

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners!

March 29, 2025

Greetings from Florida! I've been thinking of you and wanting to write about some of the blessings from God in exciting events and conversations I've gotten to be part of. For the last three months I've been part of a leadership project for reenvisioning our HR systems. It's been exciting and my days have flown by, filled to the brim with work that feels so meaningful to me.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel with me- I couldn't serve God in these ways without your love, investments, and support! I am so blessed to get to do a job that I love and in which I can make valuable contributions to the Great Commission. Thank you!

Rejoice with me- the culmination of several years of work! Hiring new-to-the-US staff!



Celebrate with me hiring the latest group of American staff and their non-American staff spouses. (Sorry I had to adjust the photo due to their high security needs.)

It has taken all of them years to get to this point of being employable by the US ministry. They were national level leaders for the ministries in their own native countries. But they ended up having to switch their employment country due to increased hostility toward the gospel in some of their places and/or the inability of the ministry to move their donations/payroll between countries. (Understanding many of these type of banking issues is frankly above my head!) These staff love God and their countrymen deeply- they left their old situations with tears. We've talked many times over the last few years, trying to get their new employment with Cru-US worked out!

During our "Welcome Lunch", I got to give a short speech of love, welcome and respect for their hardships in following Christ. These people have stories that include danger, "the authorities", visas and those expenses, and a lot of saying "goodbye" to things and people they love. Much like Abram who left Ur of the Chaldees by faith (Heb 11:8), these staff have chosen by faith to go into a new country.

I count the work I did to help them get all the steps of their visa and employment in the US organized as a privilege. I and they believe that now they will be set up to more fruitfully reach out in the mission God has given them.

The Midyear conference for our US interns serving internationally

For a number of years I have gotten to attend this annual conference designed to encourage our



interns serving overseas. Although the (turbulent) flight over the ocean at night in the dead of winter sometimes scares me and I have to pray my head off, I enjoy serving God once I'm there. With thankfulness to God, I get to serve by:

Some of the cool ways I get to serve while there:

I led a recruiting-type seminar for how to join staff. This year, one third of the interns attended it! Our interns are the top pool of people who will do long-term missionary service overseas. The high attendance is encouraging as we see God calling people into the Harvest-field.

I also meet in individual appointments with those who are dating a non-American and help them think through the implications if they end up marrying. This year I met with three couples! One of the interns is serving in France and is going to marry a French guy. She will leave her employment with the US ministry and be hired by the French Cru ministry to work with students in France. The other two couples serve in the Middle East and are trying to arrange their residency and finances to continue serving in those countries. With God's help, I can bring some next-level counsel to these young staff and help them begin asking the important questions for their futures.

This year I also met face-to-face with an American staff woman who has been serving in Central Asia for more than 10 years. I have been her "Care connection" to the US and we had such good conversation since we were in person, and not on zoom. She is helping to lead the student ministry in that country and our conversations about her leadership and her future combine seriousness and laughter.

On the home front:

Alan and I are doing pretty well. It's been a fairly eventful couple of months for us. Alan's neck/shoulder pain did not heal in time to resume his job with Meals on Wheels and he ended up stopping work. His shoulder did finally heal! Thank you, Lord. He decided that he needed some extra motivation to meet his exercise goals. We got a dog! A 90-pound, brown Lab named Memphis. Memphis is a cheerful and loving pet. We have some more training to do to get him to operate in our lifestyle, but he's been a great addition for us.

In the last month, Alan's doctor added a new medication to his regimen. The medication is already helping with some of the diabetes symptoms. Although it's been tough getting used to it, we are thankful for this opportunity and already seeing some positive results.

On a bright note, Alan's mom Judy came to visit us for three weeks! We three love talking with each other and she really cleans the kitchen so well! Haha. We also have had some visits from the grandchildren!

I am so thankful for your partnership with me/us!

