

Mike & Debbie Brown



May 1, 2023

Dear Friend,

Sometimes it's good to pause for a moment and reflect a little bit. Nearly twenty-nine years ago, with lots of help from our church friends, we packed all our belongings into a U-Haul truck and moved from East Lansing, Michigan to Orlando. We left behind many good memories as we said goodbye to our friends. It was a significant step of faith as we moved from a focus on direct ministry with students to resourcing, equipping, and caring for the 3,500 staff serving with the campus ministry of Cru.

Now I'm sitting here at my desk in Centerville, Ohio after another big move; another big step of faith. My decision to make this change has been driven by a desire to empower younger leaders who could bring fresh vision and energy to mobilizing, equipping, and caring for our campus ministry staff. So, as we've made this transition, I've given my Chief of Staff title to a younger leader as I continue to work with the same leadership team for People & Culture, now as Senior Advisor. During Covid, many of us learned we could accomplish a lot more than we thought was possible by connecting virtually with people via Zoom or Google Chat. That discovery has created a "new normal" for many of us, and it's certainly true for me as my weeks are now filled with virtual meetings where I'm functioning largely as a consultant/coach for other leaders. It's work/ministry that I enjoy, and it seems there's no shortage of leaders who want to schedule some time with me.

As I'm reflecting, I should also mention that Debbie and I are enjoying connecting with a new church community. Of course, we knew we would be doing that; the surprise is just how much we've been blessed by the process of meeting people, building new relationships, and doing what we can to help a new church plant get established.

Another very big factor in Ohio has been the connection to family. As we are getting older (I turned 70 in January) it was time to be in closer proximity to family. Even though we're still in good health, we do want to make it easier for our children, knowing we will eventually need more of their assistance. For now, we love being able to spend regular time with Katie and Aaron and be part of activities with our grandchildren. Now we can focus our travel to Beth and Mitchell in California, especially since the first baby Foster is due in September. We are so excited for them!

Thank you for continuing to partner with us so faithfully. We're at a stage of ministry where passing along what I have learned and experienced to a new generation of leaders is vital and strategic. Thank you for making it possible for me to focus on the work of consulting and coaching, so that together we continue to mobilize students and faculty to a lifetime of ministry where more and more people are learning what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Serving with you,

Mike (and Debbie)

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