

THE ALSOP'S... SERVING WITH FAMILYLIFE

Cru@CSU 2013

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO ✦ JULY 2013



FamilyLife is a part of a larger organization called Cru. Every other summer we join with staff members from other Cru ministries for the movement's biennial staff conference, **Cru@CSU 2013**, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The gathering gives staff a chance to connect with God, one another and Cru's goal of carrying the gospel across the globe. Over the summer, we also took part in leadership development training to prepare us for our personal ministry.

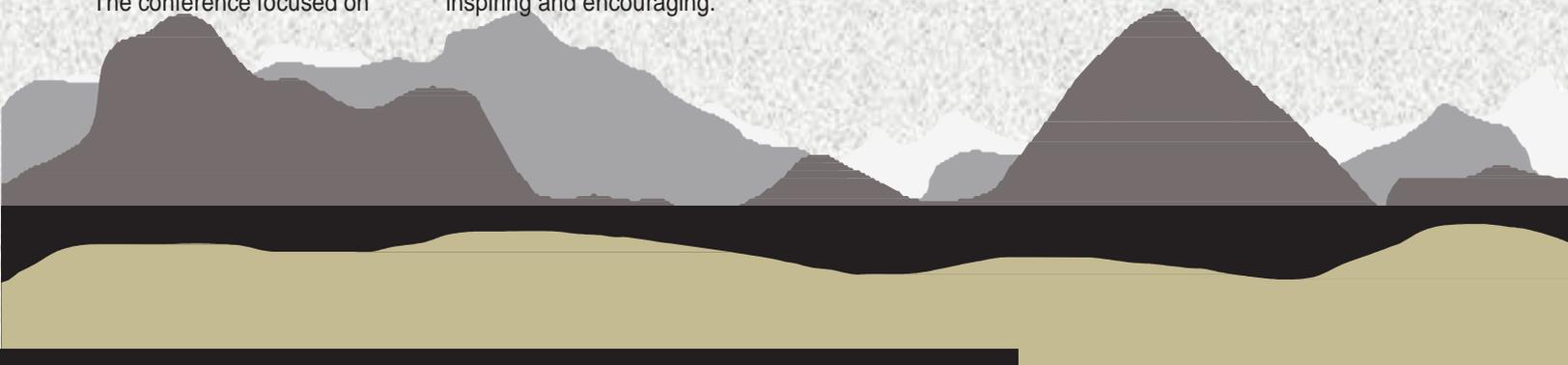
GROWING

Cru held its staff conference from July 14-20, on the Colorado State University campus, where the event has taken place for nearly 40 years. More than 4,500 people came. We were blessed to hear from speakers such as Pastor Alistair Begg, Lisa Harper of Women of Faith, and James White, senior vice president of leadership development for the YMCA of the Triangle Area.

Staff members attended ministry times for their specific areas of involvement. The conference focused on

asking God to direct Cru's ministry and emphasized how to respond to today's ever-changing culture. Bringing everyone together creates a sense of energy and a re-focus on our particular mission. It is always a spiritually challenging time and an opportunity to hear a fresh word from the Holy Spirit.

The event provides a unique worship and learning experience. Everybody has the same heart and passion for God. The opportunity to hear what God is doing through other ministries is inspiring and encouraging.





SEMINARY COURSES

Cru used lecture halls on the CSU campus for many of its Institute of Biblical Studies (IBS) classes this summer. Staff members are required to take a set of core graduate-level courses, which cover Bible topics and theology, as a foundation for their ministry. "I'm an MTL, so for me, taking classes help me communicate

the Bible in an ever-changing culture," said Chris Warren, the missional team leader (MTL) at the University of Arizona.

NEW STAFF TRAINING

For five and a half weeks in June and July, Cru held training for the 180 new staff members who joined the movement this summer.

As part of the training, participants took graduate-level Bible and theology classes and learned how to engage ministry partners to meet their expenses. New staff member Meghan Kollbocker said her biggest takeaway was relational growth. "Being here with a ton of other people who are doing the same thing has been incredible!"



WORKING

During the weeks leading up to the staff conference, Cru based its conference Production, operations and program teams at CSU. About 120 staff members and college students served throughout the summer.

Robin Ronk, director of Cru's Info Center in the Durrell Center at CSU, said being on the staff conference team allowed her to help other people within the movement. "My ministry passion is serving our staff," Ronk said.

SERVING

Cru had many chances to give back to the community. The conference team served by mulching and weeding at City Park in Fort Collins. College students from the Foot of the Rockies Summer Project volunteered and held an evangelistic outreach at the Estes Park Marathon. Many staff children, grades 7-12, spent a day initiating spiritual conversations in Denver, Boulder, Aurora and Estes Park.

LIVING

Staff members settled down all around Fort Collins during Cru's conference, staying in local apartments, hotels, and CSU residence halls. Over the summer, many families stayed in Ram's Village, an apartment complex near the CSU campus. Some brave souls camped out in the area mountains during their staff training time. Whatever choice was made at CSU it was instant community.



FAMILY LIFE

We had a special tent set up during the last week of the conference. The goal was to minister to staff from other Cru ministries and also to share with them all of the great materials that we have available to help them as they work with hurting

Couples and families in their own areas of outreach. Staff from other parts of the world had the opportunity to visit and pick up tools to help them build every home into a Godly one.

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