



Coaching at the Global Technology Leaders Conference

The Lord continues to surprise me with the ways He's allowed me to use my coaching skills. I am currently coaching the Global Technology Leader with Cru, and it's been a joy. Through that, he asked me to help in facilitating an "action learning project" during the conference he was running for the technology leaders from all over the world. These leaders were put into groups and given a short time frame to work together to find solutions to some major ministry challenges, working through language barriers along the way. I got to facilitate the time over two days, including the coaching for the groups, emceeding the presentations, and running the debrief. It was so fun!



Preview Weekend Update

In mid-February, 88 students and 20 interns participated in our annual Preview Weekend. Flying in from all over the U.S., these students came to hear what it could be like to use their skills and degrees in an internship with us. It was a jam-packed 4 days of hearing vision from top leaders, visiting teams and doing job fit interviews and activities, learning about what it looks like to raise support, and learning what life is like in Orlando. Hopefully these students walked away feeling envisioned and encouraged.

There are so many logistics involved in pulling this off, especially with a much larger group, but I think this was the best year yet. My part involved time training the team leaders on how to recruit well, coordinating all the site visits of students with teams, and coordinating all of our follow up. In the past, we've seen 83% of our interns stay with Cru in some capacity, so we'd love to see more interns join us this fall!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the students in the intern application process now; that they would trust God as He leads them to what's next.
- Pray for the Digital Strategies ministry opportunities in the Philippines, and for Ace and his team of volunteers.
- Continue to pray for me and my team in this busy season. There is a ton going on, which is part of why this newsletter is so late in being sent!

Thank you for your continued partnership!

~Melissa

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Fighting Ninjas & Giving Love Advice

At the recent Global Technology Leaders conference in Orlando, I was sitting at a table with Ace, a Filipino staff guy, as he shared about an incredible ministry that has sprung up through Facebook in Manila and around the country. A few years ago, a discipleship group of students noticed a cultural trend, where guys were like “ninjas”- they would flirt with girls and make sneaky moves on them, but then never follow through on asking them out. So they decided to make a Facebook group as a joke, to offer love advice to people and combat these “ninjas”. Ace explained the groups’ persona as your older brother- loving and protective, but not afraid to tell it like it is. The groups’ snarky posts along with genuine concern for people to be in healthy relationships quickly grew their following to over 900,000 people, primarily all in the Philippines!

The students running the group, along with Ace and his two fellow Digital Strategies staff, realized they had an amazing ministry opportunity on their hands. They were able to mobilize believers both within Cru and in local churches around the country to respond to the many direct messages they were getting from non-believers through the chat and message functions of the group. While maintaining their edgy humor that engages people from all walks of life, they have had many deep and significant spiritual conversations with people who are genuinely hurting over confusing relationships. They have seen people on the verge of suicide or other drastic life-altering decisions hear about the love of Christ and come to know Him. There are too many amazing stories to recount here!

Then, a few weeks ago, the Facebook group got hacked and they lost all of their contacts and administrative rights. We as a conference spent time

praying that the Lord would intervene and restore that group for them. Praise God- the group was restored a few days ago! Please join with us in praying that God would continue to use this group as a way to minister to many people in the Philippines, and pray for Ace and his team of volunteers as they continue to engage with people.

If you want to check out their FB group, look up “Boiling Waters”.

