

# The Greenwood Report

May 2016



tending his ministry, without the traveling show, for years to come. But, due to practical reasons, the national leadership of Cru felt it was time to sunset this branch of the organization and I became adrift – a man without a ministry – for a brief time.

I was not a man with nothing to do, though. One could easily assume that closing the ministry would take a load off of my plate, but in fact it had the opposite effect. Suddenly I had to abandon my visions and, as gracefully as possible, terminate the projects I was working on. Additionally I had to organize and find new homes for 35 years of office supplies, office equipment, sound equipment, photographic and video equipment, as well as all the tools, hardware and materials which accumulated in the workshop area for over 30 years. What I thought would be done in one month has finally been finished (mostly) in four months.

While doing all of that I was transitioning to another Cru ministry – one that I'm now just as excited about – working with international students at Arizona State University via the Bridges International ministry. ASU had over 12,000 international students last year – a highly strategic mission field, wouldn't you agree?



Being one of only three full-time staff with Bridges I was quickly put to work. One thing which I'm being called on to do is to take ASU Bridges' public image to the next level with professional quality graphics in print and on-line media, making the most of every *first impression* we have the opportunity to give.

Over ...

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This semester I've had a great time building relationships with students and getting into the swing of person-to-person ministry. One highlight was taking some students on a Spring Break trip to Sedona, Arizona where we hiked, visited a frontier town, and enjoyed a western dinner show.

Last week I had a lunch appointment with one of our freshmen students – Paulo from Brazil. At this meeting I learned that Paulo believed in God, but didn't understand who Jesus is. I walked him through a simple gospel presentation and he decided to trust Jesus as his Lord and Savior right then! This is the reason we do what we do.



As you may already know, Sheila has been volunteering as the Children's Ministry Director at our church for over a year. But once our youngest child turned 18 Cru's policy is that wives take on a full time role in their Cru ministry. Since her heart for ministry is with children, we felt it to be the Lord's timing for her to leave Cru staff, and accept the offer to be paid for the work she is doing at our church. We can see how one could assume that since she is no longer on Cru staff that my financial support needs would be less – but that is not the case. The facts are that we have never really been fully funded with Cru, and now that I've changed ministries I have many more ministry expenses as I participate in student activities and provide ministry materials for outreach and Bible studies, as well as needing to attend several conferences each year. As it turns out, I now need the same amount of financial support as we had when both of us were Cru staff. As a result, your investments are still needed now as much as they ever were.



Two weeks ago Sheila's father, Eli Earl Smith, passed away at age 89. He had been suffering with health challenges for several years, and on May 2, after being in home Hospice care for a week, went to be at home with the Lord. As a result, we have made multiple trips to Missouri this last month. A description of his impressive military career can be seen in the obituary at the following web address: <http://bit.ly/1qiZU7F>

Well, that covers most of the major changes we have been through in the past several months, except for Sheila's cancer, which was the subject of our last newsletter. (<http://bit.ly/23VujGf> – All of the follow-up doctor appointments have been positive.)

I'm looking forward to having a much less stressful routine when classes start up in the fall, and am eagerly looking forward to engaging with international students and introducing more of them to Jesus.

Craig