

# ON CAMPUS

August 10, 2016

In Michigan's Wild Upper Peninsula

**“Training future missionaries.”** This is the track that’s on repeat in my mind as I think about what God did through the Virginia Beach Summer Mission.

This summer I joined 39 students and a number of other staff in VA Beach for 6 weeks for a stateside summer mission. God gave me the opportunity to be a part of the leadership team and coach four staff women. We met weekly to connect, go out sharing our faith, pray, and discuss how things were going with the women they were discipling. It was a privilege to be a small part of staff care as each of these women invested in three students.



Coaching staff women in VA Beach: (L to R) Anna, Lindsey, me, Hannah, & Hannah

**I was also reminded that summer missions are like a spiritual greenhouse for students, providing an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth, helping to equip students to be missionaries wherever God leads them.**

Equipping took many forms this summer. Students got full-time jobs around the VA Beach community and learned how to have a ministry in the workplace, loving co-workers and reaching out with the Gospel. Students were surrounded by other believers wanting to grow closer to God and learned how to lean into community. Students received training in how to study the Bible, share the Gospel, lead a Bible study, disciple someone else, walk in the power of the Spirit, and get a taste of what it can look like to walk with God through suffering. There were plenty of opportunities to initiate spiritual conversations with international students, military and families. By God’s grace, these students left better equipped to walk with the Lord for a lifetime and make a Kingdom impact wherever God leads them.

VA Beach Summer Mission 2016



God continues His work in my own heart too (Philippians 1:6). This summer God has kindly been exposing areas of my heart where perfectionism has set up camp. While preparing to share a devotional during our staff meeting, I began feeling pressure to perform, do a good job, and impress others. Anxiety and fear began tightening their grip on my heart. God gently reminded me, **“I’m not asking you to be perfect. In fact, it’s a guarantee that this devotional won’t be perfect. I’m asking you to trust Me. Will you trust Me?”** His kindness leads me to repentance (Romans 2:4).

He keeps leading me back to 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." I'm still in process, but God continues to teach me what it looks like to live in light of the Gospel and not the demanding master of perfectionism. God's grace is sufficient for *me*. God's grace is enough.

A fresh new semester has almost begun and our staff team is preparing for the arrival of new and returning students. **Three recent NMU grads will be joining our U.P. Cru Staff Team (David, Emily & Mariah), one as associate staff and the others for a one-year internship!** This is a **HUGE** answer to prayer! God is raising up laborers. He's growing our team. We're doubling!! We're elated!

Thank you for your partnership!! It's because of God working through men and women like you that I'm able to spend the best hours of my day bringing the Gospel to bear on the lives of students, by God's grace.

With love,



U.P. Cru Staff Team: (L to R) Mariah, Emily, me, Katie (volunteered last semester), Dave & Susan, David

**praises:**

- \*God's work in & through the lives of staff & students during the VA Beach S.M. - training future missionaries
- \*God's kindness in continuing to grow me in the Gospel
- \*God growing our team - David, Emily, & Mariah

**prayer requests:**

- \*Incoming freshmen & returning students - college would be a time of growing intimacy with Christ, experiencing the Gospel and having a Kingdom impact; help us pursue and love freshmen well
- \*Gospel-centered movements of evangelism & discipleship, multiplication (students discipling students)
- \*U.P. Cru Staff Team - wisdom, walk closely with the Lord, in the Spirit's power, love one another well, unity, mesh well as a new team
- \*David, Emily & Mariah - God would prepare their hearts and provide for their needs so they can fully engage and serve on campus this fall