

The Harvester



Providing experience and training to thrive and offer life in a broken world.

A Labor of Love

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1)

One of the things we love about being missionaries is the overlap of life and ministry. As a family, we want to love and welcome others, and to point them to Christ—our source of love and life. We do not do this perfectly, but we want to do it purposefully, cheerfully, and gratefully. That is one reason we are pushing to finish the renovation on our house. We are eager for the day when we can host groups at our home, offering spiritual training and leading trips from our own backyard. Ever since God provided this cottage five years ago we have used it as a ministry base for our Acadia women's expeditions, Cru student retreats, and vacation space for friends and others in ministry. We want this house to reflect our heart for the lost and our desire to build the Body of Christ. By God's grace, we are close to seeing that dream become a reality. The wiring and plumbing are almost done, and our boys are hard on their heels with the insulation. God willing, we may begin sheetrocking this coming week. I have been giddy with excitement, strategically planning the space in what we've dubbed "The Game Room" — a giant room above the garage. I can imagine groups note-taking around tables, fellowshiping over coffee at the bar, and lounging on couches, laughing over our latest outing. I pray that as we build this temporal house, God will use it to build His eternal kingdom.



Prayer & Praise

Praise God for a generous supporter who just donated 12 pairs of snowshoes to Thrive!

Pray that our recent grant proposal will be accepted to provide gear and ministry funding

We have begun the process of becoming a raft company. Please pray for favor and fruit in all the trips to come.

Pray that our Asheville, NC team will be able to obtain permits to lead groups in the National Forest

Praise God for friends Joe and Angie who will officially be joining us January 1st! Please pray as they search for a home near us.

My heart tends to echo the Nike slogan, "Just Do It."

I expected Thrive to launch into hosting events on day one in September, yet we are still developing programs and policies, raising funds, praying for direction, and strategic planning. I am learning to accept God's timetable and the prominent lesson He is teaching me about the importance of building. Please pray that we would build wisely on the foundation of Christ.

Comrades of the Cross

It looked like pandemonium. Twenty or more teens chased balloons around the sanctuary, batting them into the air and trying not to knock each other over. They had been at it for a while and some were panting with exertion. When I yelled “Ok, you can Stop!” they gladly let their balloons sink to the floor around them. That is when many noticed for the first time that my balloon remained in the air. “Hey, that’s not fair!” one boy chaffed. The students’ balloons represented the good works they were doing for God and they were putting in a lot of effort to make them float. What was the difference between my balloon and theirs? I was drawing from a different source. Unlike them, I was not tired, frustrated, or ready to quit. My balloon was not constantly being punched into the air only to fall down and get bumped up again—it was floating calmly at the end of its string.

This was an illustration of reliance on the Holy Spirit. We had spent the beginning of class discussing the power of the Holy Spirit and wrestling with the question of why, as believers indwelt by the Spirit of God, we still sin. My goal was to move us all toward a greater submission to God in our sinfulness and our good works, and to learn how to practically yield to the Spirit. Please pray with me that these teens will do just that. I am privileged to invest in them, and in the 4th-7th graders, each week through our homeschool co-op. It is a joy to help shape the hearts of not only my own kids, but also their friends.



This edition of the Harvester is dedicated to Dan’s grandmother, Anna Golding

Grammie Golding passed away Thursday, Nov 29th at the age of 89. We are grateful to have seen her over Thanksgiving to say our good-byes and give one more hug. We are grateful for her love and impact throughout our lives.



“Thanks for investing in Britney this summer! Acadia made a huge impact on her!” —Cru campus staff in Iowa recently wrote this concerning a student involved in their ministry on campus

Lasting Fruit.

The hope is always that those who we serve will have at least one degree of heart change that will transform their walk with the Lord over a lifetime. This past month, it has been a delight to hear from the women who came on our summer project in August. One Cru staff worker (left) thanked us for developing one of “our” girls who is now leading in their ministry back on campus. Another student who battles deep depression and suicidal thoughts has just begun a blog about her experience to offer hope in Christ to others struggling with depression. Sylvia, another student from this summer’s project, texted me to say that she is considering going to the mission field when she graduates. This is certainly the reward and blessing of the Lord!