

Mike & Debbie Brown



January 24, 2022

Dear Friend,

When I retired a few months ago, I wasn't sure what the new year would hold but felt confident of God's guidance of my path. On January 4th, He called my mother home to heaven and into His presence. We've been anticipating this event but not so quickly. I'm sad, yet thankful, that her mental and physical suffering is over, and she is reunited with so many dear friends and family. I'm sure she's having a blast!

I'd like to share something that's been very special to me in this process. My mom was a 4th grade teacher in the Detroit Public Schools from 1964-1987. She LOVED teaching! I don't know of anyone who looked forward to her day at "work" as much as she did. We knew she was a popular teacher, and she even won a "teacher of the year" award. Then someone suggested posting her obituary on the school Facebook page, so I did. The response has been incredible – we have heard over and over how much her life has had a long-lasting impact on her students. One woman shared that she is a teacher and modeled her approach after my mom! Along with the obituary, I explained that my mother's love for teaching and her students was a direct result of her relationship with Jesus. She was committed to our family attending a Bible based church, which happens to be located near the school. I told the readers that she would be thrilled for them to check it out if they were still in the area – Grace Community Church in Detroit. As it turns out, several people on the post are familiar with the church and are Christ followers too. This interaction has been such a blessing to me and my family, and a welcome insight into my mom's life and influence.

On the ministry front, it's been exciting to see Winter Conferences taking place – some in person and some virtual. I attended as a student and experienced the significant impact that happens at these conferences every year. The time is rich in Bible teaching, practical training, and includes an evangelistic outreach.

This Cru ministry information was recently shared with us, and it's so encouraging!!

*While we are still gathering statistics for this past year, we know that ministries are active on nearly **10,000** campuses and in hundreds of cities, and nearly **4,000** new churches have been planted! Over **3.4 million** person-to-person presentations of the gospel led to at least **435,500** decisions for Christ.*

We can't thank you enough for your generosity to us, through your kind words, prayers, and giving. We have been so encouraged by your response to my retirement and Mike's continued service. He's working harder than ever! Please pray for us as we determine our next best steps considering this sudden change in events. We'll keep you posted.

Grateful for you,

Debbie and Mike

825 Julliard Ct. Orlando, FL 32828 (407) 384-7082 mike.brown@cru.org debbie.brown@cru.org