



The Abatie Article

As always, I thank you all for being an integral part of my team. Your prayers and your partnership bolster me on in ministry at Michigan State University, and encourage me greatly in this support-rasing season. Read on for some updates on life over the holidays and winter months!



In mid-February, thousands of students gathered online to celebrate the new year in a new version of our annual Winter Conference. They heard from speakers like Charlie Dates and Jennie Allen, and had many opportunities to fellowship together (in-person and virtually) to pray and discuss God's goodness and calling on their lives.

New Year, New Mercies

January, in my family, is a busy month. We celebrate both mine and Josh's birthday alongside the new year, and normally dive head-first into a new semester at MSU and Josh's high school. As for many of you, this January

looked different. After being blessed to visit my family in Florida for Christmas, we arrived back home in snowy Lansing at 11:50pm on New Year's Eve. It was the smallest, quietest celebration I have ever experienced. A couple of days later, we celebrated my birthday with a marathon of The Lord of the Rings. For much of January and February, Josh taught from home. It was a strange beginning to what I'm sure will be a strange year, but I'm reminded of hope: Our God is the same in the fire storm as he is in the quiet voice; our God is the same in the roaring celebrations of a normal New Years as he is in the quiet night at home. He has always been faithful, and surely he is now.

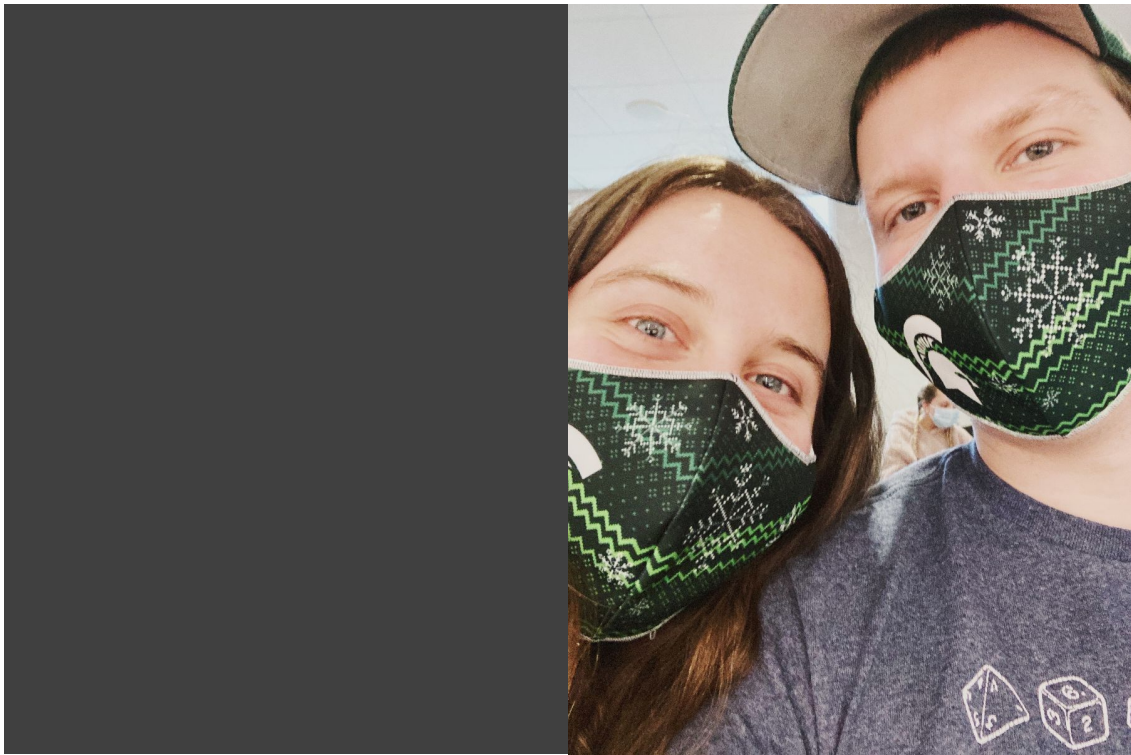
January looked different in another way, too. I took a couple of classes through Cru's Institute of Biblical Studies to continue my training as a missionary. Over the three weeks, myself and over a hundred other students dedicated our time to learning from experts on such topics (and practices) as Bible study methods and Christian theology. I loved these three weeks! I don't miss the homework associated with school, but I miss the regular rhythms of learning built in to classes. I feel better equipped now to study the Word with care, and to integrate my faith into the long history of believers who have come before me. I am so excited to share all that I learned in these classes with students. Will you pray with me that those lessons will continue to sanctify me as a believer, wife, and missionary; and, in turn, that they would impact the students I disciple when I return to campus?

As February bleeds into March, I am turning my focus back onto full-time support raising in the hopes of getting to return to campus work soon!



While visiting family in Florida for Christmas, we enjoyed a break from Michigan's winter cold by taking a hike at a local nature reserve near my parents' home. We saw a beautiful bald eagle sitting atop this telephone pole!

Josh and I sported our new masks and Spartan spirit while traveling between my home state of Florida and our transplant state of Michigan!



MSU Cru students and staff got together for a fun afternoon of sledding in late January. Students are particularly refreshed by these events when they can gather together safely and enjoy each other's company.

Ways to Pray with Me

Praises:

- A few dormitories on campus have opened up to students this semester, allowing for freshmen to live on campus for the first time this school year!
- Cru's annual Winter Conference (normally in Indianapolis over Christmas break) still happened! It was a virtual gathering in February with over 5,000 students in attendance, including a number from Michigan State! There, they heard speakers teach on the Word, worshipped together, and attended breakout sessions of their choosing.
- As we near the halfway mark of a new semester, it's worth praising God for all of the students who--in spite of COVID, online classes, living off-campus or

outside of East Lansing--still have chosen to walk faithfully with God this year as leaders and learners in our movement.

Prayer Requests:

- Freshmen are finally living in the dorms, and some buildings on campus are open to our staff team. Please pray for opportunities to connect with these students, and that God would open doors (literally and figuratively) to gospel conversations with them.
- As I reflect on my classes, please pray that God would use that time of learning to equip me to "walk worthy" with him, and to help students do the same through this training!
- Josh will return to school to teach in-person in mid-March. Please pray for safety for teachers and students, and a smooth transition back into the physical classroom after a year outside of it.
- I've reached 80% of my needed support! Please pray that God continues to provide what I need to return to campus soon!



Praying for YOU!

I truly thank God for each of you and the unique ways in which you have all supported me this year. Thank you for being cheerful givers and believers partnered together in the earth-shaking act of prayer.

Josh and I want to be praying for you, too! Please tell me how we can do that: rebecca.ryder@cru.org | (239) 357-1324

With great love and gratitude,
Rebecca (Ryder) Abatie
Intern with Cru at MSU

[Click here to give in support of my ministry!](#)



*If you would like to give in support of my ministry, please go to <https://give.cru.org/0998823>
If you would like to help with support in another way, I would love to contact people you may know to
share my ministry with them!*

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