

THE LANGFORD LETTERS

SERVING WITH CRU

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | NOVEMBER 2022



SOME OF OUR CRU@MSU STAFF TEAM ON A SUNNY BUT COLD MORNING.;WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER, BUT WE'RE STILL COMMITTED!

Praises & Prayers as We Process the Fall

Brian and I have recently had the opportunity to share about our outreach at MSU with a few of the churches and individuals who partner with us in ministry. A normal—and appreciated—question for a co-laborer to ask us is “How can we pray for you?” This fall the question feels so weighty to us because we are eager for God to move. And we are experiencing the reality that apart from Him we can do nothing. In many ways we (our staff and student leaders with Cru) feel stymied in ministry. For instance, students who consider themselves deeply committed to Cru don’t show this in their actions. They are reluctant to take next steps in their faith—even steps that seem simple and common sense. We have very few opportunities to strategically meet new students face to face—dorms are locked and doors are closed.

It’s rare to see a student untethered from her device or computer in public spaces. We’ve felt a growing desperation in our need for God to show us how and where He is at work so that we can join in.

Will you pray with us to that end?

- Ask God to open literal and figurative doors for us to communicate the Good News about what God has done through Jesus Christ (Colossians 4:3). Ask Him to help us be creatively strategic in our approach, to the end that we might help build a movement of people who are passionate about introducing others to Jesus.
- Ask God to empower and embolden our current student leaders to continue to swim against the current

on campus as they live out the Gospel. Ask Him to anchor them in His Word and protect them from being swayed by cultural pressure. We pray that they neither assimilate to the culture nor retaliate against it. Rather, we pray that they will winsomely navigate the road of grace and truth.

- Ask God to make us “sticky.” We pray that students who visit a small group or our larger group meeting will feel valued and important. Join us in asking God for younger, involved students to take steps to truly commit to Cru. We pray that we wouldn’t be just one club among many, but the place where they actively choose to grow in their faith.

Thank you! We are grateful for your care and partnership!

“...Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” ~1 Thessalonians 5:18

Through this hard season, we have had plenty of reasons to give praise and thanks to God.

- **Shepherd Team:** This student group of 6 women and 14 men are the overseers of our movement. They lead the dorm small groups; they seek to share the gospel; they mentor younger students; they help us identify opportunities, strengths, weaknesses, and threats. We are blessed by their faithfulness and availability!
- **Servant Team:** Made up of mostly sophomores and juniors, these 9 women and 14 men are actively taking steps to serve the movement and the students around them. They are being faithful to grow in leadership skills, even as they are growing in their walks with the Lord. Each one is also part of a Development Group where they are learning practical life and ministry skills like time management, how to ask good questions, and living with an eternal perspective.
- **Growing Ethnic Diversity:** Close to 20% of our movement are ethnic minority students. In the past students from minority cultures would pop in and out of Cru. This year we have a growing number of students who consider Cru home and invite their friends to join us.
- **Involved Non-Believers:** At last count there were around 30 students who do not consider themselves Christians but who do consider themselves part of Cru. Many of these students are faithful attenders at small groups and Real Life. We love to watch our students embrace them and welcome their questions. Hanbeen (in the blue shirt) has been very involved as a non-Believer. Thank God for His new faith!



FALL GETAWAY

WE WERE SO EXCITED TO HAVE JENNY AND JUSTIN WARNS SPEAK WITH OUR STUDENTS THIS YEAR. THE WARNS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS AS FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE BECOME DEAR FRIENDS. THEY CONNECTED WITH OUR GROUP IN WAYS THAT ONLY SPARTANS COULD. IT'S BEEN FUN TO HEAR STUDENTS REFER TO THINGS THEY LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE FALL.



GOD AT WORK

A NEW ASPECT OF MY JOB THIS YEAR (ROBIN) HAS BEEN COACHING EACH STUDENT WHO GETS UP FRONT AT OUR WEEKLY MEETING TO SHARE THEIR "GOD AT WORK" STORY. WHAT A JOY TO HEAR WAYS THAT GOD IS INDEED WORKING AND GET TO PROCESS WITH STUDENTS AS THEY HONE WHAT THEY WANT TO SHARE WITH OUR GROUP. I LEAVE EACH APPOINTMENT SMILING!



STUDENT OWNERSHIP

THIS IS A PICTURE OF JOHNATHAN AND ANDREW SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THEIR FRIEND HANBEEN. HE HAS COMING TO LIFEGROUP ALL YEAR. LAST NIGHT, AT A BASKETBALL WATCH PARTY, HE PRAYED TO RECEIVE CHRIST. OUR LEADERS ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THEIR FRIENDS! IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO PARTNER WITH THEM!