



Your ministry update from Ed & Debbie Gersch  
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Cru Account #: 0618598



April 24, 2018

## Exciting News! (by Ed)

We hope you have been keeping up with us through our prayer letters. You may remember that we have been praying about some other opportunities within Cru.

We are happy to inform you that we have been accepted to take part in a program called “Lake Hart STINT” (LHS) at Cru’s headquarters in Orlando, FL. Therefore, in August, we will move to Orlando for about eleven months. “Lake Hart STINT” is designed to help us both grow as leaders so we can be more effective at serving the Lord within Cru. You can read the attached letter (pg. 3) from the LHS Director for more details about this program.

After 27 years of faithful service to our Lord and Savior through the ministry of Athletes in Action, Debbie will be stepping back from a full-time role while we are on LHS so she can focus on caring for Hannah. I will be assigned to serve in a role at the Cru headquarters that is yet to be determined. Both of us will participate in a weekly leadership development program.



Lake Hart, Cru Headquarters in Orlando



With the changes that have taken place in our lives over the past few years (namely Hannah coming into our life, and some uncertainty in my role), we both feel like the Lord is leading us to pursue this path. Our decision has been confirmed by discussions with my supervisor, Debbie’s supervisor, AIA’s HR Services Director, and AIA’s Leadership Development Director. Everyone believes this is a great opportunity for us.

We don’t know what this means for us in terms of our next season of ministry. We believe we are still called to continue helping fulfill Cru’s mission of building spiritual movements everywhere so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. We trust the Lord will lead and guide us into the specifics of our future plans during the LHS.

We will share more information as the time for our move draws closer, and as always will keep you up to date about what we are currently experiencing. Please pray that the Lord will speak clearly to us about how He would have us continue in our service to Him. We are grateful for you and your partnering with us through the years and look forward to many more years of partnering with you as we serve the Lord with Cru.



### Praises

- ❖ God has given us clear direction on our next step in ministry.
- ❖ Effective ministry with several challenge course groups in March & April
- ❖ God's provision of a "new to us" van

### Prayer Requests

- ❖ Please continue to pray for God to raise up more partners for Skylar, the guy who is planning to take over my role as Challenge Course Director. We are hopeful that God will provide the remaining partners he needs by the end of May.
- ❖ Strength, stamina & wisdom for Debbie as she enters a busy challenge course season while trying to finish well in her role as Challenge Course Director and "pass the baton" to Brandon and Skylar.
- ❖ Wisdom for Ed as he finishes well over the next couple of months in his role as a Staffing Specialist with AIA.
- ❖ God's provision of someone to rent our house while we are gone.
- ❖ Strength and clarity of thought as we prepare to pack up our belongings and move to Orlando.

## Upcoming Events

Please pray for our ministry with these upcoming events & safety during Ed's travel:

- **April 28:** Wild at Heart Retreat on Low Course
- **May 3-6:** Our AIA Sports Complex hosts the Great Midwest Athletic Conference Softball Tournament
- **May 4-5:** Metro AAU Basketball on Low Course
- **May 6-11:** Ed attends Townsend Ultimate Leadership Training Workshop in Irvine, CA
- **May 10-11:** Debbie Leads Low & High Course Training for new staff
- **May 16:** Portable Initiatives with St Patrick's London 5th Graders
- **May 18:** AIA Men's Basketball Captain's Academy on Low Course
- **May 19:** AIA Men's Basketball Captain's Academy on High Course
- **May 21:** AIA Volleyball Nigeria Project on Low Course
- **May 22:** AIA Women's Basketball Poland Project on High Course
- **May 26:** AIA X-Project on Low & High Course
- **May 26:** AIA Youth Scouts Baseball on Power Pole
- **May 29:** Debbie Leads Challenge Course Facilitator Training for X-Project Interns
- **May 30:** AIA Women's Basketball Kenya Project on Low Course
- **May 31:** Fort Recovery FFA on High Course
- **June 1:** Centerville Cross Country Seniors on Low & High Course
- **June 2:** Debbie Leads Challenge Course Facilitator Training for X-Project Interns

### *From The Heart (by Debbie)*

*Once again, I find myself filled with mixed emotions. I am super excited about the opportunities that lie before us with the Lake Hart STINT. However, I am also experiencing grief as I say goodbye to a ministry where I have served for the past 27 years. This ministry has been like a family to me in many ways over the years. So, it is not easy to leave. Yet, I know that God has been clear in moving us in a different direction. So, I have a peace about this change.*

*I have never been one to relish change. And for me, change also causes stress and anxiety. Compound that with the fact that we are entering our busy season at the challenge course. Needless to say, I covet your prayers that I will maintain my sanity, continually cast all my cares on the Lord and trust in Him for wisdom, strength, and patience in the midst of chaos. I am very aware of my need for Him and for the Gospel! Please pray that I will use my time wisely.*

*As Ed mentioned, I am very grateful for those who support us through your prayers and giving. We could not be doing this without YOU! Thank you for the ways you have come alongside us and helped us fulfill God's calling on our lives! You are a blessing to us! Have a great week!*



*Dear Friends of Ed and Debbie,*

*Ed and Debbie may have already told you about a great opportunity they will be involved in beginning this August. My name is Nate Krupke and I give direction to the **Lake Hart Stint**. **Lake Hart Stint** is a special one-year Cru staff development program at our Global Headquarters near Lake Hart here in Orlando, Florida.*

*Ed and Debbie, along with a number of other staff from around the world, have been invited to come to Orlando for this program. They will be involved in specially designed weekly development sessions, be a part of a small group led by our leadership team and also regularly receive input from a personal coach/mentor. They will hear from Cru ministry leaders such as our President, Steve Douglass, who will provide input into their personal development and equip them for an even more effective ministry.*

*In addition to the focus on development, Stinters (unless they are moms with children at home) will also have an office assignment at our headquarters. They will staff some important roles here that enable our 20,000+ staff around the world to be more effective.*

*We want to thank you for making it possible for Ed and Debbie to minister in their current assignment. I also want to encourage you to continue to pray for and financially support their ministry in Orlando this next year. In fact, if you are in a position to increase what you have been giving and/or give an additional special gift to help in their transition, I'm sure they would be greatly encouraged.*

*Thank you your partnership in helping to fulfill the Great Commission! If you have any questions about this program, do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Warmly in Christ's love,*

**Nate Krupke**

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