

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



SENDING NICOLE TO AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

I began coaching Nicole in her ministry partner development (“MPD” for short, which is Cru’s term for fundraising) back in June 2020. Her journey in MPD has not been an easy one, but I have been honestly impressed with her steadfastness to her calling. After 20 months of fundraising (many of those in a pandemic!), she is finishing up her support team this month and will be my newest staff sent to the missions field.

Nicole has never lived in Amherst, Massachusetts before (native of CA) but she is already passionate about her new home:

“There are 20 universities within our scope there, and we only have a presence on 3 of them so far. With only 2% of the population is Christian, and so there is a huge need for people to hear the Gospel. The soil is hard, many students are not super open to the Gospel but I have seen the Lord do mighty things, despite hard soil, through my time in the Middle East.”

After graduating University of California - Irvine, Nicole had gone to the Middle East for 2 years doing short-term missions (Cru STINT). Throughout our coaching time together, she often reminisced about the perseverance required of her during STINT, especially in developing relationships of trust and openness with students there. But the hurt, brokenness, and longing uncovered in these students’ lives as trust formed - that is what drew Nicole’s heart to long-term missions. She told me stories specifically about a girl named Rosemary that still wrenched her heart:

"I met Rosemary on campus through a teammate. As my teammates and I got to know her over time, we learned that she was from a different country and was feeling really isolated, alone, and cut off from her family. She was no longer even speaking to her family. She shared that her life felt like it had no purpose which led her to have thoughts of taking her own life, to end the suffering and loneliness she was feeling. As she continued to open up to us, Rosemary asked questions about who Jesus was and was really questioning her muslim faith.

"She is not alone. I was devastated to learn that nearly 24,000 college students attempt suicide each year with 1,100 of them being successful, making it the second-leading cause of death among college students. It was heartbreaking for me, as I sat with her and spoke truth to her while she was walking through this dark season. It made me want to continue to reach students like Rosemary who feel unknown, alone, walking in darkness with no hope, and to share the truth and beauty of the Gospel with them.

"As for Rosemary, it was encouraging getting to spend time with her and have multiple spiritual conversations about the Gospel. I really got to see her experience the hope of the Gospel as she came to church and as she started reading the Bible, seeing the grace that Jesus's death brings. I didn't see her decide to put her faith in Jesus during my time there, but I am still in contact with her and praying that she continues to experience the truth of the Gospel and decides to put her faith in Christ."

Nicole knows how difficult the soil will be in Massachusetts's "Pioneer Valley" but she is determined that the perseverance required is worth it, just as the process of walking along with Rosemary has been worth it. Raising a team of financial supporters during a pandemic also required much perseverance but it is worth it. These college students are worth this effort.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Nicole as she moves to Amherst, MA and transitions to full-time ministry there. Pray for her to bond with her new team.
- Pray that Nicole will find a good church home in Amherst and develop friendships outside of ministry that will help her persevere as she cares for college students.
- Pray for Nicole's continual dependence on the Lord.

Thank you for partnering with me to see new missionaries like Nicole raised up, trained, poured into, and sent out to reach college students here in the Northeast!