

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, image from Encyclopedia Britannica

The Beauty and Uniqueness of Perspectives

"In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough ... ; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets." C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

I have heard that C.S. Lewis is referring to his friendship with J.R.R. Tolkien and Charles Williams. When Charles died, C.S. Lewis grieved not only Charles's passing but also the faucets of J.R.R. Tolkien that Charles could no longer bring out.

A similar experience happens as we share other encounters, like when three Boston Cru staff took their discipleship groups to one of our city's treasures: the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Summed up by Cru staff, Patty Dery, "Even though I have been to this museum many times, I saw new things because I experienced it through someone else's eyes."

The Cru staff had chosen the museum as a way to enrich their time with this particular group of student disciples: musicians from New England Conservatory and Berklee School of Music — considering it an innovative way to "help [these students] make connections between creativity and God's Kingdom."

Patty told how the group began the day by dividing up and exploring areas of the museum individually. Once regathered, staff and students took turns guiding the rest of the group through their particular sections, then delighting in one another's discoveries: "I loved how each person not only shared what they saw, but also invited me to experience it with them."

Building upon this, Patty began to wonder how they might map their museum encounter onto their desire to help others know God. "How do I not only share about my experiences with God, but also prepare the way for others to experience God with me?"

For decades, Cru's DNA has been to win students to Christ, build them in their faith, and send them out to reach others. In this we want to meet the uniquenesses of these student disciples and point them towards how their gifts and perspectives can be used by God and build His Kingdom.

As Lewis so aptly put it, we need lights other than our own in order to see all the facets of one another. This is true among our circles of friends, and true as we communally seek God's face.

My Coaching Role

Thank you for your generous partnership, while I coach new and senior Cru staff as they raise their own team of financial partners to do full-time ministry. All of our staff have to raise 100% of their funds and this is an incredibly faith-stretching task that God richly uses to prepare Cru staff for ministry. I love being about help them in practical matters but even more so discipling them in their faith during this journey.

Part of my job is to do statistical analysis of how long Cru staff take to fundraise, giving our growing coaching team of over 100 coaches data-driven research to inform our training and coaching of new staff. Despite the pandemic, inflation, and uncertainty in our World, we have continued to see Cru staff raise their team of partners at an improving rate, which we largely believe (and will further research) to be due to more coaches coming along new staff. This role makes a difference. Thank you for being a part of that!



Silas (8) and Evelyn (10) love caring for the family chickens on Long Island when we visit, even willingly cleaning their coop!