

God Changing Lives in Asia

Jan let out a slow gasp of unbelief. She was in the same moment amazed, fearful and excited. I had just started to describe to her the God of the Bible. "God is the God of heaven and earth. He is everywhere, and He knows everything..." I was about to continue explaining other attributes of God's character when she interrupted me with that expression of childlike awe. I couldn't believe that such a brief and simple description of God - what I have known about him for as long as I can remember - elicited such a response. It's sobering to think that people who have no access to God's Word can't possibly imagine even the most "basic" things about God.

Romans 10:17 explains that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." We had the incredible privilege of seeing before our very eyes the Lord awaken faith amongst lost students in Asia this summer. What we love about these summer mission projects that we get to help lead is that not only do we see new faith amongst students in Asia, but we perennially find that the American students who come with us have a renewed passion for both ministry back home and for continued involvement in God's world mission.



Sharing on campus



Zoey enjoying some street food!



Emily, Sally & Felicity



Joe with Johnny, who became a Christian this summer



Johnny and his roommate studying the Bible

East Asia by the Numbers

1	The number of times an East Asian student that we knew was arrested for being a Christian this summer	The number of university campuses our team had a presence on this summer	10
7	The number of trips we made to the hospital with sick students or staff - Everyone is OK!	The number of Asian students who heard the gospel from the 65 students and staff on our project	600
4	The number of times our teams were kicked off campus this summer	The number of East Asian students who indicated a decision to place their faith in Christ this summer	104

Sally's Story

"Have you heard any stories from the Bible?" I ask Sally as we walked home from a karaoke party we threw near her campus. "The one with the...uh...boat," she answered, cupping her hands. *Noah's Ark*, I thought. As I started telling Sally about the way the story of the flood points us to our need for a rescuer, she hung on every word. She kept agreeing, saying, "yes, I believe that." We made plans to get together the next morning to talk more. I turned to Emily, a student from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and asked her to come with us. Hesitant, Sally questioned her, "Do you know the Bible?" Emily answered, "Yes, it's my favorite book." Sally looked relieved; it was obvious that she didn't see someone there who would prevent us from talking more about Jesus. That next day, after two hours of explaining the gospel message to Sally, she prayed to Jesus for the first time telling him, "Thank you" for rescuing her and making a way for her to come into a relationship with God. Please pray for Sally, that she would be followed-up well by the long-term CRU team living just a few blocks from her campus.

God is Moving Us to Japan

As we have shared with you before in our previous letters, for a few years now we have felt the Lord calling us to serve him long-term in Japan. In an effort to confirm this calling we stopped in Japan on our way home for a two-week vision trip to visit different ministries and teams to see with whom the Lord might call us to serve.

We had an amazing time joining other teams in a wide variety of ministry contexts. We visited about seven different ministry teams and were exposed to a variety of different strategies. We were so encouraged by the warmth and passion of

those who received us during those two weeks. Our good God certainly stirred our hearts, not only for the lost in Japan, but also with admiration for the relatively few missionaries giving their lives to serve there. In Japan there is one church for every 16,000 people, and in Tokyo the ratio is worse, 1 church for every 18,000!

We are praying that we will be able to arrive in Japan in the summer of 2014. That will give Joe time to finish his seminary degree (which will be a huge asset in Japan). We'll send out more details about that in the coming weeks about our future.



← Felicity and Zoey with Atsuko and baby Riyo. In Japan, young moms are among some of the most receptive to the Gospel. Nisshin Christ Church in Nagoya has a Mom-and-Kids Club aimed at building relationships with young moms in the area. During our visit we were able to help out. This was Atsuko and Riyo's first time to attend!

We enjoy a great bowl of ramen at a local favorite spot in Chiba, Japan. →



← Our friend, Seima Aoyagi, became a Christian as a student in Japan. He moved to St. Louis for six years to go to seminary. During that time he and his family didn't once go home to Japan, but now they are back in Tokyo planting churches with Redeemer NYC's church planting network.

Sam, who just graduated from Missouri Baptist U, came with us for part of our time in Japan. We are hoping to see others like Sam join us when we move to Japan. →



Coming off of the heels of a fantastic summer of ministry and fruit, we are more excited than ever about the Lord using us to reach college students in St. Louis while we're here. We've already begun our preparations for the upcoming year of ministry. Please keep us in your prayers. Pray especially for the thousands of incoming freshman, many of whom are entering a new season of temptation and many of whom have never heard the gospel. This is why we do what we do, that in the coming months lives would be changed forever.

Thank you for your faithful support!

Joe & Felicity

Continuing our Unwavering Service to Christ With a Great New Name



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere

is becoming



That's right! In the U.S., Campus Crusade for Christ is becoming Cru. We know you care about this ministry and we want you to be among the first know. We're announcing it now. We'll adopt the new name early in 2012.

This change is being made in order to be more effective in sharing the gospel and to see even more people come to faith in Christ. It's been a two-year process, but ultimately we have come to this decision through much prayer and with a deep sense of dependence on God.

Words Matter

Although our name for the last 60 years is well respected in Christian ministry and missions, the word "Crusade" now carries serious negative associations. Also, the word "Campus" actually hinders people who are not students from engaging in our broad range of ministries. Research has shown that 20% of the people in the U.S. willing to have a conversation about Jesus are less interested when they hear the name Campus Crusade for Christ. Words may take on new meaning over time, but our calling never changes. We are committed to give every person around the world an opportunity to hear the gospel and a chance to say YES to Jesus. That's what makes a name change necessary.

Changing Our Name Will Help...

- Increase evangelism as more people are willing to engage with us in discussions about Christ.
- Involve more people who want to make a difference in their world for Christ.
- Improve synergy between all our ministries. They will benefit from a more cohesive connection while still maintaining their individual ministry's identity.

Field Tested

Cru has been used for over 15 years by a number of our local college ministries. It has a track record of success in evangelism and discipleship. To those who are familiar with us, it connects with our past and yet is forward looking. For those that we will connect with in the future, the name will be filled with all of the experiences and meaning of who we are and what we have to offer.

In the months ahead, there will be a period of transition where you will see both names used. For more information, please visit www.ccci.org/cru to see a brief video, graphics and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

You can be sure that our calling and mission have not changed. Our heart remains the same—to help fulfill the Great Commission by winning people to Christ, building them in their faith to see their lives transformed, and sending them out to reach others for Christ. Please pray with us that many more people will come to Christ as we take this step of faith together.

What Are Other Christian Leaders Saying?

Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC explains:

I have worked beside Campus Crusade staff in evangelism and ministry for many years. I believe that Cru – formerly Campus Crusade for Christ – is more committed than ever to representing Jesus Christ and presenting the gospel boldly in the midst of the cultures of the world.

John Piper, pastor and author, shares his thoughts here if you are interested in reading more:

<http://tiny.cc/CRUpiper>

Thank you

Thank you for taking this journey with us. We consider all of you partners in our ministry. It is truly no exaggeration to say that we would not be here without you. We are incredibly grateful for your support, friendship and prayers. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the CRU name change and/or our current ministry in St. Louis.

For the glory of our Savior and Lord Jesus,

Joe & Felicity

314.540.5562

Joe.Congdon@uscm.org