

BIRD and KEY NEWS

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

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Iron Sharpens Iron

"As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another."

—Proverbs 27:17



When I first met him he looked nothing like a farmer or "homesteader" (a person who wishes to utilize their lands to sustain their lives), but more like a hipster. He introduced himself as "Rocky"—yes, Rocky—and as I shook his hand warmly images of Sylvester Stallone and Burgess Meredith flew through my mind. We didn't see each other for sometime when we recently crossed paths last Fall.

While talking at a friend's Christmas party this past December I later asked if he would want to meet to discuss some of the topics we talked about—building community, having significant local impact, participating in public life—all while still walking with God. He happily agreed, and now we have been meeting early on most Thursdays, to drink coffee and talk about how to walk with God and have a local impact.

He told me about the 40+ acres he and his wife purchased and how he was learning how to build a home. The "hipster becomes a farmer"—one who wishes to see his community flourish economically, culturally, spiritually, values the importance of place, land, and Jesus in that growth. He has a vision to see his local world changed—he

wants to see his nearby small town changed for Jesus. And that Jesus wouldn't only bring salvation, but also transformation—and then their community could flourish regardless of circumstances or difficulties faced.

Jesus Himself said in John 13 that our love for one another would be distinctive. So distinctive that love shown at a personal—dare I say local—level would become known by "all people".

So, we'll continue to meet, drink coffee, share our stories and trust our Lord that he'll change us and others around us. We will talk about his farm—something that interests me—and our ministry to the art community—something that interests him, and trust it will bring about a little more of the power of "loving one another."

Rocky has already attended a few of our events, and we plan to join him at some of the events in his community.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

—John 13:35

Blessings—

Sarah and Kirk

Please Pray

- » Continue to pray that God would give us wisdom in our relationships with non-believers especially in the face of the potential sale of the Gettys Center. We have seen our interaction increase with many of our neighbors, and we want to trust God to work in the midst of those times.
- » Pray the prayer with us that we try to pray before every event, "*Jesus, help us be a part of someone's next step toward you.*"
- » Please pray that God would continue to provide for our financial support. We dearly love this worthwhile ministry. If you know someone who would appreciate what we do, please share our info with them or contact us.

Updates

- » Praise God that our church Resurrection Anglican Church (ACNA) recently became a "parish" meaning we went from a church plant to a regular church. God has been growing the church significantly since we started attending about a year ago. Pray also as we seek a way to set up adult "Sunday schools" for the church - I (Kirk) will help serve in this area.
- » Sarah continues to paint. Her current series "Artifacts" is close to being done. One piece was recently accepted into the largest art festival in the southeast called "Art Fields" (website of her piece: <https://www.artfieldssc.org/galleries/art/2025/artifacts-fishes-s-p-shakers/257554>). Pray as we seek to "market" her series to galleries throughout the region.

If you would like to partner with us in ministry, visit our giving page on Cru's website: www.cru.org/0402593

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