

Well, the end of a season of ministry is upon me. In the next few days I will finish my fifth year as a missionary to college students at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The way God moved and led me while here is nothing short of miraculous.

I learned much about what it means to live and speak with grace and truth, like Jesus did (John 1:14). God gave me a vision of raising up lifetime laborers from Cal Poly to unreached nations. That dream is unfolding as many of our Cru students are getting equipped for lifetime missions through a class called Perspectives. Among many other things - too many to list here - my favorite part of ministry has been investing in and discipling men in their faith. There have been times where it seems like I'm watching their worldview and commitment to Christ being shaped in front of my eyes!

Many of them now have a far-reaching impact in places I could never go. Mike, who I discipled my first year, now works as an aerospace engineer on top security projects. Since graduating, Chase has been training and competing for a spot on the U.S. Men's Wrestling team. He shared with me a year ago that he had some significant spiritual conversations with Jordan Burroughs, the best Olympic wrestler in the world. One guy I'm going to miss greatly after I move this summer is Carter.

I have discipled Carter for the past two years, and he also has been a very committed leader for the AIA movement. We talked about everything from deep theology to having healthy relationships with women. I recently asked Carter to write a short letter to share about his experience being discipled. On the backside of this letter is his response. **I encourage you to read it and be reminded of God's faithfulness in changing lives through our partnership in ministry.** I'm serious when I say I can't do this mission work without your partnership. Know that you are greatly cherished!

With much gratitude,

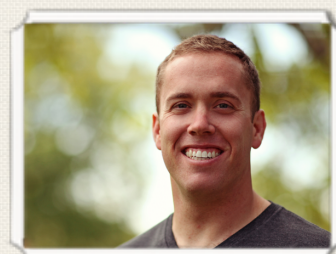
Matt



Left: the core leadership team for AIA next year
Right: hiking with Kyle in Big Sur; he organized my bachelor weekend two weeks ago



May 27, 2014



MATT WILLIAMS SERVING
WITH CRU & AIA

I daily spend myself for God's kingdom by winning students to Christ, building them in their faith, and sending them as kingdom laborers.

"PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK."

- pray for me to be able to sort through all the mixed emotions I have about finishing ministry and life in SLO
- diligence and energy with packing, traveling, getting married, moving, settling into our new place in Indy
- united hearts in marriage

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Giving every student the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Dear Matt,

First off, I am very sad you're leaving. It has meant a lot to me to be led and disciplined by you for the past two years. However, I know that God is calling you to the place you are supposed to be. You and Jenny together will do mighty things to advance the kingdom of God.

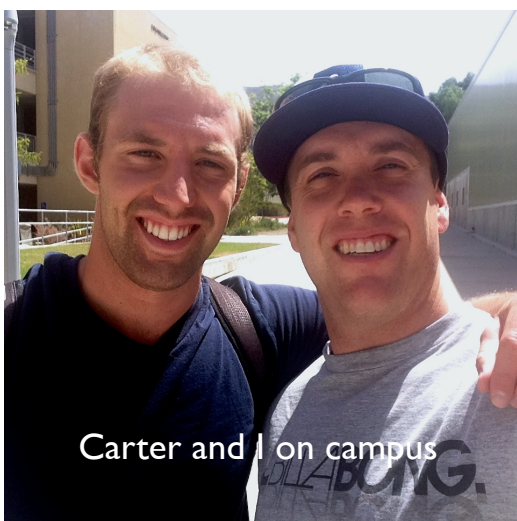
I want to specifically thank you for the time and effort you put into discipling me every week during the school year. You began by teaching me what it means to understand the fundamentals of the Gospel at its most basic level. Then you taught me about the primary issues of Christianity from the biblical view of Heaven and Hell, to the coming of the New Age. Throughout these times, I felt challenged and excited to grow in my Biblical perspective. The simple advice you gave on different issues made a huge impact on me. You taught me how to relate to my teammates and go about those relationships with an evangelistic mindset. You helped me understand how to lead and develop a Bible study. You gave me wonderful words of wisdom on how to relate to women whether in a romantic sense or just being friends.

Though your teaching and guidance has made a huge impact on my life, the example of the way you live has been just as important. The way you loved and respected people throughout your time at Cal Poly is a true reflection of the love of Christ. You always made an effort to go out of your way to meet new people and make them feel loved and welcomed. The gentleness of your speech when giving me Godly correction showed me what it looks like to lovingly challenge and bless people, even in difficult situations. Lastly, the way you have loved Jenny has been a wonderful thing for me to see. You have shown me what it means to date and pursue a woman in a righteous and Godly manner.

The amount I have learned and been impacted by you can never be summed up into words. You have been such a tremendous blessing in my life. Thank you for everything. I love you and wish you the best in the future.

Love,

Carter



Carter and I on campus