

# The Riedy Reader

## July 2022



# Cru22

Milwaukee, WI | July 16-23



Milwaukee, Wisconsin—the home of Harley Davidson, Happy Days, Miller Beer, and Cru22 U.S. Staff Conference! After MANY years in Colorado, this year Milwaukee will play host to the over 5,000 Cru staff gathering in person and stream content around the globe for regional staff unable to attend!

The normal pattern for this conference is every two years, but as with everything else—what’s normal anymore?! We have not gathered in this way since summer of 2019. Eric and I have also never attended kid-free! We have always stayed in a college dorm, and this year will be in a hotel. I guess I’m trying to say that nothing about this Staff Conference will be ‘normal’ for us. That just leaves room for God to meet us there in unexpected, beyond-normal ways. Our theme will be **The Global Scope of our Mission**. Here is a quick overview our leadership recently shared about what to expect.



“The Bronze Fonz”, celebrating Milwaukee’s Happy Days connection, is near our Cru22 hotel.

*“This year, our focus will be on the global scope of our mission as we seek to go after everyone, both here in the U.S. and around the world. You’ll hear what it means to be sent as missionaries and join together in a celebration of God at work in our lives and in our ministry.*

*We also will take intentional time to pray together as a staff family. We want you to have space to meet with the Lord and one another and time to acknowledge what we’ve all experienced these past 3 years as a ministry body.*

*We are focusing our time at the conference this year to hear from our leaders. Key speakers include Cru President Steve Sellers, U.S. National Director Mark Gauthier, Oneness in Diversity Director Darryl Smith, Co-Executive Director of Back2Back Ministries and member of Cru’s Board of Directors Beth Guckenberger, former staff member and Penn State professor Dr. Heather Holleman and Vice President of Global Leadership Dr. Dela Adadevoh.”*

Thank you for your prayers that God will meet us in beyond-normal ways!



## Shelby Abbott

You may remember the name from our recent review of **What’s the Point?: Asking the Right Questions about Living Together and Marriage**. Soon he will also be known as the host of *Real Life Loading*. This upcoming FamilyLife podcast, for 18- to 28-year-olds, is launching in the next few weeks. He recently had a chance to introduce the show on FamilyLife today, and here is part of what he said:

*“I really wanted to create a podcast that was Christ-focused, theologically sound, super real and honest about the struggles that they go through in order to help kind of be a well-trusted guide to come alongside of them/a well-trusted friend, to say, “Let me help you walk with Jesus in the humor and hardship of life, because it’s a combination of the both.”*



**Weekend to Remember**  
by FamilyLife.

A few more quotes to share as we wrap up our spring season!

**Colorado Springs, CO - February 4-6 - 935 Guests**

This is our second WTR. I have been holding back tears of **THANKFULNESS** and **GRATITUDE** for the positive changes that have occurred in our relationship when I compare our first WTR to this one. **God has healed us both** in so many ways and the healing in our marriage is so beautiful and evident. We are excited for our future and the purpose God has for our marriage...our future all for His Glory. (Wife, married 25 years)

**Boise, ID - March 18-20 - 590 Guests**

We decided instead of ending our marriage and dividing a family with children (and one on the way), that we would **confess** our sins to each other, **repent** to each other, and **forgive** like Jesus. It was the most eye opening, difficult, painful, and beautiful example of the gospel I've ever witnessed - to see my husband view me vulnerable and exposed, and tell me he forgives me and loves me. We are both so hopeful and excited to see what will be next for us and to raise our kids in a solid home that's not broken, that **puts God first**; and where we are on the same team. It's the best gift we could ever give them and each other. (Wife, married 7 years)

**Indianapolis, IN - April 8-10 - 769 Guests**

I'm not sure we really had a marriage before we came! I did not realize we were even on a raft, let alone that its natural drift is towards isolation. I knew things weren't great and that I had to "do the work," but I did not understand how or what that even meant. This weekend gave me **the tools I needed** to turn my commitment to my wife into a verb, and created a safe environment to practice what I learned before returning back into the chaos of our everyday lives. (Husband, married 15 years)

**Asheville, NC - June 3-5 - 722 Guests**

So much, we learned ways we can actually **connect** with each other & learned to actually **appreciate** each other. Had really deep convos we needed for so, so long! We are also going to connect with each other more & actually listen to each other. I'm in the Army & away from my wife at the moment & this is the first time we've seen each other in 2 months! **This weekend was so needed!** (Husband)

**Tear & Prayer**



**Praise** for a strong return of the in-person Weekend to Remember, & more planned for the fall.  
**Praise** for a successful completion of the summer IBS courses, both virtual and in person.  
**Pray** for Cru22-U.S. Staff Conference being held in Milwaukee, WI July 16-22 this year. This will be the first since 2019 due to COVID, and in a brand new location after many years in CO. **Pray** for all the logistics and for health, for both the adults and all of the kids in childcare. **Pray** also for Eric & I specifically to grow in our vision and training.  
**Pray** for the Vandiver family, along with Amanda & her boyfriend as they travel to PA, CT & more together over the next few weeks.

Pray for the Riedy Family  
serving with



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