

August 30, 2025

Dear Partner in the Harvest,

Our all-staff conference in Milwaukee was the best conference we've been to in over a decade! God really ministered to us through His Word. The new President of Cru, David Robbins, and his wife Meg, reminded me of Bill and Vonette Bright, with his emphasis on trusting God and making Him your first love. There were over 4,000 of us + 1,000 kids! Thank you for helping us to be able to attend!

One of the highlights of going to the conference is to meet up with life-time friends with whom we have served together on the field. It's like going back to your hometown where you know everybody. It was a grand evening with our staff who were celebrating milestones of serving with Cru. I celebrated 55 years of service with Cru (and Hank has served 55 years in ministry as well).



We were all in the Philippines 45 years ago!

It has been an adventure where God led us in the US, the Philippines, Canada, and Brazil to serve Him. You, as ministry partners, have seen many people come into the Kingdom of God over these years. We are blessed for being on this journey with you!

Because we drove north to Milwaukee, we had the chance of seeing a couple of friends, among them were Cal and Linda Dykstra, from Michigan. We met together at a Culvers for 4 delightful hours together! Linda has been my partner with the SING curriculum (Stories in Grace) using the **Magdalena** film for many years now. SING has miraculously spread all over the world and is having a great impact. Recently, SING has begun to be used in the prison system here in the US. Here is an article from the chaplain of a women's prison in Michigan and the impact SING is having:

"Stories in Grace (SING) is a 36 lesson Bible-based curriculum designed for use in both trauma and non-trauma-based settings throughout the world. It can be used in a variety of venues ranging from safe houses and refugee camps to classes, on universities and outreach groups. The goals of the program are spiritual healing and growth and emotional growth.

"SING is offered 4 times a week in the Kent County Jail. Right now, we have 8 teachers and an average of 40 women participating each week. With the combination of **Magdalena** film segments and the SING Six-Step Lesson Format, the ladies are able to:

- Appreciate the forgiveness of Jesus Christ
- Understand how His caring can impact lives
- Gain or regain their voices
- Learn positive interpersonal skills
- Identify and label emotions of people in the Bible story and then their own feelings
- Learn skills to handle their emotions in a constructive way
- Develop a sense of self-worth
- Envision hope for the future

“‘T’ came to class, sat quietly with her arms crossed, and a hardened expression on her face. Even when she was asked a question, she said she would rather not answer. Halfway through class, the statement was made “Are we running from or toward God?” ‘T’ started weeping, saying she was 54 and tired of coming to jail, being used by men and the life she was living. The other women sat in silence as she spoke. Sometimes, a lady will grab a tissue, wipe her tears, and not say anything... But you know she has been touched.

“Something that surprised us is how many women have a church background, but no relationship with God. The knowledge is there. But the relationship isn’t. It’s exciting to see the transition of head knowledge moving into heart knowledge. One gal came alone and asked if we should cancel. We said no and by the end of class she was praying to receive Jesus as her Savior. The next week, we asked her if anything had changed and she said, ‘All I can say is, the chaos that was always in me has changed to peace. I have this peace now that I never had.’

“The women really connected with Mary Magdalene and were amazed at how Jesus delivered her from shame and restored her honor. They saw Jesus’s care and compassion, His power and authority, and His willingness to get close to Mary and call her by name, while others kept their distance. They were understanding that He feels the same way towards them. He cares. He knows them by name. They saw how Jesus changed Mary’s life, and they have hope He can do the same in them. They can follow Jesus, just as Mary did. It amazes me how personal Jesus becomes to the women. Sometimes what’s drawn out is painful, but they’re in a place of safety. Whether insightful or difficult, the discussion helps them find their voice. We try to point them to Christ in simple ways they can then do on their own.

“It is hard to capture the power in our room as we watch Mary Magdalene encounter Jesus and be freed from the demons which controlled her life and caused her to be rejected by society. One woman says that is what addiction feels like to her. Someone else is amazed that Jesus cared about Mary and approaches her, ignoring society’s standoffish “rules”. By the end of class, each one of us can hear Jesus talking directly to us. His tone is loving. And somehow, one woman’s story from 2000 years ago feels available to every one of us.”

I hope you are as encouraged as I am by what God is doing here in the US and around the world! Thank you again for being a partner in ministry with us!

Your missionaries,



Maureen & Hank

