

Burkey Beacon

Helping Reach Campuses in the USA

February 13, 2024



Dear Friend,

I am so grateful for the ability technology gives us to connect with other believers over the distance we find between us. Unlike the missionary Paul, we have the opportunity every day to encourage, exhort, correct, and train the students we coach from a distance to have an effective ministry right where they are at! What a privilege and a joy it is to come alongside them and help them grow and experience how God wants to use them in others' lives. Last week, I met online with a student at Indiana University-



Northwest in Gary, IN who reached out to Cru, looking for a community of believers on her campus who share her passion for the Lord. She grew up in a church but like so many young people today, she became disillusioned with God and the church and looked to the world for a time to find her satisfaction and significance. When she eventually found herself completely empty and alone, she cried out to God in desperation, "Jesus, save me!" and He quickly answered and began to soften her hardened heart. Now she wants to surround herself with like-minded friends her age who have the same passion for Him and His Word. I look forward to

meeting online with her a few more times to help ground her in her newfound faith and give her some tools for a lifetime of pursuing Him. I am also thankful that I can introduce her to a group of students involved with Cru at her school that can also encourage her along in her spiritual journey with Jesus.



Adam and I traveled to **Ferris State University** in Michigan in January to help the student leaders host their table at a student activities fair. We enjoyed getting into conversations with students, finding out where they were at on their spiritual journey, and challenging them to consider Jesus. We had many encouraging conversations, and we also had students fill out spiritual interest surveys which helps us contact them afterwards if they show any interest. As a result of that effort, we hosted a Cru info meeting that night and had 10 students show up and we invited them to come out for a Cru Bible study. As we connect and hear students' life stories often it breaks our heart. There is so much brokenness in their world.



In the weeks since, I have been coaching the 3 => **Ferris State student leaders** how to coordinate, plan, and lead weekly gatherings for these students to study the Bible together and grow in community with one another. God is at work because He keeps bringing new students each week and some students who have been coming have not yet made a decision for Jesus, but they are interested in learning more. Our student leaders, 2 freshmen and 1 sophomore, are so encouraged by how the Lord is using them to help students enjoy a safe place to explore faith and the Bible.

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While we were up at Ferris, I reached out to a girl named Jeneiah, hoping to meet her in person. She finally responded to me two weeks later, asking if it was still possible to meet. We met online today and after hearing her story, I realized she was spiritually open but that she didn't know how she could know God personally or why Jesus had to die on the cross for us. I had the privilege of sharing the Good News of Jesus with her and she was so receptive. I shared a few articles with her to read on her own and will be getting in touch with her in the next few days to discuss what she learned. Please pray she invites Jesus into her heart and begins the amazing adventure of following Him! This was her response after our call: "Thank you so much Amy! I highly appreciate it! I am grateful to have met you. You lifted my spirit and answered a question I've been having for a little while now. Also, I plan to try and attend Bible study tonight if I have time. Again, thank you so much! God is so good!"



Prayer Requests:

-Praise God that we had 10 folks (7 students, 1 volunteer, our sons Seth and Nate) join us in Indianapolis for Cru's Winter Conference in December. This was a great time to worship the Lord with 1200 college students, to hear great and challenging talks that deepened our understanding of God's Word and the mission to which He is calling us, and to grow in relationship with these students we aren't face to face with very often. Our students LOVED it and left motivated and equipped to share the Good News of Jesus with students back on their campuses. Both Seth and Nathan returned home feeling led by the Lord to go on a summer mission with Cru, **Seth to Bratislava, Slovakia** and **Nathan to Zimbabwe and Kenya**.



-A few senior student leaders we work with are very overwhelmed. Pray they transition their leadership responsibilities well this semester to those who will continue the ministry in the coming year. A good passing of the baton during the Spring semester is crucial for the continuation of these ministries.



-Praise God, two students, **Ben and Maggie**, from Penn State Behrend attended this year's Beyond Conference with Adam on Feb 4th. This is a one-day conference for students to explore what ministry God might be calling them to beyond college, and how to live life on mission wherever they go. Please pray for Ben and Maggie's continued yeses to Jesus. We hosted them overnight and made Burkey pizza!!

-A graduate student named **Ben from Wheeling University** reached out to Cru, wanting to explore what it would look like to start Cru on his campus. We met with Him Friday, and we are excited to start working together. Pray that God leads Adam & Ben to take the next steps to get a spiritual movement started there.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP, Adam & Amy Burkey