



THE THOMSONS AT UCONN

Feb.

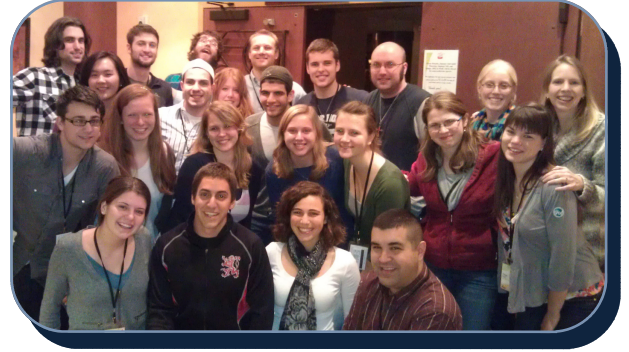
SERVING WITH THE MINISTRY OF CRU

2012

It has been an **exciting month and a half** of activity, both on and off campus, for us! There is much to share in this letter and we hope that, rather than being overwhelmed by it all, you are encouraged because your partnership is making a difference in people's lives!!!

The Epicenter Experience:

From January 2-6 we hosted our annual winter conference for students all over the Northeast region, and we feel like it was one of the best winter conferences we've had in years! We were pleased to have **17 students from UConn** attend the conference. For many of them the highlight was our day of outreach when we went to a local university to initiate spiritual conversation with students and faculty. **During our 2 hours there we were able to have spiritual conversations with people from China, Germany, India, Iran and Korea!!!**



I (Scott) had the privilege of getting to know a faculty member from Iran. This man has been the recipient of some international awards for his work with AIDS and had spent over two years in a prison in Tehran. **I was amazed to learn that just a week before I met him, he had found and watched the JESUS Film® in his native language, Farsi.** God had been at work in his heart and, along with one of our students, I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with him. ***Please pray that God would continue to pursue this man and ultimately bring him to faith. Please also pray that God might use this man's influence to reach and transform his nation of Iran.***



7 Days & 7 Ways to Pray:



1. Humility
2. Lifting Christ up
3. Yearning for God's Word
4. Seeing Jesus as our Teacher
5. Going to all
6. Awakening in the hearts of students and faculty
7. Spiritual battle

Leading up to the start of spring semester we created a Facebook event called "7 Days & 7 Ways to Pray." **Sixty-six students participated by praying each day for different themes pertaining to our personal walks with the Lord and opportunities for God to work on campus.** We have been so encouraged by the excitement students have had for prayer this semester. If you are interested in reading the expanded explanations of these themes so you can pray them for yourself or us, just let us know and we can pass them along to you.

Pray without Ceasing

In the hope of continuing to foster a dependence upon prayer, and in preparation for the "Five Weeks of Faith" (see pg. 2), **on Friday, January 27th we hosted "Prayer & Dessert at the Thomsons" starting at 7pm. That night 25 students came to our house to pray!** We were amazed by the student response and delighted by the ways they were praying for each other and the campus. As the night progressed, many of them gathered around our piano and started unabashedly singing worship songs to the Lord. It was awesome! The last person didn't leave 'til after midnight! **Thank you for the ways you give to us, making it possible for us to host events like this.**



ACOO STORY: Freely We Have Received, Freely We Give

That Friday night I (Jen) was able to have a really fun conversation with a freshman girl named Lauren who just became a believer last semester. **During the conversation she shared how she's nervous about telling people why she became a Christian because she doesn't "have all the answers."** I also found out that she didn't yet have a Bible so Scott found 2 Bibles from which she could choose. She couldn't decide which to take so I said, "Just take both and either return the one you don't choose, or give it to someone else." The next day, I received this Facebook message from Lauren... (bold emphasis added)



Lauren & Alyssa

*"I just wanted to thank you again for having me over your home for the Prayer & Dessert Night, it was great to feel so welcome and meet someone so interested in hearing my story. I also wanted to share what happened when I came back to my dorm last night and saw my roommate, as I thought it was an incredible time after what we spoke about just hours before. **After walking in, she asked how my night was and I told her it was really great. After a few seconds of silence, out-of-the-blue she decided to ask me why I decided to become Christian.** As you know, I had lacked the confidence to really explain my faith to anyone before, but I remembered what you told me about how my story could really be all I need to say.*

***I decided to tell her everything and I truly felt like the conversation was being led by the Holy Spirit.** I felt so confident explaining my beliefs to her... It felt amazing being able to influence someone else, especially someone who is like a sister to me. The best moment of the whole hour-long conversation, however, was at the end of it when **she walked over to my desk, picked up one of the Bibles you gave me, and asked if she could borrow it sometime. I immediately flashed back to you saying that I could give one to a friend, and told her she can HAVE one, since I felt like it was meant to be hers. Now both of them are kept in the middle of our room and we will probably read them together sometimes.** She then gave me a huge hug, told me I made her really happy, and said she feels like we are so much closer now. I truly appreciate everything you did to help make this happen and I'm sure you won't be too disappointed to hear that I will not be returning one of those Bibles anytime soon..."*

Five Weeks of Faith:

Last fall it became clear to our regional leadership that as we think about our long-term vision to reach the Northeast and impact the influence centers of the world, we need to be resourced well. Unfortunately, over the last few years many of the staff in our region have been in either unhealthy or critical situations with regards to personal financial support. **To help address this problem our regional leaders decided that from January 30th-March 2 (dubbed "Five Weeks of Faith") all the staff in our region would shift priorities to focus on raising personal and campus support.** It is a bold move, yet one we believe is necessary to help our staff live and work in a healthy support environment. Though we're only one week in, we've been really encouraged that **our minimized presence on campus has been the impetus for students to step up and fill roles that we've desired for them to take for a while.** We're excited about the steps of faith they are taking to more actively lead the movement at UConn. ***Please pray for them, for us and for the staff of our region as we trust the Lord to provide the resources needed to continue to share Christ with the students and faculty of the Northeast and around the world.***

Please Pray:

- ◆ That a commitment to prayer would continue
- ◆ That believers would continue to grow in their faith & that the Lord would draw non-believers to Himself
- ◆ Five Weeks of Faith
- ◆ That details for our spring break trip to Haiti (March 9-17) would come together

Thank you for your partnership that makes it possible for us to serve at UConn. We pray that you are experiencing God's abundant love, grace and presence in a fresh way in 2012.

In Christ,

Scott & Jen