



# Erick & Courtney Horrmann

*Serving in Central Wisconsin*

3401 Harmony Lane, Apt. 3 • Stevens Point, WI • 54481  
erick.horrmann@cru.org • 612-719-1553 • courtney.horrmann@cru.org • 612-868-2360

July 10, 2013

The past month has been incredibly exciting, challenging, and refining. Since the school year hasn't quite started yet, we thought it'd be fun to share more about our times in the Word, what we're learning, and how you can pray for us before we report back to campus to begin planning the 2013-2014 school year.

This summer, I (Courtney) have been working through a study of the book of Daniel. Often, when I'm doing a study, a theme of sorts emerges as I dive deeper and deeper into the book. The Holy Spirit makes it difficult for me to ignore. It's clear. It's direct. And if you haven't already guessed, this happened to me while studying Daniel.

You should know that I've struggled, longer than I care to admit, with unbelief. Intellectually I believe, and I teach, that God loves us, is with us, and is for us. We are holy and sacred vessels because He said so. But upon peeling back the layers of my heart, I found that I believed God would provide for everyone else's needs except my own. I've even watched that happen over the years as we've worked to raise our support. I believe in Him, but I didn't believe Him. See the difference? The truths I read in His Word didn't stick. This is a stronghold that has really bound me up.

Through my study, I of course came to the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. You probably know it but I'll summarize it just to make sure we're on the same page. King Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue of himself and requires everyone in Babylon to worship it. But three men say "nope, not doing that" because they only worship God. The king gets angry, turns up the dial on the furnace, ties them up, and gives them one more chance to change their minds before he tosses them in. And what do they say -- this is my favorite part of the story -- "... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." (Dan 3:17-18). I would have loved to see the look on King Neb's face. Their faith is not shaken. They know their God. He brought them there and He is faithful -- always.

While studying this chapter, I was reminded that when facing a fiery trial the Lord often purposely delivers us through a fire. He doesn't deliver us out of things -- sometimes He does -- but usually, He wants us to endure trials so that we will come out more refined and faithful to Him. This happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were indeed thrown into the fire -- the Lord did not by His strength put out the fire or change King Neb's mind. He totally could have. Instead, these men enter those flames fully clothed, but don't get burned. Just their ropes are burned away. They became boundless and walk out of the furnace unscathed. They were free and brought fame to the Lord's name because of it.

## Prayers & Praise

Pray for our nine interns who are currently raising their support for this next school year. We are so blessed to have these laborers alongside us on campus. Pray for endurance and strength and for their teams of ministry partners.

Pray and thank the Lord for our remaining support. We need to raise \$750 in monthly support before the first week in August. We're so close! Pray for potential partners to answer their phones and respond to emails. Pray for the Lord to continue to surprise us. Pray for endurance and focus. The end is in sight and we're excited to see how He will meet our needs. We thank you for your partnership in our ministry and serving with us.

Pray for us as we travel to Colorado for a week-long staff conference beginning July 14. This happens every other summer and it is such a blessing to bring all U.S. staff together to reconnect, learn, grow and develop as laborers. Pray for our leaders within Cru and that the Lord would speak to us collectively.

My current trial has been a long, trying, up-hill climb of support raising. But I praise the Lord that it is taking this long. I've been refined. It has burned the fake out of me and freed me from the unbelief that bound me up. No longer do I just believe in the Lord, I believe Him. I wouldn't be here four years later without Him. This wasn't the first trial, and it certainly won't be the last, but I find myself praising Him today because He knew exactly what I needed to be free.

God allows us to walk through trials to free us from the bondage (unforgiveness, pride, unbelief, bitterness, etc.) so that we come out on the other side stronger and more like the men and women the Lord intended us to be. How are you rejoicing in the trials He has placed before you?

*"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7*

*Praising God for you, Erick & Courtney*

Camping in Two Rivers, WI earlier this summer.



