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TRAGEDY AT VIRGINIA TECH

Three students involved with Campus Crusade for Christ die at VA Tech. Students reach out to comfort each other and offer spiritual hope in the midst of horror.

ORLANDO, FL, April 23, 2007 - Campus Crusade for Christ responded immediately to the tragic news of the massacre of students and faculty at Virginia Tech last Monday.

“This is a time of tears, grief and shock,” said Mark Gauthier, National Director of the U.S. Campus Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. “We have been praying specifically for those who have experienced this unimaginable loss first-hand, but also for our staff and students at Virginia Tech who are coping with the raw emotions and pain in their midst.”

The VA Tech Chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ, nicknamed CRU, has more than 500 students actively involved. It’s one of the ten largest chapters in America.

Three students directly involved with Campus Crusade were killed in the massacre: Lauren McCain, Mary Read and Jarrett Lane.

“Our hearts ache for their families and friends, and for those who mourn all the victims,” explains Gauthier. “We ask you to pray that their hearts might be comforted in Christ.”

The very night of the massacre, Campus Crusade students held the first of many prayer vigils. With the return of many students to campus, Campus Crusade students are reaching out to their peers offering both comfort and hope in a personal relationship with God through Jesus.

400 campuses nationwide participated in a Call to Prayer last Thursday to pray for Virginia Tech, the families and friends of the grieving and the spiritual awareness of students everywhere.

Campus Crusade for Christ has created a special Tragedy at Virginia Tech link on its national website www.CampusCrusadeForChrist.com with an on-going blog from one of its VA Tech staff, links to some of the national news coverage involving Campus Crusade students and a way to give to help care for students immediately and meet their ongoing spiritual needs.

Campus Crusade for Christ is present on 1163 American universities with more than 48,000 students involved. Its mission is to bring the reality of the love and forgiveness of Jesus to the students of the world, even in the midst of tragedy.

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Media Notes: For more information, visit www.CampusCrusadeForChrist.com/newsroom, www.CampusCrusadeForChrist.com/virginiatech and www.EveryStudent.com.