

# The Guenthers @ Central

Your missionaries to college students across the Pacific Northwest



## May-June 2023 > Praying ahead

Hello family and friends!

Have you heard of a ‘Janus’ verse? In New Testament studies, it’s the idea that a verse *summarizes* the previous section and *looks ahead* to the next. Ephesians 5:21 is one example: “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (take a look!). In a similar way, I think the month of July is a good Janus moment—to look back and ahead at what God is doing. It helps us know what to pray! Would you join us in prayer?

### Internship program

(Dan) In our previous letter we shared a picture from our support rising training (*right*). This fall we’ll have fourteen (14) ministry interns. They each graduated through Chi Alpha with great testimonies, and now express a personal calling to train as a missionary. Becky and I would love your prayer for these friends in this crucial year! Pray as they enter a year of training and build support teams this summer:



Chi Alpha interns next year at CWU, OSU, and WWU. Plus some of our support staff! My partnering trainer every year is Julie Stoa (to my right).

**CWU** — DJ and Kennedy, who just got hitched(!) last week; and Shana, married to Tim on our CWU staff, who has a strong ministry call on her life as well.

**OSU** — Gabe, one of our first students produced by our growing OSU ministry (praise God); Gwyneth, who discovered Chi Alpha through her local church; Bethany, who hopes to start XA on a new campus, Western Oregon U.; and Alex, who is transferring down from Bellingham to join our Oregon crew.

**WWU** — Finally, we have quite a crew from WWU. All are students with great testimonies: Cailey, Peter, Nate, Tia, Tallulah, Megan, and Bella. I’m still learning all their stories. What a great year it will be!

**SICM** — Okay, this one isn’t a campus. SICM is our annual training for student leaders, the *Student Institute of Campus Ministry* hosted in Bellingham every May and June. Many of these students sense a call to ministry after SICM — this spring almost 150 came! — so pray for these future “possibilities.” In fact, I (Dan) went to SICM 28 years ago and it is one of the big reasons I’m in ministry today.

• What sources am I receiving the most input from?

1. What can I do to ensure continued, consistent, Godly community in my life?
2. How will you set up accountability for myself this summer?
3. Who will I stay connected with and in what community will I continue my spiritual growth?

## Students need prayer in summer

Taylor (*CWU staff, at left*) did a great job challenging students in the last XA meeting to stay strong in Jesus over the summer. It's a classic challenge: returning back to old circles at home, often to families who don't go to church. So all our ministries work hard to help students make spiritual health plans before they go home, such as:

- Finding a local church to attend
- Staying in touch with their Chi Alpha small group
- Daily devotional time with Jesus.

## Leadership Journey

(*Becky*) This past year I completed a leadership development cohort called the Leadership Journey. It is made for credentialed women ministers. We met every 3 months for teaching, then concluded with a three-night retreat in June. It was a fun, stretching year. I *LOVED* getting to know women in our network... co-lead pastor, worship pastor, children's pastor, church planter, and missionary!



Becky's cohort in Leadership Journey

We read a number of books. One that stuck with me is *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton. This book on spiritual disciplines invites us into the story of blind Bartimaeus. When Jesus turns, he asks: "What do you want me to do for you?" The author invites us to ask Jesus about our desires; and let Him work through us.

My final project was a ministry proposal for re-starting an outreach to international students at CWU. There is nothing directly focused on international students since Covid happened. Today a few international students attend Chi Alpha; but many more would come to a time that is focused on their specific needs... practicing English and building friendships. I'm proposing the start of "Talk Time," which is a program to help international students learn English while introducing them to intentional Christians. More to report in the fall... but I look forward to spending more time with international students!

## Hannah headed to WWU

Hannah graduated from Ellensburg High School! It was deeply meaningful to have friends and family celebrate with us. She will attend Western Washington University next year. And she's already planning to join Chi Alpha there :)

This will be our first experience on the "parent" side as we drop off a new student to college. I suppose we're as ready as we can be. So pray for us, too!

Thanks for your long-term partnership,

*Dan & Becky*



Congratulations, Hannah!