



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
WESTERN PA CATALYTIC
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(INFO)

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Really...?

Statistics show that relationships, particularly with one's coworkers, rank highest as the deciding factor in the span of many people's careers in ministry; unhealthy ones are the most often stated cause for burnout (even above financial strain), and good ones make other stresses more bearable.

That's why Campus Crusade for Christ continues doing what no other ministry attempts: a ten-day long mandatory biennial gathering of all 6,000+ US staff. Amid 88 afternoon seminars and plenty of time to renew vision and spiritual direction from leaders of the movement, those working with all the ministry's different stateside facets get to spend time reconnecting with old friends and teammates in one of *Outside* magazine's "Top 10 American Dream-Towns."

Fort Collins or Bust...

But our summer assignment on the Staff Conference Team took us to Fort Collins, Colorado not because of its beautiful mountain scenery or status as having the most restaurants per capita in the US, but because of its university facilities. Among other features, Colorado State University boasts Moby Gym, a stadium arena perfect for accommodating so many staff. Overall, it's a logical place to hold what we've heard called, "Campus Crusade's only mandatory oil change," for our most valuable resource – the staff.

Every two years, Campus Crusade maintains a welcomed presence in Fort Collins for over 6 weeks. The first 4 are training for just the new staff as well as other staff taking seminary level classes. Then "Ministry Days" give staff working with different groups (i.e. college students, high schoolers, athletes, etc.) a few days to meet within specific lines, and then finally, we all meet together.

This year's conference brought us challenging messages from John Piper, Steve and Judy Douglass (Campus Crusade's president and "first lady"), and Moody Bible Institute president, Joe Stowell. Others, including recording artists Caedmon's Call, former CCC staff member Fernando Ortega and Keynote, CCC's music ministry, gave us time with the Lord through music. But first there was a lot to be done behind the scenes.

The First Rule of Conference Team is...

It's not about us. For 17 days, we served the staff. We moved, set up, and cleaned cribs for the youngest of their 2500 kids. We unloaded 8 semi loads with which to build, light and carpet the stage, and later worked 12 hours straight through the night to reverse the process. We got them registered and oriented, and hauled their luggage. We rigged video and sound, and ran lights and cameras. We set up their chairs, handed them free books, snacks, and coffee, and picked up their trash.

In between our time attending the conference, our job was to keep things running smoothly and distractions to a minimum. On Conference Team, the less you're noticed, the better you've done your job.

- Our needs for the summer assignment have been met in full and we're on the last 10% of what we need to be on campus in the fall – praise God!
- Student leaders will be arriving soon – pray that they start strong.
- 80% of this year's freshman class have never attended church regularly – pray that God would break through in their lives.

In the end, we gained appreciation for all things "behind-the-scenes" and made some new friends in the process. Thanks for making it possible for us to serve in this way.

Grace and peace,
 Jayson & Carrie

And having arrived, and gathering the assembly, they reported what things God did with them and that He opened a door of faith to the nations. (Acts 14:27)

(PRAYER NEEDS)