

# THE LANGFORD LETTERS

SERVING WITH CRU  
AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | MAY 2023



KATE, MY NEW PARTNER IN CRIME (LEFT) AND MICHELLE FROM THE UPPER PENINSULA CAMPUS TEAM; KELLI, THE TEAM LEADER FROM WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY SPENDING TIME WITH THE LORD AT ONE OF OUR GATHERINGS

## Passing on Thirty Years of Practice in Ministry

The past few years I have begun to wonder what the future could look like for me in my role with Cru. I enjoy coaching women and helping them problem solve; I enjoy helping them grow as a campus ministers; I enjoy coaching leaders as they lead. Certainly in my various roles with students and local staff, these are things I have practiced on a regular basis. This year I got to expand my reach a bit as I began coaching and caring for women in our campus ministry cohort in the state of MI and northwest OH.

Partnering with Kate Mehne, a Cru staff woman I have known for many years, I began reaching out to each one of the 50+ women who serves in our cohort. Kate and I were able to identify strengths in and needs of the women. A theme that recurred was the need for

*spaces where women could have casual interactions that helped them grow in their identification with Cru as an organization, see opportunities and possibilities for woman in various life-stages, and converse with a variety of women.*

Kate and I prayed that God would show us how to be an encouragement. We brainstormed ways that we could move toward them without adding to their already full plates. We started an open, online prayer meeting. We began to pray regularly for each woman. We wrote cards. We sent texts and emails. We began to individually coach and connect with women on a regular basis. This semester we hosted two optional gathering times: an overnight and a half day with the Lord. Our hope was to create an opportunity for some of the

“in the margin” conversations that seem to be so instrumental for longevity and engagement in campus ministry. We organized several discussions about navigating mental health challenges on campus, creating healthy family boundaries, a “share-the-wealth” time about best practices in evangelism and discipleship. We offered resources and advice. Women told us they loved praying together, learning from the more seasoned staff women (ahem), and just getting to know each other over meals.

*I've enjoyed caring for Cru staff, getting to know younger staff women, and having the chance to encourage them to grow as missionaries. Pray for us to follow God as he expands our opportunities next year. We can't wait to see how He leads!*