

# The Harvester

Lifelines Cru

Dan & Heather Litchfield

The Outdoor and Experiential Learning Ministry of Cru

*Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? (Isaiah 40:12)*

## Discovering our limits...again.

This October our family began foster care for a pair of siblings. They came to us having been taken straight from their mom and they entered our house like feral cats. For the past three months they have dominated our lives. Joseph and Anastacia demanded our attention and if they did not get it, they were sure to destroy something. Homeschooling was scaled back to the bare minimum and done in shifts so an older child could always have an eye out. Our own kids were periodically shuttled to grandparents for a weekend reprieve only to return with dread and tears. It was apparent that despite the growth we were seeing in the foster children, our family was suffering; we had met our limits. I was consumed with guilt over the decision to have the kids moved to a new home. Weren't we called to this, Lord? Is this a sacrifice I should make? Who will care for them? Yet in his goodness, the Lord provided a new family for Joseph and Anastacia, and perhaps our purpose was to see them through the holidays; from Halloween, to Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, birthdays... we had so much time to share God's love. Both kids prayed to receive Christ this month, and begged us to read the Bible we gave them. God alone can change the hearts and behavior of these small ones; he can heal their wounds. Please pray that he will.

“One reason that sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff rather than a rattlesnake” – a quote in Sunday school from Billy Sunday

## Prayers for Feb.

Please pray for our upcoming facilitator training school: that our 19 participants would hone their skills for facilitating groups and reconciling people to God and each other. Heather is teaching.

For Dan and our Lifelines directors across the nation as they meet to set direction for the ministry – for God's guidance

That the students at PSU would be bold and loving witnesses for Jesus Christ

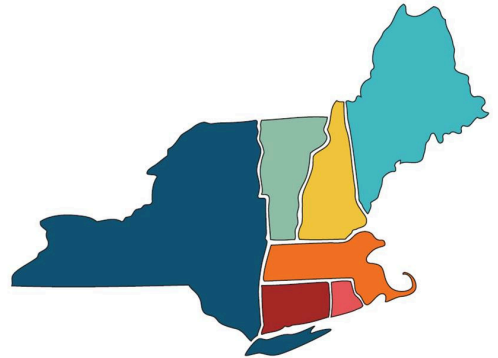
For our family's unity, comfort and peace as we will attend three conferences in February

We met our support goal for January! Please pray for the next \$400 by the end of February.



## The Outdoor Ministry of Cru **LIFELINES**

With our move to New Hampshire, our scope moved from a single campus to an entire region. Now not only do we work with students at Plymouth State University (where the group has grown from 3 students last year to twenty students this year!); but we also serve campuses and other Cru staff teams from Maine to New York. In addition, Dan serves as the Human Resources Director for Lifelines nationally and both he and I are on the Advisory Council for Lifelines, which is a team that sets direction for the ministry – evaluating Lifelines’ effectiveness and seeking the Lord’s course for the future. Recently Dan has been reading a book about how Jesus used the outdoors to get to the disciples’ deepest doubts and beliefs. Even in the Old Testament God had the Israelites wander in the desert for forty years. Why? According to Dt 8:3, to humble them, prove them, and to know their hearts. From our experience there is no better way to do that than through Creation itself. We are under the illusion that we are in control. God creates chaos to teach us – the storm, the desert, the vine, the big fish... Even the most hard-core atheist must admit he is powerless over it all. We want to make disciples and to do that we need to get to the heart issues. Outdoor adventure gets to the heart better and faster than most. God cries out, “Where were you when I formed the earth?” Um.... And suddenly we are back in proportion.



<http://www.theepicenter.info/>

Check out this link to watch videos from our recent student winter conference. Learn from powerful speakers and hear students’ testimonies. Be refreshed and get a sense of how God spoke to hundreds of students across the Northeast this month.



“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”  
James 2:17

## A Trip to Patagonia

Rebecca, our fellow staff worker here in New Hampshire, and two other Lifelines staff led six students on a service-based project among the poor communities of Chile to proclaim the gospel with words and works. As Ron Sanders says, “You can’t argue with good. Where the words of the gospel and the good deeds of the gospel go together, the gospel travels powerfully.” Our team on the ground in Patagonia agreed. As they painted weather-beaten homes and planted flowers in tires, people were drawn to them and to their message. And the joy in the hearts of these people who had nothing was a huge testimony to our college students who comparatively have everything.