—he completely understood the line of reasoning and, sadly, embraced it.)



In short, we simply live, die, and cease to exist. And so, there’s no universal motivation to pursue justice nor any solid foundation for right and wrong, or good and evil, as well as no basis for morality—**unless there’s a Moral Being** that made us with purpose and morals...Here’s what NYC Pastor Timothy Keller says in his recent work, *Making Sense of God*,

“A moral judgement about something can never be made apart from an examination of its given purpose...How, then, can we tell if a human being is good or bad? Only if we know our purpose, what human life is *for*. If you don’t know the answer to that, then you can never determine ‘good’ and ‘bad’ human behavior.” (pg. 186-187)

It’s only the first week and we’re already diving into teleology, theology, science, ethics, and anthropology—please pray for us! But not all of our conversations are philosophical. That same night, students also **told us they’d like prayer for their health** (physical, mental, spiritual), their stress about school or sport, and their family relationships back home. They need prayer for better friendships, for better diligence in studies, and for better wisdom on what to do with their lives after college.

When we bring the gospel to whole campus (students, faculty, ideas), that includes bringing it to the **whole person because we’re embodied souls and because the gospel impacts all of life**. **By God’s grace and Spirit, along with your prayers and support**, we proclaim “the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” (Acts 10:36) And whether students and faculty realize it or not, they deeply desire a purpose and peace that only comes from the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” (Ephesians 2:10)

In His service with you,
Jarrold and Susie and kids