

Meet Mark Gauthier | “Making Your Life Count”



In the months since the homegoing of Steve Douglass, leadership at Cru have prayerfully considered who might step into the speaker role for the long-standing short feature the ministry produces titled “**Making Your Life Count.**” And with the new year as catalyst, the next chapter for the feature launched in January 2024 with Mark Gauthier providing the daily encouragement that so well represents the heart of Cru’s mission.

GETTING
ACQUAINTED!

While a student at Colorado State University, Mark met Christ and the transformation was striking. As a student, he participated in a Cru summer project to Romania. It was there, in 1983, that he felt a call to missions, joining the staff of Cru in 1986. Today, Mark serves as Vice President for North America and Oceania on the Global Executive Team at Cru. Married to Kristi, Mark and his wife have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Now ... we’ll let Mark tell you more about himself!

How did your relationship with the Lord get started? How did you get introduced to Christ?

My first year in college, I was going through orientation to get my courses. At a student activities fair, there was a Christian organization called CRU doing spiritual interest surveys and someone stuck it in front of my face. Like any good first year student, I grabbed it and filled it out.

One of the questions was, “*Would you be interested in talking about spiritual things?*” I put maybe ... and subsequently, it was the first time I had ever heard the message that they shared with me. My dad was an agnostic and we were kind of outside the religious community but I always wanted to know more about God. I just had no idea how to know Him. And on that day, what these two individuals shared with me was that there was a God, and He loved me, and He wanted to know me. And He sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross on my behalf. And all I needed to do was to put my trust in Jesus Christ and His payment for the penalty for my sin. I processed that for a few days, and then I finally said, yes, this is what I want, and I invited Jesus into my life—and my life just started to change.

How did your ministry in Cru get started and how did God direct your steps?

It was a missions trip to Romania that started me on a deep spiritual journey. We eventually accepted a role in the Campus Ministry at Harvard. It was such a rich experience. People would always ask if that experience was hard or challenging. No, it was great. We got to share Christ so much there. We saw many, many, many students come to Christ. It was a fertile place to be doing ministry, and we saw God do a lot of things there.

Is there a life verse or some scripture that is prominent in your life and gives your direction?

Hebrews 11:6—without faith, it’s impossible to please God for he who comes to God must believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. I think about that with anything new. First of all, it’s going to require faith, and faith is always predicated on the fact that I don’t have all the answers. Stepping into the role with *Making Your Life Count* is certainly a new experience for me as was the leadership role over North America and Oceania. It’s by faith we are able to do the “new”—believing the God of the impossible. And God’s been faithful. It’s not always easy or without challenges. It’s not always perfect—in fact, it’s never perfect—but He works in ways that only God can work.

Who would you consider a mentor of yours?

I think of an individual who disciplined me in college. And to this day, I think often about what he taught me in those early years of my walk with God and about believing in God to do the impossible. I also think of Steve Sellers. We’ve worked together for 27 years and he’s been someone who always challenged me with new opportunities. Just watching him live and lead, and processing life with him, has been a huge blessing and a catalytic support in my life.

What’s on your bookshelf?

I tend to work on a few books at a time—not usually just one. I’m reading *A Grief Observed* by C. S. Lewis. I’ve read the book before several times about his journey in losing his wife, Joy. It’s such an insightful book. I’m also reading *The Rebirth of Orthodoxy* by a professor (Thomas Oden) which talks about the place of theological fidelity or orthodoxy that has been true of the church from the very foundations of the church and how “rock solid” it is even today.

I’m reading a commentary on the book of Matthew from Frederick Dale Bruner that’s wonderful, opening my eyes up to so much in Scripture. And one more ... my wife and I are reading *The Meaning of Marriage* by Timothy Keller, which is really challenging us in our marriage.

In recent years you lost both of your parents. Talk about that part of your journey?

You know, what struck me, up until my parents’ home going, is that there’s never been a day where my parents didn’t factor into my mindset some way. God blessed me with two wonderful parents, who came to know the Lord later in life. They really leaned into that walk with God, He was so real in their lives, and I’m grateful for that. There’s two sides to the coin. One is the grief, the loss—though not as those without hope. And then the other side of the coin is knowing the confidence they both had that they were going to be with the Lord. And what a difference that made in their lives, at the end of their lives.

What do your grandchildren call you?

Pops! And my wife is Yaya. That started with our oldest granddaughter who just started to call Kristi “Yaya.” That’s a great name and I love it. So it’s “Pops and YaYa” for us!

Making Your Life Count is produced in both a 1:00 and 2:00 daily format; you can audition the feature at our website; for placement, contact Rebecca@ambaa.com.