

THE WINZ FAMILY (Mark and Anne Marie)

What is a day in your life like?

It's very much like one of yours. We live in Orlando and work at Cru headquarters.

At Cru, Mark serves on the U.S. Communications team. He helps create and produce work for Worldwide Challenge magazine and our corporate website, Cru.org. Our organization (and that includes Mark) is planning major changes for the ways we communicate with our audiences.

I work for Judy Douglass, the wife of Cru's president, Steve Douglass. Our goals are to connect our staff women to Christ and to each other, to encourage them, and to resource them with ideas they might not find other places in our ministry. I manage two online communities and a newsletter. In the past year, our communications team has grown from three people to seven. We could use a few more people to help us.

We attend church on Sunday mornings, and we are part of a leadership team and small groups.

Would you like to share any information about your mission's team?

Mark and I work on different teams. He's on the U.S. Communications Team. They are looking for new and fresh ways to communicate with our audiences. Changes are coming. Mark will have a part in guiding people through this transition.

I work on a team with seven women. We are mostly women with grown children, and we are learning new technology to do our jobs well. We manage two online communities and a newsletter.

How is God moving in my life?

One of the only constants in life is change. Change can challenge everything we know and believe is true about God. If everything else is changing, will He change, too? The answer is no.

I keep coming back to the first four chapters of Hebrews. God is God from Creation through the present. We are at risk of drifting. The Israelites drifted when they chose unbelief and disobedience. (See the story of the 12 spies). They incurred God's wrath.

I, too, have been warned not to drift. If unbelief and disobedience makes God angry, what pleases Him? Belief and obedience. In the midst of change, my peace comes, not from a change of circumstances in my favor, but, instead, from within by choosing to believe God is who He says He is, and I can live like it, regardless of what comes at me.

It's been a journey. I don't walk it perfectly. I'm still learning. Grateful, oh, so grateful, for the Holy Spirit and for the forgiveness of my sins.

Are there any struggles, triumphs you would like to share?

See above. When I walk by faith, I'm at peace with God. I don't think there is any greater triumph than that. When I don't, life is struggle.

Changes that are coming to the U.S. Communications team will be challenging. We'll keep you informed of the changes as we learn more.

How can we pray for you?

Pray that we would choose daily to walk by faith, trusting that God is who He says He is, and living like we believe it.

Pray for Mark and the team he's on as they help the organization determine how to best communicate with our audiences.

Pray for wisdom as I upgrade the website for one of our online communities called Prayer for Prodigals. We're getting ready to go live.

Pray for our son, Michael. Thank God with us he has a job in Madison, WI working for Epic, a medical software company. Pray that he would find a way to reconnect with the body of Christ there.

Pray for Bethany. In the Fall, she will enter her final semester of college in Nashville, TN. She would like to attend graduate school. Ask God to give her wisdom as she chooses what comes next. Pray that God will provide scholarships to fully fund grad school.

Ask God to lead us to the people who need the blessing of being part of our financial support team. Like every missionary we know, we're underfunded. Thank God with us that He has met our needs, He is meeting our needs and He will continue to meet our needs in the future. We understand the value of having individuals who give to our work and who pray with us.

Do you have any needs we can meet as a church family?

Thank you for asking. Your church family has already come alongside us and met so many needs for friendship, prayer support and financial needs. While you were in the old building, you gave a gift to help us purchase a car while we lived in the Philippines. We won't forget it.

Currently, one of our greatest needs is for our daughter, Bethany, to get well. Three years ago, she contracted Lyme. It took a year and a half to get it diagnosed.

Lyme is a bacterial infection that can also come with a variety of other symptoms. Bethany has parasites and viruses. One of the challenges of treating and curing Lyme is to discover what those combinations are and then decide how to effectively treat them. As you can imagine, treatment is complex and expensive. Please pray that Bethany will get well and stay well.

Thank God for so generously providing for us over 30 years of ministry and allowing us to pay Bethany's medical bills. The thank you is both because God has met our needs in the past and present. And it is also by faith, because we continue to thank God that He will meet our needs into the future.

We are currently asking/ thanking God for supplying additional funding so we can continue in ministry and pay Bethany's bills.

Part 2: We have so appreciated the friendship your congregation has extended to us through the years. We'd like to find a way to meet and connect with newer members of the congregation.

We are available to:

Come for special church events if we know about them in advance

Meet with small groups while we're in town

Have lunch after church with anyone who wants to join us

Join any small group via video conference

Host a half-day writers workshop next time we're in town, including how to capture memories via words and pictures

Thank you very much for reaching out to us. This is a great first step.

What would I like to see from Missions Moments?

You have always turned those moments into opportunities to pray for us. Like you, we're in the thick of the battle. Having you pray for us is so encouraging.