

Burkey Beacon



Ministry at Cru Headquarters

August 26, 2018

In the last 2 months: June 26—Aug 26

Our flight home from Macedonia was ultimately successful, though we were delayed 24 hours midway through Ontario, due to a late flight. As you can tell from the picture, we were a good bit disappointed not to arrive home on time. Once we were home we were blessed by family and friends and got to connect with four churches before we packed up to leave for our assignment at our headquarters in Orlando, Florida. On Aug 13th our kids had their first day of USA public school and entered The Orange County Public School System. Lauren & Seth's high school has a whopping 3500 students in it. Nathan is going to a similar sized middle school. So those are daunting transitions that the kids embraced. It was fun for them all to ride a yellow school bus for the first time too. Praying they would continue to be strong and courageous, salt and light.



Culture Shock?? Not exactly. A hard time getting home.



TRANSITIONS... we all go through many of them each and every year. A move within your own country is a huge transition maybe you have experienced before. It takes a lot of time and energy before that new place becomes home. For example, normal twenty minute grocery runs turn into hours as it takes a while to find everything, your first couple times in stores. Add in a change in country, culture, food, language, customs, expectations, dress, and currency and you have what many experience and call culture shock. We are so thankful that by the grace of God, we are not experiencing culture shock, but definitely in many instances we have exhibited attitudes and frustrations related to culture stress. We don't live in Macedonia anymore and we have to learn how to do life differently, which can be exhausting.

Our kids are probably experiencing the most culture stress, going from homeschool to big public schools. It has been especially hard for our daughter, Lauren, to make friends because she is a senior and most seniors' friend systems are already setup and hard to break into. We praise the Lord though because Lauren auditioned for choir and was chosen to be in one of the Advance Honor Choirs. This will give her a smaller group with which she should be able to make friends. For Seth, at rollcall in one of his classes, the name of a boy was called out loud, "Emmanuel," and when Seth heard that name he said aloud, "**God with us**". The boy turned around and asked Seth, "What did you say?" Seth repeated, "God with us." Emmanuel asked again, "Why did you say that?" Seth responded, "That is what your name means." The boy had no idea. He approached Seth later and said, "**Please don't say 'God' around me again because I am an atheist.**" **Please pray** with us for all students returning to schools this month. **Pray** that the Lord will enable many to meet authentic Christians who will point them to our loving Savior, Jesus. Also, **please pray** for our kids transition and that their walk with the Lord will deepen through this time of transition.

One of my (Amy) highlights here in Orlando so far has been our first visit to the **Headquarters of Cru**. Having worked for this ministry now for 21 years, this was my first time visiting headquarters and it is awe-inspiring. I love to think of all that goes on within those walls that enable so many around the world to hear of the good news of Jesus Christ. Their work is strategic to help enable the gospel to go forth. We're excited to be able to work alongside them this year. Adam will be working in the area of recruiting, one of his strengths! We pray the Lord will use him to help Cru improve its abilities to find and engage men & women who are called by God to be a part of helping reach every people group and segment of society. *A picture of just us stinters->*



Our Future with the Cru—The International School Project

A fun gift from the Lord was as we were walking out of headquarters after that first visit, I saw a stand of various pamphlets before heading out the last door. One pamphlet in particular caught my eye because it said on the front, **“How do you open doors that have been closed to the gospel?”** I passed the stand but then stopped and went back to pick up that pamphlet because I wanted to know the answer to that question. As I opened the pamphlet I read, **“Teachers are the key!”** It was a pamphlet promoting the **International School Project (ISP)**, the ministry that the Lord is calling us to after this year at Lake Hart Stint! Of all the ministries of Cru, I was amazed that it was a pamphlet for ISP.

Here is a story of how God’s using ISP to reach teachers in Mongolia:



In May, Enkhbold one of our ISP staff, went to Sukhbaatar; Mongolia's easternmost province. There he met several Christian teachers and invited them to come to the 20th Anniversary Celebration of ISP in Mongolia. They were excited to meet other Christians and hear about all that God had done over the past two decades. Davaa, a young teacher (pictured far right), exclaimed, "I can't believe you have been praying for our province! We are the fruit of your prayers!"

Davaa went on to say, "This word 'impact' really excites me. I have wanted to help my students become good citizens, but now I see that I can impact them for greater things! I can impact them to be disciples of Jesus. I am SO excited! My heart is on fire!"

Update from Elena, a student with Cru Macedonia

Last time we asked you to pray for Elena who was from Ukraine, studying in Sofia, fruit of Cru Macedonia team in Sofia. She attended the first ever Speak Out Bulgaria, led by our staff Macedonian Staff—Lile Toevska and others on the Sofia team—Dragi, Atse & Andrijana. Both the Speak Out English Camps in Bulgaria and Macedonia were fruitful this year. Here is Elena’s summary.

“My dear partner in Christ, thank you for your prayers. My time at Speak Out was full of God’s presence and lessons. He taught me how to tell about Him to different nationalities, I even have met people who knows my language and had an opportunity to tell them about Jesus (as you know I’m from Ukraine). Of course I’ve found a lot of new friends! One of the hardest



lessons for me was how to work on a team; it isn’t as easy as I thought. One of the craziest things that I’ve done at Speak Out was dance with one girl (Victoria) from Sofia. She didn’t find a partner for the talent show and I agreed to help her. It was a good opportunity to get to know each other. When I will come back to Bulgaria I hope we will go to Bible studies together.

Thank you for your prayers and support :))) Elena”



Elena and Viktoria

Amy and I will share more about Lake Hart Stint in our upcoming letter. Grace & peace to you in the name of Jesus.

Thank you so much for your partnership! Adam & Amy