

# THE HARVESTER

## Our Life-changing Decision

*"Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)*



In our last newsletter I mentioned that as part of a massive reorganization, Cru is making changes to the Lifelines ministry – resulting in the loss of our middle and upper tiers of leadership. Lifelines staff will now report to campus ministry directors who are competent and faithful missionaries, but not outdoor and experiential experts. Our teams across the country will report to their separate regions' authorities. We feel a tremendous loss over not having a say in the direction of the Lifelines ministry as a whole. In fact, Dan and I see a number of problems within this structure.

At the same time, God has awakened us to the reality that our vision for the growth of Lifelines beyond college students is not going to come through Cru at this time. For years we have envisioned Lifelines expanding to reach all people groups and have had a growing passion to use experiential learning and the message of grace and truth to also serve families, business people, church fellowships, and non-believers of all ages and backgrounds. We assumed that Cru would be the means for that growth. However, the structural changes have opened our eyes to the fact that the vision we have had for

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US

For Steph Fisher and Bob Kuzman who will take Dan's place as Northeast team leaders

For our move on Memorial Weekend and our kids as we leave loved ones behind.

For discernment and submission to the Lord as we follow Him step by step

That our application to Global Service Network (an agency that provides accountability and financial services to missionaries) would be accepted

For the kayak school and Women's Expedition we will lead this summer

That God would go before us in opening doors and hearts, using Thrive to lead people to Him and transform whole communities for His glory

**Would you commit to praying with us daily for God's guidance?**

Lifelines is not the vision Cru has had.

We have learned so much through the ministry of Cru and we believe that God will continue to work through Cru and use the ministry of Lifelines within that organization. From its conception, Lifelines has been His and I do not believe He is leaving it now – all of these changes are from His hand and for His glory. But God has revealed to us that the vision He has given Dan and I, to use outdoor and

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experiential learning to reach both students and whole communities, lies outside the ministry of Cru.

As we have labored in prayer and reevaluated these past two months, the Lord has graciously made clear that now is the time for our family to start a new ministry. We feel a bit like Abraham being called to the wilderness with the assurance of God's presence. We have chosen to leave what we know, and the friends that we love, to pursue God's calling into new territory.

As you can imagine, it has been hard to think of giving up "our baby," having been privileged to be part of creating Lifelines. It has been harder still to consider leaving our team and many staff friends who have served so faithfully with us. We will be starting over, yet we are exhilarated over the freedom of following Christ anywhere. These months have been filled with prayers for discernment, reliant on God for His plan and not our own, and begging for obvious direction so that we could not miss His will. And He has graciously answered.

We feel unbelievably blessed by the Lord that within days of this decision, our Lifelines co-founders, Joe and Angie Cousins, chose to also leave Cru and join us in this new adventure! At the end of May we will be moving to Mount Desert, Maine to be near them.

Our plan is to serve with Cru until our summer projects end

this August, and then we will begin building our new ministry: *Thrive Adventures*. **We will continue to create grace and truth experiences that offer people real relationships with Jesus and each other, with the vision of transforming whole communities.** One of our hopes is to also serve and enliven churches and laypeople by offering trips and training in all that we have been taught for the past twenty years, helping them in turn reach their communities.

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me" (Col 1:28-29.)

Our lives have been filled with both mourning and celebration, recognizing that "to everything there is a season." However, we are not alone. You have been instrumental in this ministry and in our lives. We hope you will press on with us to this new calling and we will be in touch with you soon to process these changes together. We have applied to Global Service Network, a financial processing and accountability firm that serves missionaries. If accepted, we will be transferring our funding to be managed through that service over the next months. More than ever we appreciate your prayers for the future of all involved and for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

## GOD IS ON THE MOVE

As a family we have been on our knees, pleading to the Lord for direction, and then for assurance and confirmation to know that we are following His will.

In the past two months, God has given us teammates in this new ministry. He has sold our house to our neighbors for our asking price without it every going on the market – and has guaranteed housing for our beloved tenant, Alice, for the next year. He has provided the chance for us to move to our family cottage near the outdoor mecca of Acadia National Park, prompting an acquaintance from Outpost Ministries to bring a huge crew this summer to build an addition so that we might serve groups from our own home. He has provided insurance for all of our outdoor activities in Thrive, and continues to lead us through verses, people, inspiration, and detailed answers to prayer.

We praise God for the clarity of His calling, His miraculous provision, and His tender care.



*Aliza, our youngest, got baptized on Palm Sunday!!!*