



A Fresh Start

Through our PowerPack™ ministry, Cru® is supporting partner churches to make an immediate impact in the lives of local residents.

However, the benefits of PowerPacks™ go far beyond school supplies — they connect families to loving and supportive church communities and a deeper faith in Christ.

Adrienne grew up attending church and began a relationship with the Lord at a young age.

Unfortunately, many challenges in her life pushed her away from her faith, including an unhealthy relationship that left her caring for her two sons, Cooper (10) and Rylan (7), by herself.

Alone and out of options, she and her boys moved to Minnesota for a fresh start.

Upon arrival, she learned about a food shelf at New Creation Baptist Church, a partner church of Cru serving the inner city of Minneapolis. She made

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A Fresh Start

note of the resource, but never visited. Then, last summer, years after hearing about the food shelf, she received an invitation to a back-to-school bash at the same church. In addition to fun activities, there would be PowerPacks filled with brand-new school supplies for her sons.

“I’ve heard of that church!” she remembered thinking.

Adrienne, Cooper, and Rylan attended the event and enjoyed food, a bouncy house, music, pantomimes, and a wonderful sense of community and belonging. It was so much fun! The boys got to pick out their own backpacks for the upcoming school year.

After being blessed with PowerPacks, Adrienne’s family decided to visit the church for a weekly service. Moved by the Spirit, she re-committed her life to Christ that first Sunday and they became regular attendees. Soon after,

Adrienne and her family decided they wanted to officially join the church. Her sons became involved in Sunday school. Now, both boys proclaim, “I want Christ to be the head of my life, the Lord of my life!”

With this new support, Adrienne has been able to secure a better-paying job and move into more suitable housing. At New Creation, Cooper receives direct mentorship from godly men in the church. And Adrienne’s once-parched soul has been receiving spiritual nourishment through one-to-one discipleship by an older woman in the congregation.

By connecting people like Adrienne and her children to local churches through PowerPacks, Cru comes alongside communities of faith with life-changing results.

In June 2019, Adrienne, Cooper, and Rylan were baptized at the summer church picnic, surrounded by their new church family. Thanks be to God!



From Jail to a Job

“When people find out this felony occurred in your past, what is their response?”

Larry thought before answering the question posed to him. “Most often, ‘I never would’ve guessed that.’ And that is the response I like to hear because I accepted that I had to be in that place [prison], but I didn’t have to let that place be in me.”

While in prison, God gave Larry a moment of clarity that began to turn him in a different direction. Larry explained, “For me, that moment of clarity came when someone was killed in prison. I realized life has value. The life I live is crazy. I have to change. I didn’t take it as a religious experience then, but God was telling me, ‘I have something else for you.’”

Now Larry has his MBA and does small business consulting. Recently, Cru® connected Larry to a partner ministry, where he has started volunteering as a facilitator. Cru introduced Larry and this partner ministry to a tool called WorkNet and provided training on how to use this tool to help people overcome barriers to employment. In the end, twelve men completed the WorkNet

curriculum, and now seven of the men are working and five are back in school.

“It gives guys the confidence to understand that they are employable. It helps them not just find a job where they dread going to work everyday but find a job that they really want to do and hopefully find their calling in life.” Larry

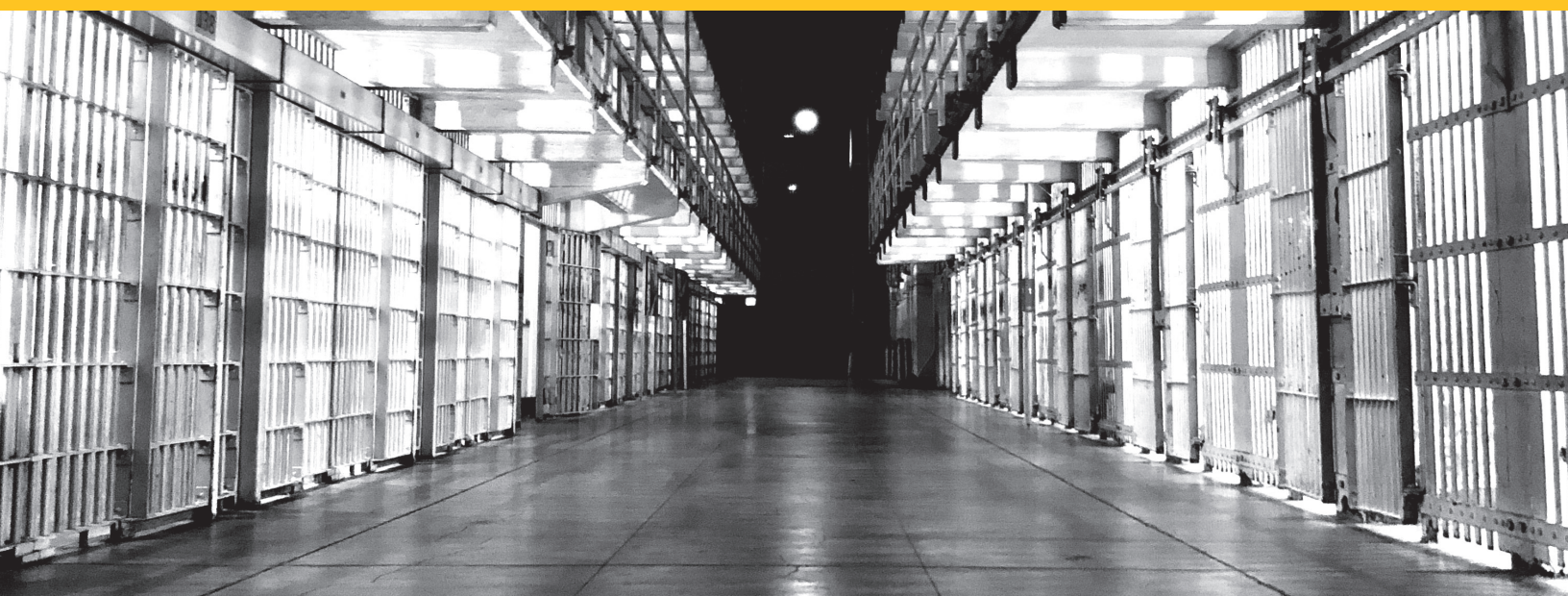
affirmed the impact this was having on the men. In fact, their transformation led him to help more inmates transition from prison to the outside world. He realized that

his own experience navigating a felony is an asset to helping others who are in similar situations now.

Hearing Larry share from his life, 2 Corinthians 5:17 comes to mind. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Praise to God for how He’s transformed Larry’s life and is now using him to minister to others coming out of hard situations.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that make ministry like this possible!

For me, that moment of clarity came when someone was killed in prison



A “Win-Win”

Because you love your family... And because you love the work of God in America’s inner cities...This is a win-win.

You can care for your spouse and children even beyond your lifetime — and make a beautiful impact for the sake of evangelism — by establishing a charitable gift annuity, or CGA.

This straightforward but powerful tool enables you to make a substantial investment in the unique ministry of Cru in the inner city while at the same time supplementing your retirement income.

You simply transfer cash or appreciated assets — stock, real estate, or precious metals — to The Cru Foundation, the estate planning arm of Cru. Then you and the Foundation sign a contract in which the Foundation guarantees an annual income payment for life for you and, after your death, a surviving beneficiary. In more than 60 years of ministry, The Cru Foundation has never missed an annuity payment.

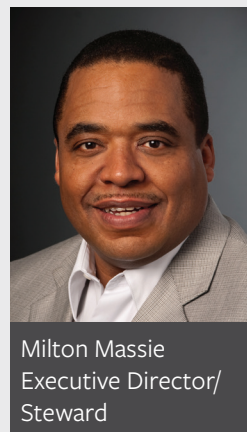
When you and your beneficiary have both passed away, the money is then transferred to Cru for the benefit of its inner-city ministry.

- **Your CGA will give you security — You’ll never have to worry about fluctuations in the stock market because the payments to you are absolutely consistent.**
- **Your CGA provides reliable income for life for both you and your surviving spouse or beneficiary.**
- **It provides flexibility: You can fund a charitable gift annuity with cash or appreciated assets.**
- **And it provides savings: You’ll receive an income tax deduction for your contribution; then a portion of your income will be received income tax-free.**

Along the way, you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that you’re making a huge difference through your support of Cru’s proven-effective inner-city ministry.

To find out more about charitable gift annuities, please consult your financial advisor or contact Dan Howe, Director of Operations, at Cru in the inner city via **612-987-1986** or **dan.howe@cru.org**.

A Personal Word



Milton Massie
Executive Director/
Steward

At Cru Inner City, our work is anchored to three biblical pillars: The Great Commandment to love God and neighbor (Matt 25:35-40), The Great Commission to share the news of God’s love (Matthew 28:16-20), and The

Great Concern to target the marginalized as an audience to whom the Good News is both declared and demonstrated (Isaiah 61:1-8).

These are more than principles, they are a reflection of God’s very nature: He is madly in love with His creation; He wants a covenant relationship with His people; He has a steadfast love for the lost; and He craves justice for those who are on the edges of society.

As a ministry to the whole person, we pray to reflect the fullness of God’s heart in all of these matters. Likewise, we seek ministry partners who are equally committed to modeling this biblical vision of God’s calling on all of our lives.

We must always remember the unbreakable foundation that God has laid for us with these three biblical pillars. As long as we are anchored in His vision, His will shall be done.

Thank you for your partnership as we follow Jesus together! We are honored to serve alongside you as we make our loving and just God known to all!

Grateful for your partnership,

Milton Lee Massie

Milton Massie

Executive Director/Steward

Options Together™ Bible Study

Most Christians today understand that God has a special heart for the poor. Hundreds of scriptures in both the Old and New Testament describe God's care for those on the margins of society. Jesus' life is perhaps the most compelling evidence for God's extraordinary treatment for those caught in poverty's web.

Jesus chose to spend his days not with the political, social, or religious elite, but rather, with the disabled, the sick, prostitutes, thieves, and tax collectors. As a child, Jesus was a political refugee fleeing the murderous tyranny of Herod. During His public ministry, He did not have a "place to lay his head;" He didn't even have enough money to pay the temple tax.

Cru® Inner City has created a transformational Bible study tool called Options Together™ to help believers engage with the Lord's mandate to care for the poor just as Jesus did.

To learn more, or to purchase your own copy for individual or group study, **go to optionstogether.org.**



**Available
NOW!**

From Victim to Victor ... Thanks to You!

She was an overwhelmed single mom, in inner-city Chicago — a survivor of domestic abuse ... not only caring for her own daughter, but also three nieces. Finances were terribly tight.

As the first day of school approached, she had no idea how she could provide the school supplies they would need. Backpacks? No way. A backpack in this family was an out-of-reach luxury.

But a friend like you provided PowerPacks™ to a church in the area, and they got the word out to the neighborhood. Stephanie and her four girls showed up — and they almost couldn't believe it: All the children received brand-new backpacks stuffed with school supplies!

Stephanie was deeply grateful, hugely relieved. The children were thrilled — now they could show up for Day One of the school year with pride, with joy! They were loved!

And through the gospel witness of that church, Stephanie came to faith in Christ.

She joined the church's discipleship class for new believers — and was soon sharing the gospel herself. No longer a victim ... she was a victor! A child of God!

Please give generously now, to support this proven-powerful evangelistic outreach, and provide more backpacks for families like Stephanie's. Thank you for sharing backpacks — school supplies — and God's amazing love!

A backpack in this family
was an out-of-reach luxury



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Occasionally the names and pictures of people featured in this report are changed to protect their privacy.

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