

Burkey Beacon

Helping Reach Campuses in the USA

Oct 12, 2022



Dear Friend,

We pray that you are experiencing sweet times with our Lord and Savior, no matter the circumstance you find yourself in this Fall. I (Amy) have been reading the book of Jeremiah and I have been struck by God's charge against His people. Jeremiah 2:13 says, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns that cannot hold water." God longs to be in relationship with me but how many times am I like the Israelites? I forsake Him and try to find life, joy, satisfaction, significance in the wrong things. Jesus is inviting me to find those things in Him, for only in a relationship with Him is there the full and meaningful life I long for. Only in Him can I find real joy, satisfaction, and significance in who He created me to be. Trying to find these things in anything else is like trying to gather life giving water in broken wells that leak. It DOESN'T work! I praise God for the season He currently has me in where I am experiencing Him, the spring of living water, and His love and grace in deeper ways than I ever have before. It makes me long for the students we work with to experience this same life giving, gracious, wonderful love and presence of the Lord in their own life every day. So that has been my prayer for them this Fall. We hope you too are experiencing a fresh relationship with Jesus.

God At Work

The Fall is a very busy time for us as each campus' group of leaders have several steps to get a Cru movement back up and running. Thank you so much for praying. We had some wins and some flops.

Over the last few years three students at West Liberty University in W.V. were independently praying that they could find a Christian community on their campus. God answered their prayers and brought them together this past summer through our team's summer mission Instagram efforts. Together, they have agreed to start this community and are excited to be a part of what God wants to do at West Liberty to reach the lost students around them.



Their first gathering brought 15 students together. Each week since, as they meet for Bible Study, they report that the group keeps growing and their discussions in God's Word is rich! After one Bible study, Michaela wrote me this message, "We had to add chairs to the circle tonight! Lots of new faces. So many opened up tonight in conversation and shared great thoughts. It was so encouraging! Riley and I were on the verge of happy tears...God is so good!" We praise God for the community He is developing there at West Liberty. Please pray they will be able to organize an effective outreach sometime this semester where they can engage with students that don't know Jesus and encourage them to consider faith and a personal relationship with Him.

OSU-N/COTC: We received five requests over the summer from students at the dual campus in Newark, Ohio of Ohio State University and Central Ohio Technical College. They were asking if Cru was on their campus. It wasn't. Adam connected personally with each one and organized a time for all to meet together for Bible study. They also were preparing to become an official student organization on campus so that they can reserve rooms and advertise activities campus wide. Often, this can happen at any time, but here we came up on a surprise deadline for new organizations to apply for the Fall semester. If we didn't find 1 more student and a faculty advisor in two days, we could not continue to meet on campus.

The day we found out, by God's providence, Adam had prepared a Bible study on the passage of Abraham being tested by God when He told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. When God provided a ram instead, Abraham called that place, "The Lord will Provide". As we faced a looming deadline, we remembered this truth about God's character, and it was fun to be expectant of how He would provide for us in this situation. Our students took steps of faith by reaching out to multiple professors, and we reached out to friends on Facebook for leads. After much



communication (half a million text and FB messages) and prayer among our group those two days, Adam was able to submit the paperwork and roster just in time with a very eager faculty advisor listed in support of Cru! Praise God for His provision and for these eager students and faculty advisor at OSU-N/COTC. Please pray we will coach these students well and that they will have an eternal impact in the lives of students on their campus! So far we have Gabe, Sofia, Cyntha, Jonathan, and Cassie. Percella is our awesome faculty advisor pictured at left.

Lake Erie College: In early September, I visited Lake Erie College to help our two leaders there with their student activities table. One girl stopped by and said that she had to fill one of our questionnaires out because she had just started her journey this summer. We were curious as to what she meant and once we received her questionnaire, we saw she said she was not a Christian but wanted to learn more and that she would be interested to meet with someone and learn how to know God personally.

God orchestrated for the two Cru leaders and me to meet with her that evening to hear about her spiritual journey. She had not been raised in a Christian home but over the last few years had become very curious about Christianity and wanted to know more. We shared the good news of Jesus with her and when we asked her if she would like to invite Jesus into her heart to forgive her of her sins and give her eternal life, she said she did but first she wanted to get to know Jesus more. We encouraged her to read the Gospel of John. She has begun meeting with our student leader, CC. I had prayed earlier that day that the Lord would encourage these two leaders for their faithfulness and availability to the Lord to be used by Him in a very dark place and He answered in a way that was beyond what I could have imagined. They were overjoyed to see God so obviously at work and to be a part of what He was doing! The girl's name is Cassidy. Please pray for Cassidy as she continues to get to know the Lord and prayerfully invites Him into her heart soon!



Additional Prayer Request

- Please pray for 4 students and our awesome volunteer, Rachel, from Southwest Michigan College who all attended a Fall Retreat last weekend. One girl from SWMC, Leandra, prayed to receive Christ as her Savior and Lord there! Praise God! At the retreat also, a SWMC guy signed up for a mission trip to Columbia with Cru and Filters of Hope. Please pray for the Lord to encourage all five of them to continue to grow in their faith at SWMC.
- Please continue to pray for Amy's younger brother Chris who was diagnosed with lung cancer this summer. Praises that his cell targeting treatment is reducing it. Pray His heart is drawn to Jesus through this journey.
- Please pray for students at Hiram College in Ohio. We have four who are trusting God to start a spiritual movement there but running into resistance from a culture of inclusivity which is threatening to exclude them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP, Adam & Amy Burkey