

## Sending Changed Lives Into the Harvest

We're so excited to send people whose lives have been changed by Jesus into God's harvest! Amanda Mutio shared her testimony at a New Staff Orientation in recently. It's amazing to hear how God has worked to bring each of the new staff to the place of surrender and following Jesus into full time ministry. Here's her story:

*Did you ever see that empty party girl on campus and think, "Hmm ... I wonder how she got there?"*

*Well, I can tell you how I got there. I grew up in a dysfunctional and agnostic family. My mom disliked Christians and instead of playing soccer with my dad on Sundays, we smoked weed on Fridays. I grew up with emptiness and bitterness in my heart. I was on a path of destruction that only continued in college.*



*I was in so much darkness that I would respond to believers with statements like, "The Bible belongs in the fiction section of the library" and "I think all Bibles should just be burned, because it is just a set of rules."*

*But here's the thing: Angry people are often empty people. So when I was real with myself and really thought about my existence, I knew there had to be more to life. So one day in my emptiness, I cried to an unknown God: "God, if you are out there, would you show me the way."*

*Months went by and I was about to give up on my search for truth. But one day I made the mistake of leaving my camera in my classmate's car. She called me and invited me to church and reluctantly I went.*

*During worship, I was judging every person there, thinking, "God isn't real and these people are insane"... but I heard something in my heart that I had never heard before. It was the voice of God. It was the Holy Spirit. I heard a patient and kind voice saying to me, "My daughter, I have been pursuing you for a long time. I have been knocking on the door of your heart."*

*Overcome and weeping, my hand shot up and I realized for the first time that Jesus IS REAL and He LOVES me! The veil was lifted and I saw my sin before me. But I also saw the love of a father. I finally understood that Jesus paid the price for all my sin and shame. That day I surrendered my life to Jesus. I went home so thirsty for the Word. I was a new creation in Christ!*

*I didn't know how to grow in my faith. One day, I was approached by a girl with a*

stack of Soularium cards. It turns out that she was a Cru staff girl on my campus. God brought her into my life to mentor and disciple me.

*“What do I do now, Lord? You have given me a heart to reach the nations and make disciples, but what do I do with this desire?”*

*God used that same Cru staff girl three years later. That day, she asked me if I would consider going to the Middle East with her for a year. I literally had no idea what I was saying “Yes” to, but I knew that He was asking me to step out in faith and trust Him. So I went overseas on my very first mission trip.*

*Can you see the goodness of God? I was so lost, and then I was found by Him. I was so alone and without community, and He brought a mentor. I was without a purpose, and He launched me to the nations!*

*Now here I am, being commissioned tonight as a full-time missionary! And I have seen the Lord, over the past three years, one-by-one, save my family. This generational atheism ends with me! My dad accepted Christ two years ago and this past summer, I had the privilege of seeing him lead my grandpa to Christ. This is the God we serve and He can do anything!!*

## Cru19 Conference in CO

Each odd-year summer all the US staff of Cru gather together for our national staff conference, a fantastic time of learning, growing in our relationship with God and connecting with others serving in this ministry to learn from in ministry skills.

Rochelle and I and Josh will be heading that way for the week July 19 to 26th to be among those 5000 learners seeking more of Jesus together.

If you are able to help provide the funds needed for this trip, we have a gracious person willing to match those gifts, up to \$3000. Please give online at [give.cru.org/0257817](https://give.cru.org/0257817)



*With love in Jesus, Steve, Rochelle, and Josh*

## Update on Steve

I've been monitoring the status of my eyesight since the brain surgery to remove my pituitary tumor, and the eyesight has been good until recently. Now my eye doctors are concerned about changes and I'm having another MRI to see what's changed.

Please be praying with us for a good result and healing, and, Lord willing, no need for surgery again.

I'll be checking with my neuro ophthalmologist and my neuro-surgeon soon.

Thanks for your prayers for all of us and the good health we have enjoyed so long. You all are a real blessing to us!

