

KELLI PRATTE

Serving students through CRU and the Arts - Haskell Indian Nations University

On a personal note



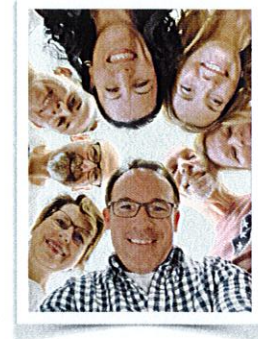
Although I haven't written lately, I am eager to share what has been going on in our lives. As I have shared in previous prayer requests, Rick has been in a challenging situation serving as a senior pastor in Saint Joseph. In light of these struggles, a dear friend "risked offending me" by telling me "you all need help!" She could see the toll it was taking on both of us and knew this was a tailspin we could not pull out

of without pulling away and getting some help and perspective. She recommended we connect with a couple who hosts intensives for ministry workers who are experiencing burnout. As a result of her brave challenge, Rick and I found ourselves halfway around the globe this summer for 2 weeks of digging deeper into our stories and learning to "undo" some things that had been tripping us up for years. Although our hope in going was to figure out how to stay in our post we felt called to 3 years ago, this was not the focus of our time. Our wise counselors asked us to lay the tangled "knot" to the side and focus on

connecting to Jesus and one another. During those days we were given space and care that had not previously been available to tend to some things that had been neglected in our 33 years of non-stop ministry. Our hearts were buoyed by this type of care for our souls and the relationships



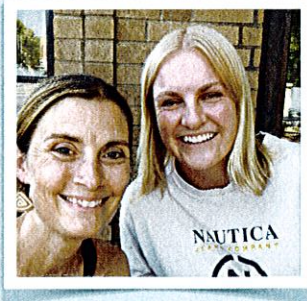
we made with fellow missionaries. We came home still experiencing burnout & exhaustion, but in a different place with the Lord and each other. We are grateful for this dear friend who took the risk to challenge us. We believe the days we invested there will be bearing fruit in our lives for years to come.



Our "intensive" group from around the globe

Prayer/ praise

- Thanks for praying for Tori this summer! It was a JOY to



catch up with her at the end of her summer to hear about the ways her faith is growing. I count it such a privilege to see students grow over their years in college! Please pray for her this fall!

- Please continue to pray for Haskell students -especially for those in leadership and athletics to live out their faith as they lead.

- Please pray for Rick and I as we each take steps to towards what is next. Pray that we will listen to the Lord as we walk this season together and that our confidence will be in Him. Pray for clear leading for Rick in terms of his future employment.

A season of change

Although our intention upon returning was to take our next step at church, it became clear fairly quickly that it was time for Rick to step out of his role. This decision was extremely difficult for us, but it was clear & we are grateful for a deep confidence that God is going to lead and care for us. He will be wrapping up at the end of September and is in the process of determining his next step professionally.

During our intensive I began to pray about my continued work at Haskell. Although my love for the students runs deep and my desire to work at Haskell is high, my capacity for this role is not. The commute, along with campus restrictions and loss of Cru staff and volunteers all led me to a place of decision that it is not best for me to continue commuting weekly. I have begun to shift my formal role within Cru to the Arts & Culture team - specifically, Transform Arts. This role will allow me to serve closer to home yet will allow me to use my gifts in a broader scope. I will still be prioritizing the ongoing relationships I have with Haskell students and actually hope to connect more officially there through the art department. Stay tuned!

Reaching out through the Arts

I had a warm welcome from my Transform Arts team and have already begun jumping in on hosting art events in KC and planning for the artist residency program in NYC. I am grateful that the Lord continues to give me a context in which to serve and use my gifts. Thanks for being so faithful to support me in this work of pursuing students' hearts!



The Transform Arts team hosting an art opening

Kelli