

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



The Campus Handshake

A question we often get is “how do you connect with Young Adults?”

The answer is - any way we can!

The truth is we have a variety of ways we are engaging with Young adults. Early on, when we started focusing on Young Adult ministry, one of our strategies was to partner with local campus ministries to connect with graduating seniors who might then engage with us after graduating. We called it the “Campus to City Bridge” since we were creating an avenue for our campus students to continue to engage with Cru staff (us) beyond their college experience.

Our efforts paid off early on as we had ongoing relationships and opportunities to connect with impending graduates on a number of campuses throughout the southland.

And then Covid hit. Many of our campus ministries were hit hard in terms of their ability to minister to students.

While our campus teams did their best to keep their ministries afloat during the pandemic, all of the different ways we had established for meeting and maintaining relationships with students were eliminated.

Once the dust settled on the pandemic, and students finally started meeting back on campus, many of the ministries in this area were a shell of their former selves. Turnover among the staff was unusually high. The truth is, most of the ministries we had established relationships with before the pandemic simply no longer exist.

Recently, however, we were contacted by a young staff intern at Chapman University. We know this intern because her parents are on staff with Cru in the Bay Area and are good friends of ours. Whenever we would find ourselves at Cru staff conferences and retreats our kids would often pal around.

As a recent graduate of Chapman, she decided to become a Cru staff intern for

this year and is leading the ministry there.

The ministry is small and growing and there is a lot of excitement among the students. There is just one problem - there are no staff men to disciple the male student leaders.

I (Dave) was asked if I’d be willing to help mentor and disciple some of the men on the leadership team. Since a number of them are seniors who live in this area, it seemed like a great opportunity to revive a strategy that was helpful to us in the past.

We’re calling this the Campus handshake, as it’s a partnership between two different Cru ministries (Campus and City) to resource and develop our campus leaders as they embark into full-fledged working adults.

Since the beginning of the fall, I’ve enjoyed connecting with Robert and James (both seniors) and Mario and Fred (sophomores).

Our times have been focused on equipping them in fundamental principles that will enable them to disciple others moving forward.

While I’ve been helping out at Chapman University, Jen’s seminary classes at Talbot have given her the opportunity to connect with a number of Biola undergrads.

A few of these relationships have already transitioned to coaching and mentoring Young Adults as those students Jen had previously been meeting as a Spiritual Director have graduated and transitioned to the work force.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to explore other avenues of creating meaningful partnerships with local campus ministries that would enable us to connect with their students as they graduate and transition to life as Young Adults!

Love,
Dave & Jen



Top: Dave with Robert, a senior at Chapman University

Middle: Dave with Mario, a sophomore at Chapman University

Bottom: Dave with James, a senior at Chapman University

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