

Browns Ministry Update August 2022

An Unexpected Honor

It was a thrill and an extremely moving part of the conference to have the director of Ukraine for Christ, Cru's ministry in the Ukraine. Sasha was met with a standing ovation from 5,000 US Cru staff in what felt like a holy moment. He spoke about the "Yellow Box" strategy for providing families with food and the gospel, using the simple method of The Four (heart: God's love; minus: our sin that separates us; the cross: Jesus' substitutionary death; question mark: our need to respond). Each week staff put together a box of food with one symbol explained each week, over the course of four weeks. The idea is to develop relationships with the families they are providing food for while meeting their physical need, and explaining over time the provision for their spiritual need.

What a surprise and joy when one of our friends and supporters reached out to us to invite us last week to hear about Ukraine for Christ from a different Sasha! Sasha oversees Leadership Development for the country and gave us a bird's eye view of what is happening in the country, his family's own narrow escape from Kyiv, and what the spiritual climate is for Ukrainians both in country and those who have been displaced.



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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



CRU 22: STAFF CONFERENCE IN MILWAUKEE!



We have just returned from our biannual staff conference in our new location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin! Over 5000 US staff descended upon the hometown of shows like Laverne and Shirley and Happy Days (Pictured with "The Fonz"). This is the first time we have been able to meet as a staff family since July 2019. We are grateful to have had the chance to connect with staff that we have worked with for over 15 years!



One highlight for us was attending "Heritage Night" — an invite-only evening honoring long term staff (we have been on staff for over 15 years!). It was a blessed time to celebrate our staff careers and to connect with beloved friends we have known for that long. Other personal highlights:

- Hearing our core leadership and executive team sharing their love for Jesus and for Cru missionaries
- Incredible worship leaders that ushered us into the presence of God
- Hearing Ukraine's country director share about what is going on there (see featured story)
- Seeing dear friends and their families that we have worked with over the years and have missed seeing
- Attending a few of the dozens of seminars offered for development as a missionary

One of the main speakers was Beth Guckenber, director of Back2Back Ministries and a Cru board member who shared about the significance of location in our call. She shared a testament that was so moving for us, we have decided to try to commit it to memory. It was

written by a Rwandan man who in 1980 was forced by his tribe to either renounce Christ or face certain death. He refused to renounce Christ and was killed on the spot. The night before his death, he wrote "The Fellowship of the Unashamed." It reads:

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed." The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until Heaven returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear.

May we live up to this high calling on our lives!

PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Please pray for our family as we prepare for the upcoming semester and for the school year. Pray we would love our children well in the midst of a new flurry of activity!
- Please join us in thanking the Lord for a great time of fellowship with friends who are like family at Cru 22, but even beyond that, for significant times of fellowship with Him.
- Please pray for Ukraine and for those that continue to serve in country, as well as the millions of refugees in Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Poland and other places.
- Please pray that the Lord would bring revival on our campuses this year!

Love,
Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."
1John 5:14