

The Lowedown

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



Crossroads, Chicago and Ugly Christmas Sweaters

At the beginning of December, Jen and I got a chance to spend a few days in Chicago with some of our Cru colleagues from around the nation who are also reaching out to Millennials in their respective cities.

It was cold, of course, but it was a great time of connecting and learning from one another as we're all in various stages of pioneering this new venture to reach and minister to

Young Professionals.

Ironically, one morning as I was waiting in the lobby to meet someone, I noticed the title of a newspaper, which read, **"Chasing The Millennials"**. Sometimes, that's what it seems like we're doing. We're chasing the Millennials and we're not quite sure where to find them or how to catch them when we do encounter them.



Top: Dave & Jen pose while walking at night in Chicago.
Bottom: The title of this newspaper seemed to describe our ministry.

One of the questions we have been frequently asked since starting this new venture is: how are you going to find Millennials? It's a good question.

When we were working on campus, it was easy to find students. We just showed up on campus and there they were. It was simply a matter of engaging with them and seeking to connect them to our specific campus community.

But reaching Millennials in Orange County is more complicated. There's no "campus" where they all naturally congregate. There's no Student Union where they all relax and hang out. They're everywhere and nowhere at the same time. For us, it's a matter of finding the natural places where they live, work and recreate and engaging with them there.

We believe that our ministry is going to grow through the natural relational networks that already exist among Millennials. For that reason, we've been focusing efforts on meeting and connecting with as many Cru grads as possible who are living and working in Orange County. The hope is to connect with Young Professionals in our area who already

have a familiarity with Cru and then expand by tapping into their relational networks.

Right before Thanksgiving, I attended Crossroads, a yearly conference for Cru juniors and seniors designed to help them navigate life's choices as they seek to pursue Christ while making decisions about their vocation.

Being at the conference gave us a first-hand opportunity to talk to students and share with them about our ministry in Orange County. Perhaps the biggest benefit though was connecting with many of the campus staff we've known throughout the years. Many of them were reminded of grads who are now living in Orange County whom they can connect us with.

One of our former students who is now directing the Cru ministry at UC Irvine and Chapman invited me to dinner to hang out with his team. While there, I met Jeff, a recent Cru grad who is serving as an intern with Cru here in Orange County. Jeff expressed an interest in what we're doing because he works with students all day and he wants to have more community with guys who are in a similar life stage.



Jeff, far right, not only won our Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, but he connected us with Josh, Andrew and Tim.

I invited Jeff to come to our Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. To my surprise, Jeff not only came but he invited some of his cycling buddies to come as well.

Through a series of natural relational networks, I met Jeff who then

introduced me to Tim, Josh and Andrew.

Our hope and prayer is that the scope of our impact will continue to expand as we tap into the natural relational networks that already exist here in the OC. Please pray with us as we continue to reach out to Young Professionals and seek to help them thrive spiritually and live missionally!

Love,
Dave & Jen