Dan & Becky Guenther

Your missionaries to college students across the USA



Summer ministry and the Big Move

Hello team! So much has happened since our last writing. And in the midst of ministry, we moved across the country, and God has answered huge prayers. Better late than never, here's what's up!



Evangelism at UW (Seattle) with our Speed the Light vehicle

Speed the Light at the UW

Speed The Light is a missions giving program for youth groups, providing missionaries with vehicles and equipment for gospel ministry. We are beyond thankful to youth groups in the Northwest Ministry Network, who raised money for a vehicle so that we can drive to all of our campuses.

In June, we drove to encourage Chi Alpha students doing evangelism at the University of Washington. It's a huge campus. During a transition moment, our new STL vehicle was packed! God provided them many opportunities for sharing about Jesus and giving their testimonies on campus. And the students in the photo aren't from UW — they came from all over Washington State to do our ministry training and to pray for the UW.

So… please pray with our students that we can relaunch a Chi Alpha ministry at UW in the near future!

One more opportunity to be grateful for Speed the Light: in our new location at the Chi Alpha headquarters in Missouri, we are next door to eight different states(!), so there are MANY Chi Alpha campus ministries within driving distance here. Having a fuel efficient car is a huge help.



Crossing the country in July — 4 days of driving!

Speaking of driving… we finally made the move!

We moved in late July to join our national team. Our drive took us to Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone, Wyoming, Nebraska, and finally Missouri.

God has been faithful in recent months… so many answered prayers. He provided a place for us to live while we look for a house in Springfield (thank you for your basement, Alex and Abby!). Then he opened doors for Speed The Light funds to arrive in June, so we could purchase the vehicle before our move (thank you Matt Harder and Northwest Ministry Network Youth!). God provided tenants to rent our house in Ellensburg (Tim and Shana, who

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With our daughter Hannah and friend, Josh, arriving in Missouri

are Chi Alpha missionaries at CWU!). He provided a place for Hannah to live in Ellensburg for the rest of the summer (thank you Joy and Joanna!). He helped us finish the remodeling on our Ellensburg home (thank you Mark, Paul and Judy!). He provided a place near SeaTac Airport to park the car we are leaving in Washington (thank you Ben & Elisabeth!). He added new ministry partners to our team to get us to full budget (thank you Bridge Church and Hillcrest Church!). And finally, he provided people to help drive us across the country (thank you Hannah and Josh!). Our God is so faithful. Obeying and stepping into something we can't accomplish on our own stretches our faith, and makes us a bit more like Him.







Campus Missions Conference

Becky: In July, Chi Alpha held a national staff conference ("CMC") in Phoenix. 1100 Chi Alpha missionaries and 349 missionary kids were there. Dan was one of the main speakers, and Becky helped run the missionary kid program. It was a different experience for us to host the conference, instead of just attending! It was our joy to serve missionaries across the country with a previous time of teaching, fellowship, corporate worship, vision casting, care for children, and delightful fun.

At CMC, Dan co-preached a sermon alongside our National Director. Alex Rodriguez, on the topic of Acts 2:42-47 (the first church community) which gives us our ministry philosophy in Chi Alpha: "We reconcile students to Christ, equipping them through Spirit-filled communities of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and mission…" It was a powerful reminder of the basics of our mission.

The theme for the kids program was "God's Gifts in the Desert". Of course, we were in a literal desert (Arizona), a novelty for kids from most parts of the country. So we had sessions on God's gifts in the desert in the Old Testament, God's gifts in the desert in the New Testament, and God's gifts in the desert right now. Many parent have expressed to me their gratitude for the investment in their kids. One of my favorite moments was watching the kids' reactions when the Phoenix Zoo brought desert animals animals for a visit! I didn't take pictures of the kids, but in the photo you can see the 63 volunteers who helped make the kids program happen!

Finally, Dan was honored for 30 years of ministry at CMC. Those years of faithfulness sure add up: 2 years as a ministry intern at WWU + 15 years of local ministry at CWU + 13 years of regional responsibility raising up new ministries and strengthening existing ones. Incredible. [In case you're curious, I (Becky) have a couple more years before I hit the 30-year mark.]

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Ordination

Dan: Becky was officially ordained by the North-west Ministry Network at our the annual pastors conference! After many years of campus ministry, and an additional year of required theological education, it was a delight to see her honored with the traditional shepherd's crook and mantle.

In the photo are some of our staff and ministry interns from CWU Chi Alpha — from left to right, Bethany (intern), Keala (intern), DJ, Tim, Kennedy, and Mikaila (intern), plus myself alongside Becky.



Outreach in WWU's Red Square (bonus: Hannah is there!)

Testimony from Western

We aim to have a local ministry story in every letter — thanks to your support, God is doing incredible things all over this country. This story comes from Western Washington University:

This spring, a group of our ministry interns did an outreach in the main square on campus. They had a big roll of butcher paper that was set up like a scroll. There were tables around it where people could reflect on their life story and write what was most meaningful to them onto index cards. Then they put the cards on the scroll to create a beautiful story.

The hope was that as students were reflecting, talking, and writing on their cards, our students and interns would have the opportunity to share the good news that Jesus wants to be part of their lives!

Our intern Olivia had a key conversation with a student who grew up in church but had later became agnostic. At the time, he was reading through the Gospel of Mark to help himself understand where his morals and ideas come from. He knew his upbringing had instilled values in him, and he wanted to better understand them.

Olivia and our students got to pray over him, asking God to speak to him as he read the Gospel of Mark. Soon afterward, he connected with one of our pastors who leads a small group Bible study on campus! This student only walked into the conversation curious about the activity, but walked away connected with someone who is eager to help him explore who Jesus really is! We connected with dozens upon dozens of students during this time and got to pray and share the Gospel several times.



Final encouragements

We were invited to share a final message at our church near Ellensburg, New Life Assembly before our move. After 20 years of investment in the people of our valley — not only college students, but kids and families at church, robotics parents, and more— we will dearly miss this community. We read Philippians 3:12 as our encouragement to carry on Jesus' mission:

"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me … One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

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Opening thoughts in Missouri

• We are currently living in temporary housing. But the national Chi Alpha team have welcomed us so it feels like we already have family here. Having fewer online meetings has been fantastic!

• It is still strange to live in a different state than our kids! We've had regular calls and they seem to be doing well. Hannah and Caleb are both learning how to cook for themselves, with some easy-dinner ideas from mom. Hannah will finish her summer job, then return to Bellingham for her Senior year at Western Washington University. Caleb continues to live in Ellensburg and is looking for work. Please pray for them both.

• The extra humidity in the Midwest has been just fine — Becky thinks the humid air is more gentle on her hard-to-keep-hydrated body than dry Central Washington air. (And better than forest fire smoke!)

• Dan and I signed a contract to buy a house here in Missouri! Our closing date is set for September 18th, so please pray that this goes through. The home is five blocks from the Greenway Trail system, with miles of paved paths for walking and biking. And it will be good to get settled down again.

GUENTHER COUNTDOWN

0 weeks until we move
2 projects (still) on our house
Reached our new budget
2 young adults launching
and still 1 lifetime to give!

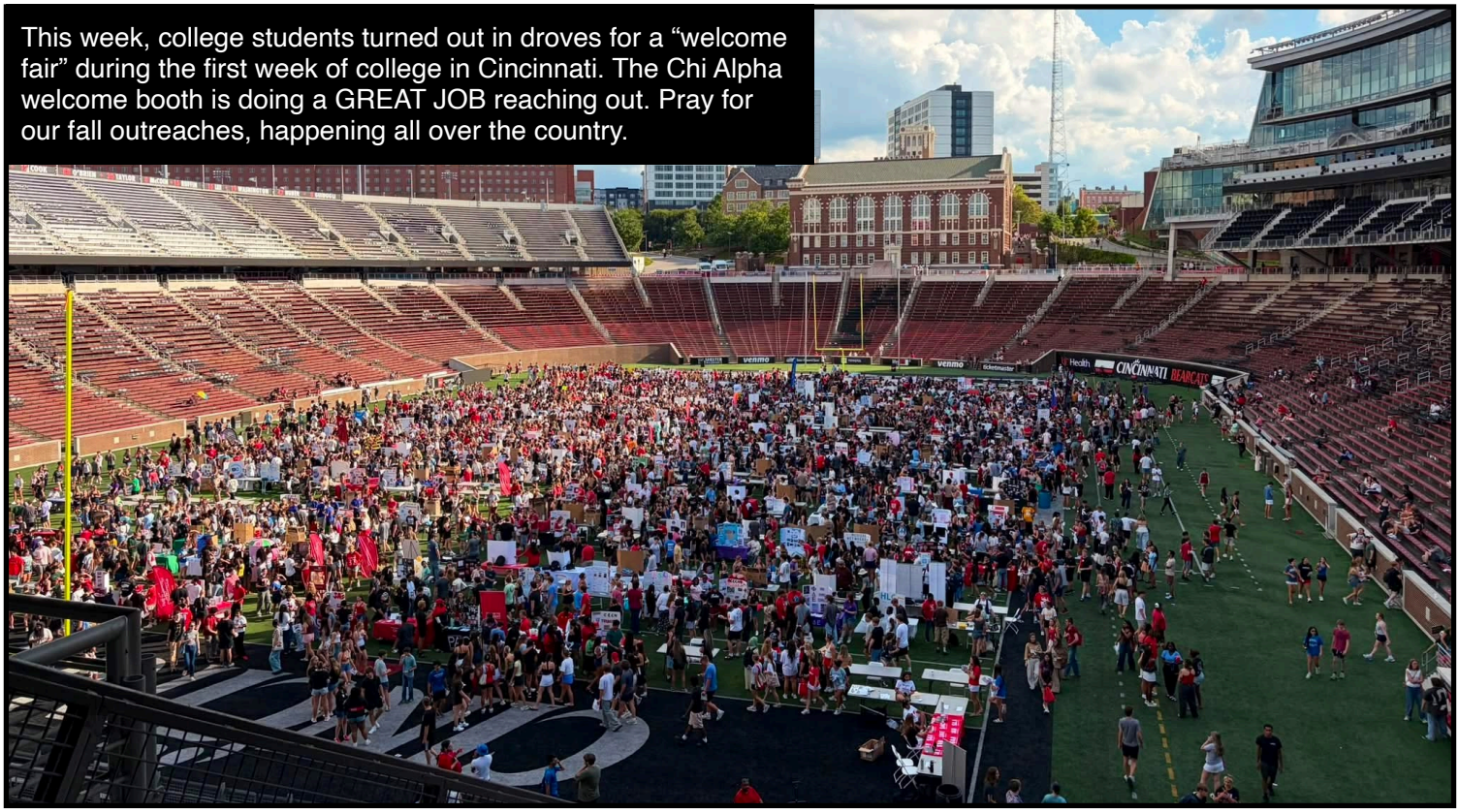
Time to look ahead

Campuses are beginning to fill with students again. This year Chi Alpha has student groups on **279 campuses**, and we expect about **12,500 students** to be involved in Chi Alpha this fall. Please that pray the Holy Spirit will flood each campus with a spirit of repentance, revival, and renewal, so that his name is made great among the nations.

We are eager for this work ahead. Thank you for joining us!

Dan & Becky

This week, college students turned out in droves for a "welcome fair" during the first week of college in Cincinnati. The Chi Alpha welcome booth is doing a GREAT JOB reaching out. Pray for our fall outreaches, happening all over the country.



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