

# My Summer Serving in Ocean City, Maryland

by Dylan GC Murphy

Hi everyone! This summer I, Dylan Murphy, got the chance to spend 10 weeks in Ocean City, Maryland with Campus Crusade for Christ. Campus Crusade for Christ (or Cru as we call it) is an evangelical Christian organization on college campuses all across the US that focuses on reaching students and bringing them to a relationship with Christ. I attend Bowling Green State University, and am involved in the Cru movement there, so when I heard about an opportunity to spend the summer doing a mission project with them, I jumped at the chance (which is what I'm writing to all of you about now). It was an excellent experience, and it's been a blessing as a step towards my ultimate calling of being in full time college ministry. So as I return to school to study Interpersonal Communications specializing in pre-ministry, I'm excited to be able to take back the things I've learned this summer and bless those around me with them.

It was indeed a busy summer. After waiting and praying for three and a half weeks for God to provide a job for me, I finally got employed at Paul Revere's Smorgasbord (odd name, I know) along with two fellow project members, Jon and Jesse. So from 10-3, Monday through Friday, I worked as a prep cook, pulling turkey, cooking ribs, steaming macaroni and cheese, and making crab imperial by the dozens of pounds. When I arrived home each day I would have a couple free hours before that evening's event. From Teaching and Training on Mondays, to Bible study and mission team meetings on Tuesday, to lifegroup dinner & family nite on Wednesday, to men's & women's time and 2 hour reflection on Thursday, we were definitely kept on our toes during the week.

The excellent thing about being so busy was that it wasn't an overbearing or draining busyness. Most everything we were doing was actively moving towards either knowing God more deeply or figuring out ways to share His love and gospel. So, this is where I'd say my summer was exciting: I was given the responsibility of leading the outreach group, which planned and orchestrated each Saturday's time of sharing the gospel



with the people around us. Throughout the time that I led outreach, we had events like the Cardboard War on the Fourth of July, where, Jesse, the last man standing spoke the gospel aloud to the gathered crowd of around 300 people. We also did a community dinner, where we invited our co-workers to come and have a grill out at a church parking lot. We provided the food and had an explanation of the good news of Jesus in the middle of the meal. We even had tug-of-war on the beach with a huge water pit in the middle between opposing teams of beach goers stopping by to join in. One week, we showed a surf movie on a 30 foot tall screen where surfer Bethany Hamilton explained how God enabled her to persevere through the loss of her arm to a shark attack.

These conversations and the love that we were able to show to our co-workers and many vacationers were definitely some of the most inspiring and moving experiences I've ever been so blessed to be a part of.

Of course we didn't go without some occasional fun on our own. I wish I could tell you all the stories behind skim boarding on a field in a lightning storm, our movie & shopping road trips, the week we decided not to clean our particular apartment (horrible idea), to my futile attempts at catching seagulls. But if I did, my printing costs for this would be through the roof, haha.

This summer held a beautiful new and unexpected emphasis on prayer for me. I've always valued prayer since it's a chance to communicate directly to the Sustainer of the Universe and King of my life, but never before have I seen an emphasis on prayer in a community like I did in Maryland. I remember the first week on several occasions when

someone would mention a concern or something that we should keep in prayer and the people around would be like "alright, well let's pray." And simple as that, we prayed right then and there. How amazing, how brilliant and trusting, yet simple. I must say that the willingness to pray intently and immediately to God had blessed the people I lived with. It has taught me to always pray for something when I say I shall, and to care enough to often pray for a person with that person right there and then. It's like trusting God from the get-go, and making turning to Him your immediate reaction.

I also learned the importance and essentiality of morning prayer. As I worked to commit myself to waking up before work and spending my first half hour with God each day, I quickly realized that we are meant to seek Him in the morning. By talking to God and asking him to lead my actions and heart throughout the day, I found my days to be so much more intentional and worthwhile than if I only talked to him at the conclusion of my day.

All in all, this summer was less of a breeze (easy and trifling) and more of a whirlwind (strong and moving). I was tossed around by personal struggles of uncertainty, an inability to control everything as a leader, and lack of times to feel at rest. But through the intensity of the storms, the gloriousness of God's grace and love was made to shine all the brighter and I have been brought to a place that I could never have arrived on my own.

And so, I want to thank you all for being a part of God's having brought me to Ocean City, Maryland's Summer Project. Your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support have each been pivotally significant and immeasurably appreciated. Lives have been changed. Mine, my friends', my co-workers', and those people whose names we may not even remember who were touched in some way by the Holy Spirit working His love through us in our actions and words.

Continue to trust in the Lord as you have in your support of me. I have seen a mere sliver of His glory and plan, and I haven't the faintest doubt that He will do dazzling things with our small lives should we surrender them to Him daily.

*-Your servant, Dylan Murphy*