



GET ACQUAINTED with Steve Douglass

We're so pleased to renew a deeper relationship with CRU and President Steve Douglass with the transition of *The Lighthouse Report* to the new *Making Your Life Count*. Now, your turn to get better acquainted too—you can read more of Steve's responses on our website.

You're a grad of MIT and Harvard—what were you preparing to do before the dramatic decision to join Campus Crusade for Christ after graduation? I thought I would go into some lower-level leadership position and work my way up over time in the tech industry. But in my second year at Harvard Business School I got a fellowship from the U.S. Steel Corporation. Between my first and second years, I got to be the researcher on a project considering whether U.S. Steel would move a cable assembly plant from Massachusetts to Houston, Texas. That was a pretty heady experience. But at the end of the summer, I realized ... I'd given heart and soul to U.S. Steel, and sort of nothing to the Lord. I realized I had a choice to make—either pursue the dream that I had been working on ... or serve the Lord, and let Him work out how I would maximize what He had made me in total. Reflecting on that, I made the decision to join the Staff of Campus Crusade for Christ at that time.

Crusade had a significant impact on your spiritual life. Can you talk about that? More than anything else, it was showing me how to appropriate the power of God—the Spirit-filled life—that God intends for us, to walk with Him so closely that we are filled up with Him. Another would be in terms of vision—to see Jesus change people's lives on such a scale that the whole world could be exposed to the possibility of people receiving Christ, and walking with God, and seeing their lives change.

You followed in the footsteps of a rather larger-than-life Christian leader, Cru founder, Bill Bright. What was the most significant lesson you learned under his tutelage? Bill taught me how to have the right perspective on problems. He would say, "I have no problems." The point he was making is that he would cast his cares entirely on the Lord. Then it wasn't his problem, it was Christ's problem. And he operated that way. Another thing that I learned from Bill Bright is to believe God for the impossible.

Anybody else you would mention as a spiritual mentor? In speaking, Howard Hendricks was a mentor. He used stories so well—and humor and enthusiasm. In being more direct, learning to say "No," telling people the way it is, Dr. Henry Brandt was a tremendous help. I've also been mentored by my wife. She would be far more in touch with emotions than I was when I first met her. I would say I've really grown a lot in being in touch with my heart and my feelings for other people as a result of being around Judy all these years.

You and Judy have been married for 40 years. How did you meet and what was it that first attracted you to her? I interviewed her! I was in my final year at Harvard, and doing my Master's research project on Campus Crusade from an organizational point of view. With my three roommates, we spent 800 man hours and interviewed 100 people in the course of the project, travelling to different parts of the U.S. to do—and it just so happens I'm the one who interviewed Judy.

What attracted me to her first and foremost was her walk with God. The second thing was, she was a very joyful person. She had a great smile, and, and fun to be around. It's an almost unspeakable joy to be connected with a person for life that you know is God's choice, especially when you really begin to understand why it was God's choice.

FAVORITE VERSE:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

EPHESIANS 3:20

You and Judy have a very full life. What do you most enjoy for leisure time—when you get that! Well, the most relaxing thing I can do is to sleep 😊. However, Judy and I love to get away together when we can. Most recently, we headed to the mountains of north Georgia. Another thing we enjoy is simply going out to dinner and having a long conversation without an agenda.

Any place in the world you haven't yet visited that's on a bucket list for you? There are plenty of places in the world I haven't yet visited. But I'll be very honest with you—geography isn't a real reward for me in terms of the bucket list.

Let me share a story of my last face-to-face meeting with Dr. Bill Bright. I knew he was going to die soon. Doctors said that, but I also noticed he didn't have very many projects left—he had had this big, big stack of projects for months—now he was down to just one that he had to get done, one book he needed to do some editing on. At the end of our time together he said, "Steve, where are you going to lead the ministry when I'm gone?" Out of my mouth came these words (I didn't plan it—it's just what God put in front of me to say): "Wrap it up. Wrap it up."

I said, "Bill, God gave you a vision before this ministry was formed, and on the basis of that vision, you formed this ministry—that the world would be reached in total. It seems pretty clear what I'm supposed to do from here. You had a vision. That vision wasn't just for you, it was for us as a ministry. My job is to lead us in the direction of getting it done." THAT'S on my bucket list.