



## Bamikole Briefings



“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Cru19 is a biennial conference for staff all over the States held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. I have had the pleasure of attending in the past making this attendance my 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year our theme was “BeCause” and we heard from Steve Douglass (president of Cru), Steve Sellers (executive vice president) other Cru leaders and special guests. At every conference we go over our vision and mission as an organization which is to help fulfill the great commission by winning, building and sending in the power of the Holy Spirit and also partner with the body of Christ to raise more disciples and see the Great Commission accomplished.

As I reflect on ways I was challenged at our conference, I will share two things I am still thinking over. One is that ‘understanding God’s love for me is paramount if I am to serve God.’ It is from my love for Jesus that I am better able to love others; both Christians and non-Christians. I know God loves me, but I want to experience His love in deeper ways so my prayer since leaving the conference is, ‘God, let me experience your love.’ The second take home lesson was from one of our speakers, Sandra Van Opstal, who said “True worship cannot exist without justice”. As I look at the life of Jesus, I see his heart for justice, and I am convicted. I want to do better but in order to do that, I need Jesus to change my heart. I chose the verse above because it speaks to this. I want to be a disciple who fights for justice based on what God says and not what the world around me says.

After Cru19, I attended a retreat for international staff at Copper Mountain Resort. Since coming back from serving in Ecuador, I have not had time to debrief so this was a really good time for me. I met with other staff, some who served overseas and are now relocating to the States, others on furlough and still others just needed a retreat. We celebrated what God is doing around the world, we shared stories, grieved together and encouraged one another. I am happy God allowed me to serve in Ecuador and even though there is sadness in not being there anymore, I look forward to the story He is writing out for me and Peter in Portland!



[Pics (left to right) 5000+ staff in the stadium during Cru19, high school volunteers who were in Guayaquil interviewed on stage, Steve Sellers and staff linking arms to symbolize our need for each other in ministry]

**Thank you** so much for being a part of my team, I will not be here without you and I look forward to sharing many stories with you of what God will do in Portland!

Keep me in prayer as I continue to work on my financial support. I have 50% in hand!

Pray for Peter and me as we continue to figure life out in the midst of transition.

Praise God for his continued goodness and faithfulness in our lives.

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