

The Harvester

Lifelines Cru: using the outdoors and experiential learning to reveal the glory of God and to introduce students to Jesus Christ

Summer 2015



Up and Coming

Sept 12-13 Rafting with UMaine and UNH; UNH rock climbing trip

Sept 18-20 BU rafting and PSU rafting trips

Sept 25-27 UMASS and New England Valor student rafting trips

Oct 2-4 Plymouth State University fall retreat

Ongoing: student small groups, evangelism and discipleship at PSU



A Fresh Perspective

This was the summer of our bi-annual national Cru conference in Colorado, which is always a time of rejuvenation. This year's theme was all about humility and about making disciples of every "ethnos" or ethnicity. If we are aiming for oneness, then we will be diverse because every tongue, tribe and nation will be represented. I never really understood what privilege was until this conference, and how being white is to not have to think about race. In such a predominantly white area I have not faced racial tensions, but I am unloving and I am not reaching the world if I am unaware of the plight and challenges of my brothers and sisters of different ethnicity. A perhaps even greater challenge is to love Islamics to the Lord. As one of our speakers said, "The challenge to reach the 10/40 window has never been greater than today. The persecuted church is ours—we together are the church... Let us walk worthy of them." And as Francis Chan challenged, "We must be committed to preaching the Gospel, though it be unpopular... Are you ecstatic about your salvation? Unless the Holy Spirit is rooted in you, you're not going to make it. You, and your kids, need a fire in you because storms are coming." We must pray for the lost and for one another.

"Our greatest apologetic to the world is our love for one another," said Steve Sellers, director of Cru. We want our team, and all of our relationships, to flourish and to be a light. Our team: Kealy Sawyer, Rebecca Strickfaden, Marc and Hannah Manning, Ryan and Steph Bethel with son Jack, and the Litchfields



Leading Lifelines

Before and after the conference Lifelines staff and leaders met to seek God's direction and to trust Him for greater things

As the National Leadership Development Director for Lifelines, Dan has the responsibility of helping give direction to the ministry, and as a member of Lifelines' Advisory Council, I too get the joy of taking part in the prayer and strategic planning. I had the fun of emceeing our Lifelines Basecamp conference just prior to the Cru National conference. There, our 40 staff gathered to discuss the challenges of reaching men with the Gospel, facing rampant sexual sins on campus and among the Christian community,

reaching ethnic students, and creating international partnerships.

The discussion continued following the national conference when our Advisory Council camped together and met to evaluate what is going well and what is going poorly, and to discern God's direction in reaching students with the Gospel. Cru National has asked the Lifelines ministry to "share what we've learned and equip others." In the past two years we've taken 1,915 students and 822 staff on trips and

have offered three backcountry guide schools and two facilitator schools. In the next two years we pray God will use us to do far more. Our goal this year just in the Northeast is to offer students 1,000 Gospel experiences, and as a ministry we are praying for 70 staff by the summer of 2017. Thank you for being part of that. May God, in His grace, build His Kingdom among college students!

On a personal note...

I want to apologize for my lack of communication this summer. I regret not giving you the chance to experience everything alongside us through our newsletters when so much has happened.

In brief, since returning from CO, our Valor expedition was cancelled due to lack of students, which was disappointing but provided a breather for our family before Dan left to co-lead a week-long white-water rafting training for

our Lifelines staff. This is vastly important since we have raft trips scheduled every weekend between now and mid-October.

We feel privileged to have led kayaking trips for all the Cru interns in the Northeast as well as to have been part of MIT's leadership retreat (pictured here.) Here at PSU our own leaders are at work: six new students attended the first weekly meeting and many others have signed



up for outdoor trips. Between homeschooling grades 7-1 and the return of college students, we feel like we've been shot out of a cannon, but we are very hopeful about the impact!! ☺