

I am Loved, and I am Wanted

“When you don’t have God in your heart, your life can resemble my first days on earth, abandoned and alone. But when I really got to know Jesus, I realized that I am loved, and I am wanted,” shared Kenzie.

When Kenzie was just six days old, she was abandoned by her biological mother and left on the busy streets of Hubei, China. Thankfully, a passerby found her and took Kenzie to a shelter, where she was put into the foster system. Kenzie was “lost, vulnerable, abandoned, and alone.”

After being adopted and moving to Florida, Kenzie grew up in church but was not interested in God and was intimidated by the Bible. Being Asian with white parents, life was difficult. She was often teased and felt like an outcast for being different.

Kenzie started finding fulfillment in her grades, sports, and popularity. But after years of searching for her identity and purpose, she realized that those things did not define her. With the help of her best friend, Gabi, Kenzie realized that God loved her and called her by name. Kenzie said yes to His call and began a personal relationship with Jesus.

Kenzie and Gabi were invited by Mrs. Yates, a Christian teacher at their school, Lake Howell High School in Florida, to discuss launching a new club called Cru. Both girls are sweet and soft-spoken, and although they desired to see God move on their campus, they were unsure how God could use them to start something like this. Despite their feelings, in faith, they stepped out of their comfort zone to start a Cru movement on their campus. That was two and a half years ago.

Together with their teacher they set out to gather students. Every Thursday evening for over 2 years students have met in the multi-purpose room for pizza and good food along with teaching from the scriptures. Many wonderful friendships grew out of that.

Since Kenzie and Gabi launched Cru at Lake Howell there have been over 8,000 spiritual conversations, the gospel has been shared over 2,000 times, and over 160 students have begun a relationship with Jesus. All this happened when two students said “yes” to the possibilities of God.

This story and your involvement in our ministry with Cru remind Steve and me of Eph. 4:16, “(Jesus) makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Thank you for your commitment to us and our ministry.



GABI, ZOE, AND KENZIE SHARING THEIR TESTIMONIES AT CRU

EXTRA NEWS

Tienna and Yujin both made it to over 100% in their support raising by August 1st! So they are cleared to start moving to Orlando for their intern year serving at the headquarters! We are praising God and thankful for all your thoughts, prayers and gifts for them as well.

Steve is working with the U.S. Sending Team leaders who just finished a conference reviewing how they can make our systems and processes “simple” and “accessible.” There were many excellent ideas—pray they can make good forward progress with those ideas now.

Steve and I and my sister Cheryl are leaving for a vacation in England next week! We will be visiting cousins and sight seeing, and then we will go to Norway to visit friends who served in ministry with us when we were in Japan. Most of the cousins Steve and I haven't seen in 35 years! Please pray that we can show them the love of Christ and catch up on their lives and family news. Also, pray for safety and good health while we are away.

Steve and I thank God for you! Your support and prayers enable us to build up God's Kingdom around the world through our sending and caring ministry! May God bless you!

*With love in Jesus,
Steve & Rochelle*