

Dear friends and ministry partners,

Warmest greetings from Orlando! Alan and I have had a couple of exciting months of ministry. Before I bring out the photos and the stories, I wanted to give a quick story about “Why?” we are in the ministry and how valuable your investments are!

Just two weeks ago- a story from my coworker Kevin:



In mid-October, I visited our team in Paris, where I spent time with our team serving students across the city. The day before I arrived, one of those interns, Jonah, sat down in a university cafeteria and tried to strike up a conversation with a student from Mexico. He asked thoughtful questions, shared a bit about his own story, and tried to open the door to spiritual conversation. But the student responded with one-word answers. "Yes. No. I don't know." Eventually, the student stood up and walked away.

Jonah sat there, discouraged. It felt like a waste of time.

But just twenty seconds later, a student two seats over scooted closer and asked, “Are you a Christian?” Surprised, Jonah said, “Yes!”

The student continued, “I overheard your conversation when you were asking him about God. I’m from Afghanistan and have only been in Paris for two months. My family fled to Iran two years ago, and while in Iran, I heard the gospel for the first time, gave my life to Jesus, and was baptized just a month before coming here. Since arriving in Paris, I have been praying that God would help me find other Christians.”

The next day, I had the joy of meeting this Afghan student at a Bible study, his first time gathering with other believers since arriving in France.

Kevin works with Bridges, reaching international students around the world. He does staff care for our American interns and staff at some schools in Paris. He and I work together- I help lead the team that provides direction for our international staff coordinators to do the care and administration for the Cru missionary staff overseas like these.

I love this job because God is at work all around the world, calling people to Himself and showing them His love. I count it a privilege to serve the international staff coordinators and the international staff as they win students to Christ and help them grow!

A precious opportunity to follow God’s work in people’s lives:



Each year we offer a short conference for our international interns who are joining Cru staff to be missionaries. These couple of days give us a chance to talk about ways that being overseas last year (and possibly in the future) is impacting them as they start their ministry partner development. We had some good conversations as we processed their experiences!

For the month of October we did a big road-trip to see our ministry partners in PA and see our new granddaughter!



We went to Pittsburgh to see our son Will and his family and their new daughter, Trevi. Alan and I spent the week playing with Alistair and holding Trevi. It was so fun!

We had hoped to see all our ministry partners in Pennsylvania but ran out of time. We are planning how to see the rest! While visiting them we had so many fantastic conversations- getting to hear stories of God's faithfulness and work in their lives. It really blessed us a lot!

Another thing we got to include was Alan's mom's 90th birthday party! Will and Ashley and family got to drive over to celebrate too! Mom even got to hold Trevi- four generations together!



We ended the trip with a couple of days in Virginia with Melanie and Suzie- to see their hard work setting



up their farm, Juniper Joy Farm Co. They let me pick some vegetables, which of course led me to have to tell them various farming things from the Bible. Haha.

In a couple of weeks we'll get to go see Andrew and his family. It will be Robin's 4 year old birthday! Fun ahead for sure!

This month I am having lots of meetings with international sending coordinators and dual-nationality couples. Each day seems to include both challenge and joy. Thank you for your partnership with us! As I am getting my heart ready for Thanksgiving Day, I am so filled with gratitude for your relationship with us!

With love,

Sheri Penman

Sheri and Alan Penman



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