



Welcome to CU 2013

Orientation

We kicked off CU this year with a huge turnout at the Orientation and Clubs days. We ran stalls at all of the welcome events, met lots of interested students and had some great conversations. We had almost 200 follow up calls to make afterwards! A significant number of these contacts have joined CU growth groups and this is really exciting. Please continue to pray for these students and others who have expressed interest in CU.



Some of our returning students meeting people at the CU orientation stall.

Some students at one of the CU welcome BBGs



We currently have 6 Bible study groups meeting on a Wednesday night and 2 groups meeting on Thursday night. The Thursday groups are in Bishop Julius residential hall and are bursting at the seams with people (mainly first year students). Over the last term it has been encouraging to see the groups coming to grips with the book of Colossians and its message of the supremacy of Christ.

In the halls groups particularly a number of non-Christians have also been coming along and are continuing to express interest in the Christian message. During 2nd term we have had a "Halls" weekend away at Akaroa, looking at 1 Peter and that will lead into training and evangelistic events in the coming term. After study one night, the following comment appeared on facebook: "What an awesome night! Brilliant friends, brilliant bible teaching, brilliant intellectual discussion, brilliant hall..."

We're also running 4 daytime groups meeting on campus, one of which is helping students investigate Jesus through Christianity Explored.

CU Easter Conference



Love, Sex and Marriage

The highlight of first term was definitely our Canterbury Easter Conference. We spent 5 days away together over the Easter weekend looking at how the Bible informs all of our relationships. Mark Santich gave us a big picture overview of God's plan for his world to bring all things under the Lordship of Jesus and how our relationships fit into this plan.

We looked at different aspects of Love and Faithfulness (both God's and our own) in Bible studies, seminars and workshops. There was plenty of fun in the sun with such glorious weather and amazing food to top it all off! We had a number of students along who were investigating Jesus which was really exciting.

Points for prayer

*Please pray for Mark, Renee, Geoff, Liz & Paul as we teach, train and equip the students to be living in ways that honour Jesus. Pray for students as they seek to proclaim the good news of Jesus at University this year.

*Thank God for the CU exec – Nathan, Esther, Jemimah, Chad, Raoul, James & Kadin as they co-ordinate CU with the staff team. Pray for them to grow as servant leaders, for boldness to speak about Jesus and faithfulness to serve CU.

*Pray for CU as we plan and prepare for faculty specific evangelistic initiatives later this year.

*Thank God for an excellent CU Easter Conference and Halls weekend. Pray that students will use the things they've learned to grow in Christ and pray for those investigating Jesus for the first time.

New Staff

We have new staff on the team!

It is fantastic to have Geoff & Liz Robson join Mark & Renee Santich on the CU team and also for Paul Denmead to start as a ministry apprentice with us at Canterbury this year.



**Paul
Denmead**

This year has been one of very significant changes for me. In addition to changing jobs from being a project manager to a ministry intern, I have recently got engaged and will be married to Narelle in August!

I have enjoyed adjusting to full time ministry work because previously it has been frustrating not being able to invest adequate amounts of time into people. A highlight of my term has been meeting with a few 'fringe' people that are unsure of their faith and it has been encouraging to see God work in their lives to strengthen them.

We are both really excited to be joining the staff team at CU this year. Geoff has been an Anglican minister for the past 5 years (2 years in Sydney and 3 years in Christchurch). Working on campus full time is very different! Liz is working part time this year with CU after being at home looking after our kids, Johanna (8), Will (6) and Tom (3).

We have both been super encouraged by the enthusiasm of the CU students who want to know God in his word and to share Jesus with their friends. We're looking forward to getting to know the students and the team and to working together to grow God's kingdom in NZ!

**Geoff and Liz
Robson**



