

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



New Staff at University of New Hampshire

If I could turn back time and be a college student again, I would gravitate toward Chandler and Ally - they are tenderhearted, perceptive, and full of faith. Both of them became Christians during their time at college at the University of New Hampshire and now have joined staff with Cru to return to their alma mater to help students like they were come to know and walk with Jesus. I have enjoyed being their coach as they raised their financial team the last 8 months.

In January they joined other new Cru staff for the first two (out of eleven) theological courses they need to complete over the next few years. Hear about their experience and how God is forming them:

"This month we joined 60+ other new staff in Florida for three weeks to take seminary classes with Cru's Institute of Biblical Studies. We are so thankful to be working with an organization that cares about our development as missionaries. In our Introduction to Christian Theology class we gained a deeper understanding of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith and how they should practically shape our lives and ministry. Our Bible Study Methods class served to equip us to effectively study and apply God's word, and help others do the same.

"An article we read during our classes, 'Hearing the Music of the Gospel*,' describes two people dancing. The first person hears music and his body moves in a natural response to the rhythm of the music. The second person is deaf and hears nothing, but imitates the dance steps of the first person. A third person walks into the room and sees two people apparently doing the same thing. The article describes how this parallels our spiritual life:

"The dance (outward actions) represents the Christian life, while the music represents the grace of the gospel. Though we have come to know Christ through grace, we are often like the deaf man in the story who tries to perform the dance without hearing the music. Our spiritual life is

reduced to a series of dance steps— external behaviors and activities—devoid of God’s animating and transforming power. God’s desire is not to get us to do the dance but to get us to hear the music of the gospel, with the dance (godly actions, character, and activities) flowing naturally from it.

“We rejoice that we are able to partner with you to bring the transforming power and grace of the gospel to students in NH. We pray that you too will hear the sweet music of the gospel of Christ in fresh ways this month, and respond in joyful dancing.”

**You can read “The Music of the Gospel” article here:*

https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/02/Music_of_the_Gospel.pdf



Earthquake in Turkey/Syria

News of the recent devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria has been heartbreaking. We have quite a few friends connected to this area: missionaries I have coached and others who have family there - who have lost friends as well as their own homes.

If you are looking for a way to support those impacted by the earthquakes, the humanitarian arm of Cru, Unto, is working to send critical aid through their teams on the ground: <https://unto.com/turkey/?mot=PDSP02>

My friends sent these prayer requests, would you pray with me? Please pray for:

- Physical needs to be met - it is winter and many are stranded out on the streets, cold and without food and water.
- The Lord to move in the midst of this crisis - that there will be softer hearts and opportunities for people to hear about the love and comfort of Christ.
- Financial provision so that relief organizations can help get those affected back on their feet.

Thank you for your generous partnership!