

NIU New Zealand Spring Break 2008

To: the parents or guardians of any NIU CRU student interested in New Zealand for 2008 spring break:

You may be wondering why your son or daughter is thinking about traveling to Wellington, New Zealand for his or her spring break. Many questions could be running through your head. Perhaps you are curious about Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) and who we are as an organization or how your child might realistically make this happen. Hopefully this letter can help you get some of your questions answered.

Who: Students and staff involved in CCC from NIU and several universities in Indiana

Dates: Wednesday March 5th through Saturday March 15th 2008

Where: Wellington, New Zealand (Primarily working at the University of Victoria)

Approximate Cost: \$2,400.00 (including flight, accommodations and food) Actual cost may be a bit lower.

Who and what is CRU?

Campus Crusade for Christ is a worldwide, interdenominational Christian ministry committed to showing people how they can know and experience God's love and forgiveness. Our desire is to help students broaden their horizons by seeing what God is doing all over the world, and helping them to think about how God might use them to serve others with their lives. For more on the mission of CRU, see this website: http://www.ccci.org/mission_statement.html

Why New Zealand and what will we be doing?

NIU has an exciting opportunity to further build upon our partnership with universities in Wellington, New Zealand. This means that students from NIU for years to come will have the opportunity to visit the same schools that your child may be going to this spring and continue the work. This is NIU's second spring break trip there. This summer two NIU students spent two months in Wellington and we currently have one NIU graduate serving there for one year. We are excited to help the students of New Zealand in their efforts to reach the students of the world for Christ.

Forty percent of the students who study at the University of Victoria (which is where we will be working) are from Asian countries where the message of Christianity is either illegal or severely restricted. The students of the world are coming to New Zealand to study. We have the chance to talk to them about the wonderful message of Christianity while they are there. A message they would most likely never hear in their home country.

Where will we come up with the money?

We as CRU staff at NIU will personally assist your son or daughter to help them raise the money needed to make this trip happen. Students can raise financial and prayer support through their local churches (asking to speak with missions committees or elder boards, etc), writing letters to family and friends, personally meeting with interested people and inviting them to be a part of God's work by giving financially. We are committed to praying that money would not be a barrier for students to go on this once in a lifetime trip.

Will any staff from CRU be traveling with my son or daughter?

Yes! Absolutely. There will be two staff members from Indiana schools and two staff going from NIU. Our hope is that we would be a resource for the students and an encouragement throughout their time there and upon their return.

One final note. If your son or daughter has classes on Thursdays or Fridays, they would be missing a day or two from school. In the past, whenever we have sponsored relief projects to New Orleans or missions trips like this one, we communicate with the professors and let them know what we are doing and they have always been very supportive of the trip and have helped the student work through the material they would be missing in advance. Professors see these trips in a very positive light. Plus it often looks good on a resume!

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Batiste at brent.batiste@uscsm.org