

Burkey Beacon

Helping Reach the Campus

April 21, 2022



Dear friend,

Cru has been pursuing a single, unchanging mission since 1951: to win, build, and send Christ centered, multiplying disciples. The hope is to offer every person in the world a chance to respond to God's love and forgiveness in Jesus. Cru has helped both Amy and me significantly to grow in our relationship with God, and also to learn how to share Christ with others.



As we announced in our last letter, Amy & I will be leading the international summer mission to Croatia, May 25-June 30. This is Cru's largest international summer mission this year! We'll have 45 on our team, composed of 23 students, 13 staff and 9 kids. Then add in 5 Macedonians (led by Lile Toevska), 4 Croatian staff, stir it up and we'll be a force to be reckoned with. Not only 3 nationalities, our team is also diverse ethnically, including White, Black, Indian, Asian, and Hispanic. We're all one in Christ, and it will be hard for Croatian students not to notice a group of that size and makeup.

This is a unique opportunity where we'll be involved with outreaches on the campus and in the community – mostly talking to students about Jesus and where we are in our spiritual journeys. At the same time, staff will lead students in small group Bible studies and discipleship ministry. Our desire is for all to grow closer in their relationship to the Lord and learn how to share their faith effectively. Amy and my general roles as leaders are these 3 Loves: love our Lord, love our co-laborers, and love the lost.

In order to make these things happen, we are inviting others by faith to partner with us in prayer and financial support. Would you prayerfully consider helping us this summer with a gift of \$500, \$200, or some other amount that is significant to you, as we try to reach our goal of \$12,000? That includes \$10,000 for the summer mission fees and \$2000 for our shortfall in regular monthly gifts. The easiest way to give to us is online using our personal giving page: <https://give.cru.org/6207785>. If you would like to give by check, please make your check payable to "Cru" and send the check to us at 2428 Hardscrabble Rd; Alexandria OH 43001. You can make it so fun to get the mail!!

We will give you a call or email if we have not heard from you by May 1st to see what you are thinking. In addition, we would love your prayer support. Having us and this trip surrounded by prayer is so important. Thank you for considering joining our summer team of ministry partners. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please pray that as a result of our project, we'll give the ongoing ministry in Croatia lots of new contacts to follow-up. Also please pray that our students will take the skills and lessons learned on mission, back to implement in their own campus or personal ministry in the Fall.





Alex showed up and said “I am lost”.

Around this time last year, I (Amy) was made aware of a young woman at Southwestern Michigan College who was looking for help in restarting the Christian group she had been a part of there as a student. Since Covid started, the group disbanded and now as a college employee, she was seeing the need on campus for the community that had meant so much to her. Not knowing what to do, she reached out to Cru for help, and I was introduced to her through a fellow colleague. Rachel is a very capable leader who has been such a pleasure to coach this year. She comes with questions. We discuss and brainstorm ideas. I provide her with resources, and she is faithful to go and implement the steps the Lord leads her to do.

Through her faithfulness and availability, the Lord has brought together a group of 15 students on this predominantly commuter campus who are growing in their faith, in their knowledge of God’s Word, in their love and care for each other, and in their impact for Christ on those around them on campus.

A little over a month ago, as Rachel was walking up some steps outside a building, she saw a male student walking up to the door. She felt a nudge from the Lord to invite this young man to Bible study and in obedience decided to say, “Hi, we’re going to have Bible study in a few hours here, you should come!” He replied, “I think I will! Thanks!”

As the study started and he hadn’t shown up yet, she began to doubt that he was as interested as he sounded earlier. Then, to her surprise, he came in late and sat down with the group. He introduced himself as Alex, but didn’t participate much. Near the end of their discussion he spoke up and simply shared with the group these three words, “I am lost!”

“What do you mean by that?” Rachel asked. He shared how he had been making some bad decisions lately and that he needed help but didn’t know where to turn. Rachel and a student, Carlos, took time to listen to him more and they shared the Good News of Jesus’ gift of salvation through His death and resurrection. He wasn’t ready to accept Jesus’ death for the payment of his sin that night, but he continued to visit Rachel in her office a few times in the coming week and eventually showed up one day saying, “I’m ready!”

Rachel and Carlos were able to lead Alex in a prayer to invite Christ into his life and they welcomed him into the family of God. Life hasn’t been easy for Alex since, as he is still dealing with consequences from his past choices. Yet, for God to see him in his trouble, prompt Rachel to reach out to him, and then draw Alex to Himself, we trust God has a good plan for Alex.

Please pray with us, that God would truly become Lord of Alex’s life and that Alex will be able to say no to darkness and turn to God and His Word on a daily basis and experience His amazing grace and unconditional love. Also please keep Rachel in your prayers as she steps out in faith regularly to lead the movement at Southwestern Michigan College.



Rachel

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP, Adam & Amy Burkey