



# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## How to Respond with Thanksgiving in All Circumstances

*Even as the days get shorter and the weather gets colder.*

**N**ovember is the month of giving thanks. As Thanksgiving approaches, we are all called to stop and think about all the things we are thankful for. Now, if you're anything like me, November is also the month when your classes start getting boring, fall starts turning into winter, and you're in the midst of midterms. It can be hard to find or set aside time for the solitude we need with God. All of this combined makes it really hard to feel thankful at times. But He calls us to be thankful in all circumstances—even frustrating ones.

Last month I took a trip to Chicago and on the way home I missed my flight by *5 minutes*. I underestimated how much time it would take to get to the airport and as I stood in line, I grew more and more indignant. *Why is that old man refusing to take off his shoes? Why can't people go around him? Why are the security people taking so long? Did they really have to stop me and look in my bag?* I was definitely not feeling very grateful in that moment or in the next seven hours I spent trying to sleep on a bench in the O'Hare airport. Yet Jesus, on the night before He died,

*"...took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'" (Luke 22:19)*

Jesus, on the night before he KNEW he was going to die a slow and painful death, gave thanks.

**In the most difficult of circumstances, Jesus chose to thank God.**

Fast forward to last Sunday. I'm sitting in church trying to listen to the sermon but all I can think about is the mounds of homework I have to do, my internship search, what I'm going to wear to the career fair, and whether or not I'll have time to go to the gym this week. But in the middle of my constant worrying and self-absorption, the pastor invites us to take communion. And I am reminded once again, that Jesus died for me. And then He was raised back to life! Jesus conquered death itself. How can He not also restore my messy, broken life? If God can send His own Son to die, and then bring him back to life, can't I trust Him with mine?

God gave us the gift of His Son, by sending Him to die and then bringing him back to life. If He can show His love for me in lazy Saturdays, gorgeous fall weather, and homemade, free meals after church, can't He show it through missed flights, late nights, and the stress of exams and the future? God can take any situation, life event, or circumstance, and use it to show us His love



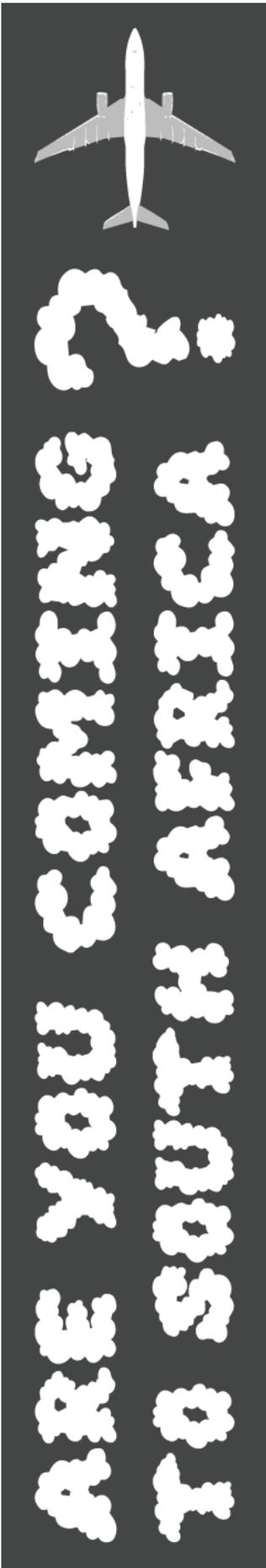
by **REBEKAH LEARY**

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Bekah is a third year at the University of Virginia and double majoring in Youth & Social Innovation and Russian. She is the youngest of five siblings and spent most of her life as an MK in Kiev, Ukraine. She has spent the past two summers in Thailand and South Africa with MK2MK. When she isn't working or studying, she is probably hanging out with friends, thinking of her next punny Instagram caption, or weighing the pros and cons of individualized learning for low-income schools in America.

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and mercy for us. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, everything in life provides us with some reason to give thanks. This is why it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to “give thanks in all circumstances.” So as the weather starts to

get colder, the days get shorter, and the fear of impending exams begins, remember what Jesus did for you. Remember how He showed His love for you on the cross and respond to that with thanksgiving, despite your circumstances. 



## MK2MK Summer Internship 2016

**Who:** College age MKs who desire to have a ministry in the lives of younger MKs, this summer and beyond (through conferences, care trips etc). We are looking for interns who have a heart for the world and for making Christ known in word and deed, and who want to help teenage MKs be effective in ministry.

**When:** The summer internship is available every other year. The next one will be May 18, 2016 – August 18, 2016

**Where:** 2016 – Orlando, FL and Port Shepstone, South Africa

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The deadlines for the internship application are different than normal MK2MK summer project applications. Please send in your application and references BEFORE January 5th.*

**More Questions?**  
Email [donna.kushner@cru.org](mailto:donna.kushner@cru.org)

**How much:** The cost of the internship is the same as the cost of the summer project (project cost plus airfare). Project departure and return will be from Orlando so you will be responsible for covering your costs to get here (added to your support goal). This means that your costs in Orlando for food, lodging, transportation is essentially free except for pocket money. Need to earn some money this summer? Our internship program is designed so that you can raise up to an extra \$1500 that will come back to you in what is called an ‘honorarium’ (essentially a paycheck).