



a publication of kirk irwin and sarah kennedy irwin in ministry with Cru and partnering with Friday Arts Project

FEB 2020

## Count Your Blessings, Part 2

More about our last year and a little about this year.



**MAY & JUNE 2019** In late May we made a trip to Texas because Sarah's niece was getting married in Lubbock, Texas. It was a great wedding and wonderful to welcome Mia's new husband, Vince into the family.

We stayed an extra week in order to spend a weekend at an annual conference in Tehuacana, Texas. This conference is beneficial to Christians working and ministering in the Arts. A highlight was reconnecting with an old friend from New York days, Jamie. He has been an artist and curator for decades and it had been some years since he and Kirk had seen each other. We cherish our time with Jamie last summer and we've maintained our contact as much as possible since he lives outside the USA.



**JULY & AUGUST 2019** The summer of 2019 was a traveling summer for us. We were home for about a month, then in July we headed west again to attend the biannual Cru Conference in Colorado—which we wrote more about in our August 2019 letter. We returned to Rock Hill in time to welcome incoming Winthrop University students during an event on campus called Convocation. Student and local organizations set up tables to invite students to become more involved on and off campus. We had a table and handed out our annual 200+ handmade sketchbooks on the busy but sweltering day. It is a great rallying day for any new students but especially our FriArts leaders on campus. This year one of those student leaders—Lydia—was baptized at her church. Dennissa (on our staff team) had been meeting with her for the past 2 years. It's so great to see a young artist growing in her relationship with God!



from top: Mia & Vince are married!; Jamie & us in Tehuacana; Anna, Lydia & Dennissa.

**FEBRUARY 2020** Since moving into the studio space last year, we have tried to find ways of utilizing the space to serve and connect with our local artists. One of the ways that we do this is through something we call "Gettys Together". One afternoon a month, we invite the artists connected to studios downtown to come and hang out with us. It has been amazing to have our art neighbors come for some or all of the time—chat, talk, and just get to know us and each other better. Some have even discovered their fellow artists, who have a studio in the same building, for the first time!

Two things this event has done for us and the community. One, it has made our community and the buildings we do stuff in "more

human"—in that there is a greater warmth and familiarity among the community. And two, it has increased our neighbors' trust in us. Some of the artists have felt a freedom to just stop by to talk when we are in. And they have begun to see us as one of them. This goes a long way in building trust and opens opportunities to go into deeper places to believe God to transform lives and a community.

Thanks for your prayers and help in this. Next month we'll tell you about the last part of our 2019 and another segment of more recent news. ■

Blessings—

Please Pray:

- » That God would use us to help someone in our community take the next step toward Him.
- » More staff and volunteers to assist our growing work.
- » For our personal financial support.

### MINISTRY FUNDING STATS

How close are we to being fully-funded?

CURRENT SOLID SUPPORT



- ★ For more information about us and our ministry, visit our website: [www.birdandkey.com](http://www.birdandkey.com) or check out Friday Arts Project Facebook page or website: [www.fridayartsproject.org](http://www.fridayartsproject.org)
- ★ If you would like to partner with us in ministry, visit our giving page on Cru's website: [www.cru.org/0402593](http://www.cru.org/0402593)



**THURSDAY, MAR 26**  
(last Thursday of the month)  
**STUDIO #205**  
**4 TO 6PM**



\*Artists who rent a studio in the Gettys Center on The Center For The Arts, please join us & bring something to share (drink or light refreshment), if you'd like.

generosity. wonder. craft.

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