



Hang'n out with the new president of Cru—Dave and Meg Robbins

Image credit: Johnny Cache Images

Young Hearts Flood the Church *Seeking* Truth



Image credit: Johnny Cache Images

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk was assassinated. The headlines were swift and reactions were polarized. But in churches across America, something quieter—and more eternal—was happening: young people were coming back.

Driving to church that Sunday, we were surprised to see full parking lots and streets lined with cars. It looked like one of our church's community events—but this was just a regular Sunday.

I poked my head into the sanctuary before the first service ended. It was so full, the back walls were lined with people standing. When the pastor gave the invitation to accept Christ, hands lifted across the sanctuary—nearly a hundred people made a decision to follow Jesus.

And it wasn't just our church. From Reno to Sacramento, pastors are reporting something they haven't seen in years: overflow crowds, first-time visitors, and young people asking questions that only the gospel can answer.

Convo Church in Reno, NV saw more people give their life to Christ than any other Sunday in their history. Our church in Sacramento (Capital of CA) had a Sunday worship night and had spontaneous baptisms – mostly young people giving

their lives to Christ. Nothing like this has occurred before in the history of our church.

This isn't just a spike in attendance—it's a moment of spiritual clarity. For many, Charlie's boldness in faith and tragic death have pierced through distraction and despair—like a clarity of call.

The sanctuaries are filling again—not just with bodies, but with questions, convictions, and a hunger for truth. This isn't just a moment to observe; it's a moment to respond.

So, are you ready to help evangelize and disciple the new believers walking through our doors? Are you prepared to meet them with grace, truth, and the kind of relational depth that turns a spark into a flame?

Bev and I would like to recommend some tools to help you respond to the younger generation with discipleship. Just go to **Cru.org** and search on **Discipleship**. There you will find a toolbox full of resources to help you help others in their new walk of faith.

They're coming with questions and open hearts. Let's be ready—not just to welcome them, but to walk with them. Let's go and make disciples, just as we've been commissioned.





One of the unexpected gifts of our Cru staff conference in Milwaukee this past summer was the chance to attend breakout sessions that stretched our thinking and deepened our ministry toolkit. From evangelism and hospitality to biblical studies and fundraising, the variety was rich and relevant.

One session in particular reshaped how we think about generosity. Our giving isn't limited to only what's in our wallets—it can flow from stocks, retirement accounts, donor-advised-funds, and more.

Here's a practical example that isn't age-dependent. If you own appreciated stock or other non-cash assets (like real estate, equipment, or collectibles), donating them directly allows you to avoid capital gains tax and claim a charitable deduction for the full market value.

Let's say you don't have the extra cash, but had stock that doubled from **\$5,000** to **\$10,000**. Instead of selling the stock and donating the money, here is a comparison of just donating the stock:

Sell Stock, Donate Cash		Donate Stock Directly	
Appreciation:	\$5,000	Appreciation:	\$5,000
Capital Gains Tax: (assume 15%)	\$750	Capital Gains Tax: (assume 15%)	\$0
Net Proceeds:	\$9,250	Net Proceeds:	\$10,000
<u>Charitable Deduction: \$9,250</u>		<u>Charitable Deduction: \$10,000</u>	

It's a win-win for the donor and the ministry. The donor avoids paying the taxes and gets a larger deduction, the ministry receives the full value of the donation.

This is just one option for being strategic with your

generosity. Next month we will look at "Giving Through Gratitude" - leaving a legacy through donor-advised funds.

If you have further questions, Cru has an entire department dedicated with people able to help you. You can contact them at (800) 449-5454 or info@crufoundation.org.



Our Fall conference season has begun. This month we are building godly marriages in:

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| • Tampa, FL & Cleveland, OH | Oct 3-5 |
| • Raleigh, NC | Oct 17-19 |
| • Louisville, KY & Bellingham, WA | Oct 24-26 |

This month, we're traveling to South Korea for a little over a week to visit our daughter, Kristin. She was hired by the Korean government to teach English to elementary students and has spent the past two years serving at two schools in 771(Gwangju). Kristin has loved the experience—teaching young children and immersing herself in a new culture—but she's also ready to return to the States. She plans to move back to Washington in March.

Our pilot marriage program, One Day to Remember, is off to a strong start. The two partnering churches have been incredibly helpful in reaching the Spanish-speaking community. All the details—day, speaker, and volunteers—are confirmed and in place. Now, our focus shifts to promoting the event. We've connected with several networks of Spanish-speaking churches, and we're praying that couples will take the initiative to register and attend.

So grateful for you,

John & Bev