



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST  
**WESTERN PA CATALYTIC**  
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(INFO)

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## Welcome to America!

Have you ever felt socially awkward - maybe at a party or reunion that seemed like a great idea, then once you got there, long trips to the restroom seemed like a better option? You can probably relate to our experience at our first international dinner this summer.

Told that the dinner we were serving in Ocean City would start at 5:30, we arrived early to find the first of the over 300 hungry, soggy internationals already filling the room's tables and couches. Apparently, the day's rain had left many jobless and able to come. Grabbing two plates of food, I [Carrie] took them to a young couple in the back and, as the room seemed unnavigable, judged it best to sit down with them. Jenny and Patrick turned out to be Irish - I was thrilled to find native English speakers. But this just tripled the speed at which they cast their thick brogue through the already noisy room.

The room cleared some, and I began to get my bearings in spite of the language barriers, though most of the night felt like I was talking on the level of six year olds. Some were chatty and inquisitive, and others shy observers, but it was a night of firsts for all of us. Thinking back on that night, I can hardly believe God would later grant the chance to discuss issues of faith and the gospel with a sweet Russian student named Nadia and several other internationals on the boardwalk - although the nerves never did go away.

## The Land of Opportunity

Nadia, like thousands of other students from places like Poland, Russia and Nepal, had made her first ever trip to the U.S. in hopes of a better paying summer job than was likely back home. Unfortunately, even the international student programs that recruit them aren't always much help to these students who often start their summer thousands of dollars in debt with loans from relatives only to get a quick education on the difference between a "job offer" and a "job guarantee."

Hired for their ability to stay longer than the American students into the October close of the peak season, international students in Ocean City are not unlikely targets of injustice and sexual harassment from shady landlords and employers and a less than helpful police force. And that speaks nothing of the emotional strain that comes from working long, lonely days (often at more than one job) in a crummy apartment in a strange culture.

## They Got Gaps, We Got Gaps...

When a local business owner donated a building in the thick of the Ocean City, MD boardwalk action to Stevenson United Methodist Church, it's no wonder they decided to use its resources for international ministry. Before the church's two-year standing partnership with Campus Crusade for Christ, members had converted the building from a bar into a functional internet café/dining hall, but lacked the volunteers to do much more than provide meals. When the Summer Project came on the scene, bringing with it 30+ ministry-trained students & staff looking for a place to serve, imagine the excitement of both parties! By the end of the project, over 1,000 meals had been served, allowing for an environment for students to have both practical and spiritual needs met.

How cool when we get the chance to work together in true Body-of-Christ fashion - in the words of the legendary Rocky Balboa, "together we ain't got no gaps!"

- That the summer project in Ocean City, MD will maintain healthy longstanding partnerships with local churches
- That project students who just returned home last week will start the semester strong & bring leadership to the groups on their campuses
- That the internationals still in Ocean City would continue to consider faith issues and have their needs met
- That our transition back into the fall campus schedule would be smooth & Spirit-filled

Grace and peace,

*Jayson & Carrie*

(PRAYER NEEDS)