Dirke & Lorna Johnson Oct/Nov 2022

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity – Eph. 5:15-16a



Steve Douglass (at left), former president of Cru/Campus Crusade for Christ International, died on Oct. 29, 2022 due to complications with cancer. He was 77.

We had the privilege of knowing and interacting with Steve and Judy on numerous occasions over the years. He took the leadership baton from Dr. Bill Bright who founded Cru and handed it off about two years ago to Steve Sellers.

He demonstrated a heart for evangelism and excelled as a great strategist and Kingdom collaborator. What I appreciated about Steve was that he cared for people. He took a liking to our youngest daughter Briana because she was a standout Florida HS athlete. He often asked how she was doing in college. He made the most of his opportunities and relationships.

This summer and fall, the Lord has reminded Lorna and me of the brevity of life. Several of our ministry partners went to be with the Lord. Lorna has had increased health struggles and although they have not kept her from doing ministry they are a constant reminder that our days are numbered. We were not meant to live forever on this side of heaven. The Psalmist says in 90:12, "Teach us to number our days that we may become wise." The Apostle Paul says the same thing in Ephesians 5, "Make the most of EVERY opportunity." He then in the following verses ties wisdom to being directed by God's Holy Spirit.

What keeps us motivated and focused after 45 years is knowing our days are numbered. We want to make what days we have left count for eternity. There are only two things that last for eternity. God's Word and the souls of men and women. We're investing the best of our days that are left in those two realities. Thanks to your prayers and generosity, we still can!



Recently, Lorna (above), trained some pastors and church leaders in Orlando on how to share the ministry of the Holy Spirit. These were churches partnered with our Inner City ministry as they prepare to use "Boxes of Love" (filled with food) to take to homes in their church vicinity. The desire is to meet both physical and spiritual needs. They are trained to engage families with spiritual conversations, pray with them and help them take the next step in their own spiritual journey.

Ongoing Ministry Activities & Prayer Requests

- Pray for Dirke as he teaches (Cross-cultural & Christian Ethics) to more than 45 Cru staff and Palm Beach Atlantic Univ. Ministry students. He is also an online faculty mentor for seven of Cru's staff leaders who minister in French-speaking Africa.
- Pray for two initiatives that Dirke and his team are giving leadership to: (1) One that equips Cru missionary staff to be able to effectively minister to those who have LGBTQ+ questions or minister to those that may identify with the LGBTQ+ community. (2) The other is a guided biblical team discussion curriculum on sexual wholeness that reinforces a biblical sexual ethic for both singles and married couples. This content will be made available in the spring to all of Cru's 5,000+ staff.
- Pray Lorna can have surgery by mid-December. She has constant pain in her right arm that stems from pinched nerves. She has been doing therapy but to no avail. It can be done as outpatient surgery, but insurance issues have been delaying it.
- Lorna is also battling glaucoma. Her better eye has recently had increasing pressure build up which has adversely affected her vision. Pray we can get the pressure reduced so that she does not need surgery in her left eye again.

Briana & New York

We spent four days in October with Briana. Lorna's wish came true as we had tickets to the Broadway show Hamilton. We loved it and loved spending time with Briana. We had a chance to see her in action doing the hair for all the models at a fashion show one evening. In case you have access to Oprah's TV network OWN, you can watch "The Hair Tales." She does the hair and is even on the show

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