

The Hetzel Herald

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CRU (CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST)

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Left: Queens College with a great view of NYC

Top: Our girls sitting in a military helicopter

Right: Blake at the hospital getting a breathing treatment

Why NYC?

As we are meeting with people, sharing about our ministry and our vision for NYC, and trusting God to grow our team of ministry partners, we get lots of questions. The question we get asked most often is "Why NYC?"

As we shared in our prayer letter a few months ago, in diversity, influence, and scope, there is no place like New York City. With 8.4 million people, with 140 colleges and universities, and with only 5% of people in the city considering themselves Christians, there is a huge need for believers to infiltrate the city. We are trusting the Lord to change this city culturally, politically, economically, and spiritually and because of its influence, to see this change roll throughout our country and the whole world.

I (April) grew up in a small town where you couldn't go to Wal-Mart without someone knowing your name. I hated cities and was petrified of one-way streets until I was in college. While we were living and doing ministry in Kentucky 5 years ago, Ed saw a

video on how strategic reaching New York City is. He came back and said "What would you think of moving there?" My response was "If we are going to think about this, I guess I should visit", as I had never been there. We started talking about it and even visited, but felt the Lord leading us to NC.

While being in NC the last 4.5 years, we felt the Lord giving us more and more of a heart for reaching NYC- from taking us there on short-term trips to helping to lead a summer mission for 5 weeks. As we prayed and talked about this option, I had lots of doubts, concerns, and questions: "What if my kids or I hate it?", "What if we can't raise the support we need?", "I don't even like cities!"

As we processed this, the Lord continued showing us how strategic the city was, calling us to trust Him and step out in faith, and even using the story of Esther in the Bible to show us that we can have the "What If" questions, but we can't let those paralyze us and keep us from going where He wants us.

To lots of people, our decision to move to NYC seems like a crazy one, but we know that the Lord has given us a heart for reaching THIS city and we are excited to be a part of what He wants to do there!!

Prayer Requests:

- We are at 67% of what we need financially to move to NYC. We are trusting the Lord to provide the rest by August so we can be on campus to start the school year!
- Every one of our kids has been to the doctor or hospital in the last month. Pray that everyone gets and stays healthy.
- Pray that we would trust the Lord and walk in faith, even if our feelings and emotions are telling us otherwise.

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