

Disciples On The Journey

February 2019



January

Sarah coaches the Texas Woman's University Cru student leaders each week during the semester; she meets the leaders for one-on-one discipleship, attends their group meetings and also helps them think through events that will help others on campus know Christ.

Some of them attended Cru's Winter Conference (*left*) where they learned about deepening their walk with God and living out their faith back on campus.

Here are a few of their comments:

- "I learned that God loves us – even in our own stubbornness."
- "I learned that we need to dethrone ourselves and let God take His place as first in our lives."
- "I learned that I want to be praying for God to continue to reach our campus and grow us in our community."

Many of those whom Sarah has discipled over the years will graduate in 2019. **Please pray** for these women as they follow Christ and begin their careers.



We kick off each semester with a Christian professor or administrator speaking about their spiritual journey. Dr. Robert Bland, (*left*) UNT professor of local government, told the Christian faculty-staff group about the life tests he has encountered, and how God has used those tests:

- On their farm in northern Colorado, his family went from a modest income --- to nearly impoverished -- when his father became blind.
- Bob later attended college on a cello scholarship – but lost all the fingers on his left hand one summer during a farming accident.
- His faith in Christ, and the support of a rural church, sustained him all those years.
- Now he finds that students often seek him out to talk about issues of life and faith when life doesn't go as *they* have planned: "I am thankful for those whom God puts in my path every day."

"My life has not been a well planned sequence of decisions, but rather a series of events that God used to shape my character and faith" – Robert Bland



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Dr. Phillip Bishop retired a year ago from the University of Alabama as an exercise physiologist and joined the staff of Faculty Commons. He and his wife Brenda spent last weekend in our home, and then traveled north to meet former doctoral students who are employed at the University of Oklahoma.

Jay, now a young professor himself, talked about the example Phil had been of serving his students and living for Christ: "Phil and Brenda opened their lives to us; they discipled us and I knew they cared; I want to be that same kind of professor who shows Christ to the students whom I mentor," he said.

Phil next spoke to Oklahoma State University Christian faculty and staff (*left*) about the many ministry opportunities those on campus have:

- "Many of us get to travel on behalf of our university to many countries; why not use a free evening or weekend to encourage believers in those places?"
- "God brings millions of international students to our college campuses; most have never heard of Jesus. How will we give them the love and knowledge of Christ?"

Three years ago Phil and I traveled to Guatemala City and met with Christian professors and Cru staff to establish a faculty ministry there. Now there are a group of Christian faculty meeting regularly in Guatemala (*below, left*) to be more intentional about their faith, and helping to pass along their training to others.

We are working with a translation company to get our ministry's book *A Grander Story* translated into Spanish. It contains principles on faculty ministry as well as professors' accounts of their successes and failures in living for Christ.

Once completed, it will be available as a free download for Christian professors throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Your giving makes it possible for us to minister to others. Thanks.

Steve and Sarah

