



Every year, Cru allots 2-3 “ministry planning retreats”. The reason why they exist is to give us space to talk through our schedule, work pace, what has brought us life, what have been our struggles etc. Although we can take them, we rarely have in the past. But this March we went to the beautiful town of Inverness, California (pictures below) to take this time away. It definitely was challenging to fit in spaces to talk while the kids slept or did virtual learning, but it was completely refreshing to do this.



In between times of planning, we enjoyed new things like how to shuck an oyster (picture above) and bird watching. Who knew how a bird feeder outside of a window could bring our family to just stare in awe every day! We found rest in reading and spending time with the Lord in the stillness of a cabin. Even though we had been at home and our kids now have done virtual learning for over a year, we have missed getting away to be still and listen to God.

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”  
Ephesians 2:10*

This verse shares what the Lord had on our hearts. “Nich and Tricia, I have good works that I have prepared for you to do. I have made you to be a shepherd, a good listener, a missionary, a visionary to instill wisdom, impart care so that people would be loved deeply by me through you.”



We are grateful to enter into this summer season of continuing to care for our international staff & interns (above) while taking seminary courses. Nich will be taking courses on the *Impact of Global Missions* and *God, Bible, Holy Spirit*; and I (Tricia) recently started an 8 month Certificate in Resilient Leadership through the Seattle School of Theology. We look forward to building strength, rest and joy into our lives as we continue ministering to others and our own family.

Learning & loving alongside each of you, *NICH & Tricia*