

FAMILYLIFE®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Greetings to you,

What were some of your family traditions growing up? I don't mean the "boring, stuffy, groan-inducing" traditions. I'm talking about the "inviting, exciting, look-forward-to-it-every-year" kind of traditions: a certain sporting event, a trip, time with grandparents, a vacation, or maybe a holiday. For me (Abraham) it was the road trips to California we made at Christmas time.

Our family just experienced one of those events that I believe will become a beloved tradition in the years to come.

Every two years the staff of Campus Crusade gathers at Colorado State University for a time of learning, vision-casting, reconnecting with friends, and seeking God. Although it has a longer official name, most of the staff affectionately call the event - CSU! (Yes, with the exclamation point; see pictures at www.bit.ly/csu2011pics.)

A few of this year's highlights for us included getting to travel there with our friends, the Loos family. Our girls love hanging out with their daughters. We reconnected with other friends on staff and others that live in Colorado and Idaho. Beyond the challenging messages by Francis Chan, and David Platt or the fun concerts by Tenth Avenue North, David Crowder Band, and Tim Hawkins; we also loved the memories the trip allowed us to develop as a family. We spent so many hours in a car together. You can watch/listen to some of the general sessions on the web at: www.ccci.org/csu.

Overall, we came away refreshed and more resolved in our call to work with FamilyLife. I, personally, have experienced reinvigorated times of prayer. I've been feeling a deep sense that we are co-laborers with God in this work. I awake convinced that we can do nothing without Him, yet He chooses to use us to work alongside Him as we minister to families, share the gospel, and raise our support.

We are aware that we are not alone in this ministry-you have partnered with us-in this work. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support in ministry.

Fighting for families,



Abraham and Deborah Lara

PS. Another significant change that occurred was the announcement of an official name change for Campus Crusade for Christ to Cru beginning in 2012. The change was made to more effectively engage the gospel with those who need it most. And the gospel is still our mission. For information about the change visit: www.ccci.org/cru.



Anna
(10)



Danielle
(9)



Julia
(7)



Rachel
(4)



Sarah
(3)



Naomi
(3)



Abraham & Deborah: loved connecting with friends and family during our trip to Colorado.

Anna: loved the Tenth Ave North and Tim Hawkins concerts and not doing dishes in the cafeteria.

Danielle: loved the Rec. Center massive swimming pool, "lazy river", and hot tub.

Julia: loved visiting Whit's End at Focus on the Family's headquarters.

Rachel, Sarah & Naomi: enjoyed their "Kid's Care" classes during the day at CSU.

(see pictures at www.bit.ly/csu2011pics)

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