

Dear Friend ,

We have some extremely exciting news to share with you. A number of months ago, we felt God tugging at our hearts and minds regarding our future. Nothing was very clear except that we definitely felt an urge to pray, spend time in scripture, and seek the counsel of others. We felt like we were in a canoe in a small, slow moving stream. Over the months, it was as if we continually had other streams flow into ours, increasing our momentum and speed. God was continuing not only to guide our path, but to do so at such an increasing pace, that we and others had no doubt that He was working on something big in our lives. It seems as if we are now speeding down a large river and we have no control... but God certainly is in control. We are blessed to have been given a clear call and direction.

We are entering a new stage of ministry, building on our past six years. Matt has been thinking of it as Ministry 2.0. **We have the honor of moving into a new role with Campus Crusade for Christ in New York City.** As of July 1st, we will officially be transitioning from Here's Life Inner City to the New York City Team of Campus Crusade for Christ. This team works with and serves all nine Crusade ministries in NYC including Here's Life. We feel that God has positioned us uniquely to step in and serve in these newly created positions.

Our roles will largely be serving as liaisons between all of the NYC Crusade ministries. These include Here's Life Inner City (ministering to the poor), Priority Associates (ministering to professionals and executives), the Campus Ministry (college students), Student Venture (high school students), TransForm Arts (the arts community), Christian Embassy (the United Nations), Neighborhood Focus (immigrant communities), Athletes in Action (professional sports teams), and Street 2 Street (reaching inner-city students through athletics). In upcoming newsletters, we will be introducing each of these ministries to you.

Largely due to a need for additional staff in New York City, each of the Campus Crusade ministries has been working in somewhat of a silo for the past number of years. The needs are so great in a city as large as New York City, that the staff of each ministry has been working tirelessly on their own focus, not having the resources to enable collaboration amongst each other. During our six years of experience with Here's Life, we developed an intimate knowledge of that ministry as well as a broad knowledge of the other Crusade ministries in New York City.

In our new roles we will be helping to make connections between the ministries and utilizing existing resources to help serve New York City. For example, churches that Here's Life serves need help with their finances. Priority Associates' network of business professionals may be able to connect accountants to help serve and volunteer at those churches. Or, Athletes in Action may make contact with an at-risk high school student through one of their basketball tournaments. We can help get that teenager connected to a Student Venture staff at that teen's high school. Additionally, perhaps there is a Here's Life partner church in that student's neighborhood that we can point them to. These simple connections haven't always been made in the past, and that's what we will be focusing on. We are so

excited, because we feel that with the ministries and resources that are already in place, just a little of our effort will allow a great amount of ministry to happen and lives to be affected for Christ.

You may be wondering how this impacts our commitment to serving the poor in New York City. Even though we will not be working daily with Here's Life Inner City, we are confident that the connections we will make will directly impact the effectiveness of Here's Life. Our ministry in Crown Heights will only change for the better. Because of all the increasing momentum of our ministry in Crown Heights, we will be able to spend more time ministering to our neighbors and community than especially Matt has been able to in recent years. Matt will largely be working out of the NYC Crusade offices in Manhattan, but he will have dedicated time during the week to spend on community ministry. Anna will continue her ministry in the community, but will also start to spend more time working with Matt.

Our transition date is July 1 but in order to shore up our finances before reporting for this new role, we are going to suspend the majority of our ministry for the next few months. Our hope is that by early fall, we will be able to step into our new roles once God has met our support needs. If you are a current donor, you do not need to make any changes in how you give. Our account number and all other information remains the same.

Please be praying for us during this time of transition and support raising. We will be in touch shortly with a brief brochure that describes the vision that God has given us for this ministry as well a response card for you to let us know what your commitment will be as we move forward with this new endeavor.

We are truly humbled by the opportunity to serve our fellow Campus Crusade staff members as they seek to equip others to share the love of Christ in New York City. And we are daily humbled by the sacrificial prayers and financial gifts of partners like you. Thank you.

Grace and peace,

Matt, Anna, Thomas and Trinity Shenk