



Living with **HARD THINGS**

We reach out to faculty and grad students, who, like all of us, question why bad things happen to good people. This seems like a reason not to trust God and the gospel.

One of our Cru staff colleagues and his wife lost their son in 2005. Roger has been a sought-after campus speaker and leader. Their son, Brett, a senior at Indiana University, engaged to be married, was a member of the Indiana National Guard. His unit was called up to go to Afghanistan but he didn't come home, having been killed by a landmine. This loss set Roger on an agonizing 2-year search to reconcile what he had previously believed about God and the gospel with this painful loss. We asked him to share this story with 25 professors, spouses, friends, and one undergrad at a dinner outreach meeting in late October.

While briefly sharing the circumstances of their son's death, Roger explained that he could not understand how such a bright, godly, fun-loving young man could be taken from them so cruelly. It caused him to question God's goodness, power, trustworthiness - you name it. Anger, sorrow, depression, and despair were his daily emotions for months and months. Ultimately, he realized that he could not deny all that God had done in his life since college. He had come to have faith in Christ, he had seen answered prayer, and that God had used him in ministry. All of these things were undeniable. He concluded that though Brett's death was painful, God had not left him. The Lord could still be trusted, and he and his wife could still treasure the memories they had of their wonderful son.

And so it is with all of us. There is much in this life that confounds us. Tragedy befalls both Christians and non-Christians. But those who know Christ have resources in the gospel, knowing that God cares and is near to the brokenhearted. Perhaps you have recently suffered a significant loss. Perhaps there is much in this life that you regret. The world as we know it is a difficult place. Jesus in acknowledging the difficulty of life said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jn 16:33.

We are grateful for the part you have in making it possible for us to carry the message of God's love and forgiveness to the campus. Thank you for standing with us through your prayers and partnership.

Giving thanks for you,



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