

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



The new Cru staff that I coach, hanging out with their Cru friends during training.

This morning I open my computer, secure my classic white headphones in my ears, and once again use the quite lovely technology of Google hangout (a medium for video conference call) to connect with some the new staff in my charge, who are all over the country working to raise the funds they need before reporting to full-time ministry. As I mentioned in January, these Cru staff are among the 20,000 that Ralph Winter, the founder of the U.S. Center for World Missions, said inquires about serving in missions with various agencies across the country. He had calculated that only about 1% make it to the field because most do not want to or cannot raise their own financial support to fulfill the calling God has put on their lives. As my new staff can tell you, “ministry partner development” (what Cru calls fundraising) is no easy task - as I am sure you can imagine or have personally experienced. But their calling is strong. They are up for the task.

As we connect today, Adam, Hope, and Lee tell me stories of how the Lord is providing, the relationships with old friends and friends of friends that are being fostered through partnering together for the mission. In equal turn they share the heartache and disappointments that God has been using to challenge their perspective and their dependency on Him. We remind each other about how sharing about our mission is ministry in itself, as it gives opportunity for the Body of Christ to be a significant part of what God is doing in the World, even when they cannot or are not called to physically go themselves. They also have the opportunity to equip other Christians with the tools and strategies, particularly in evangelism and discipleship, as they meet with others. The ministry that can happen while fundraising can be hard, opportunities can be turned down, but so also is ministry to college students hard. The Lord is preparing their heart for the challenges of the mission on campus.

In my conversations with them, we focus on having a heart of gratitude for God's current provision and even for the (often) long, arduous, and stretching process of seeing the rest of God's provision come. We work through the many necessary organizational and personal skills they need to build in order to do their part in the fundraising process. Then we pray, pray, pray - because God is the one who truly provides, by stirring the hearts in the Body, just as He is the One who ultimately changes lives in our ministry.

Please pray with me, that the Lord would give me wisdom as I care for and train these new missionaries. Pray that not only would the Lord would provide for their practical financial needs but would also give them the endurance, strength, and wisdom they need as God renews their hearts during the process of fundraising. Pray that He would prepare them for the mission on college campuses.