

# Burkey Beacon

Helping Reach the Campus

Oct 13, 2020



Dear Friend,

These are definitely trying times. In the midst of a tumultuous year of a pandemic, racial riots, and a presidential election, we've recently had to part with our brother-in-law, Mike Horst, who went to be with the Lord after a year and a half of fighting Leukemia. Also, Adam tore his lower bicep tendon off which required surgery to reattach it to his forearm! We know you too have had your own personal trials during this crazy year. As we find comfort in God's Word, we are reminded to keep our eyes focused on what is truly significant and eternal. In college I remember a speaker saying, "Only three things last for eternity: God, His Word, and the Souls of Men. The extent in which a person invests in these three things is the extent in which a person invests in eternity."



Adam and I want our lives to have an eternal impact, and we know you want your life to have an eternal impact too. It is so easy, though, in our world today to get distracted from what is really important to God. I praise God for His Word that helps us refocus and renew our mind from the messages the world is bombarding us with every minute. Just this morning I found Colossians 4:2-6 to be so helpful:

**<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**



*I want to be devoted to prayer, being watchful and thankful. I want to focus on proclaiming the mystery of Christ clearly and not some political view or societal passion. I want to be wise in the way I act toward outsiders of the faith, giving them reasons to want to know more about Christ instead of reasons to reject Christ and Christianity. I want to make the most of every opportunity the Lord provides, allowing my words to be full of grace and seasoned with just the right amount of salt that makes people hunger for more and not find it disgusting. I want to be available and willing to listen to others so that they know I care, that God cares, that they know they are important.*



Maybe you would like to focus on applying these verses to your life these next few months with me. My prayer is that the Lord would help us to be His hands and feet to a nation and world that so desperately need Him!

## Launching and Coaching Movements

Adam and I are happy to report that we are starting to launch and coach movements, even as we continue the work of Ministry Partner Development. I was given a contact of a pastor in Orrville, Ohio who has helped in the past with a student movement at University of Akron/Wayne College. I contacted him this

week and he informed me that since the pandemic started, nothing has really continued regarding his work with the students. He desires to get it up and running again and with a few questions, he was able to articulate his next step to see that happen. He was happy to have me call him in another week to see how it is going. He says many students come from church backgrounds, but they do not understand how to know Christ personally or have assurance of their salvation. He's excited to be baptizing a young man in the coming weeks that was involved in one of these Bible studies on campus last year and came to know Christ personally as a result. Praise the Lord that we can help pastors and students invest in the lives of other students, and help make an eternal impact in their lives!

As a launching specialist, Adam is involved in finding students or volunteers who desire to start a movement on their campus. Once they are committed and initially trained, he will pass that relationship and the beginnings of a movement on to me for further coaching and development. We are excited to see how the Lord leads through the process.

Students are **longing** for community! They want a safe place where they can process what is going on in their lives and in our world today and many are hungry to know how God fits in to the picture. With many campuses limiting groups meeting together personally, our team has started something new to help our students and volunteers still have an impact on the campuses they are trying to reach. We call them **Cru Connect Studies** and they are a six



week study of different Psalms each week. This a great way for the leaders we coach to connect with other students and build trust and develop an ongoing relationship with them. Once a Cru staff models the first study, our leaders are experiencing how the Lord can use them as they lead the rest of the studies. The staff person observes and helps when needed. Leading is much easier than students expect.

For example: A student named Ellie at Mercer in Georgia, started an online Bible study initially with students on her collegiate athletic team. The first week she had 9 students attend, only 2 she knew to be Christian. Now after several weeks, she has 32 students involved in her study, still with only 2 as known believers in Christ. At the end of her 6-week Psalms studies she plans to share her testimony of how she came to accept Christ, share the gospel of how they can accept Christ, and offer to meet up with any of them one on one for further conversation or questions. Please pray for Ellie that she will see some of these students come to Christ and be co-laborers with her at Mercer University!

To see more or invite students: <https://www.facebook.com/CruCoachingCenter>

### Prayer Requests:

- 1) **Cru Live!** These are fun, ongoing, online events held the 1st Tuesday of every month to create community and train students to lead well in reaching their peers with the gospel.
- 2) All of us grieving the loss of Michael Horst. Especially my sister, Elaine, and their two boys. Elaine seeks to find a home in Nashville Tennessee, near her boys who are attending Belmont University.
- 3) \$2442 to finish the windows, doors, and entrance to Martin's church: <https://gf.me/u/ykqjz6>
- 4) For students who struggle in isolation, to connect to others & the Lord in our Cru Connect studies.



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP, Adam & Amy Burkey***