

New Jersey College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant

May 2012

Gears are changing in life and ministry now that the semester is over. We are excited to jump into a research and development phase—preparing tools, resources and communications for local churches to plug into the lives of these amazing students! We have solid relationships with 20 volunteers from a half-dozen churches around South Jersey, and we hope to inspire similar relationships all around NJ! Please pray as we investigate the opportunity to build volunteering around the whole US this Fall!

Love, Jeff + Karen

Praises!

- * Exciting church partnership project this summer
- * 5 interns for next year
- * Karen's health returns
- * More students headed on mission trips
- * 20 Volunteers active in S. Jersey already!

Prayer Requests

- * God to open hearts of non-Christian friends
- * Karen's health to keep improving
- * Ministry planning for next school year
- * That we demonstrate the gospel to our kids

Recent Highlight— Finishing Well

On the first Friday in May we held our third annual **End-of-the-Year BarbeCru!** Pictured here are SOME of the people who came. At one point there were over 45 people there! To look back over the past 3 years of living in South Jersey and to see all God has done through the ministry is remarkable. The hand of God is obvious. The students and friends you see in the picture above are mainly from Rowan and Rutgers Camden, and most are faithful leaders who long to see the Kingdom of God advance on their campus. Others are new believers, new to the ministry, volunteers, staff, graduating seniors and one incoming freshman. I love looking at this picture and thinking about all the life change God has brought through using weak vessels such as us. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. We look forward to seeing God's glory on display each year as we trust in His sovereign guidance.



Upcoming Highlight— Students Stepping Out in Faith

We are so excited to report that 5 graduating students in NJ have been accepted to intern with the ministry for a year as full-time missionaries! Since we joined staff ourselves, we've never seen more than 2 interns in a single year, and most permanent staff spend at least one year as interns first.

Brianna (right) is the first student to graduate from a South Jersey campus with a heavy involvement in the ministry since we moved here. She was the first South Jersey student to take part in one of our summer mission trips, and will be our first intern next fall. Noah (left) just finished his sophomore year and (with a friend he made from another campus) will head out on his first mission trip with Cru in a few weeks. Please contact us if you'd like to meet them and hear how your financial support can help enable these students to boldly follow God's path for them.



Family News

Please pray as we consider an amazing opportunity to work for a year at the national Headquarters of Cru in Orlando! The transition would be tough, but an adventure too. Jeff would be trained by national leaders as we live in an apartment with other missionary families, and Karen would be personally mentored by a staff mom life-coach. The hardest part would be the separation from all our loved ones here, and the ministry that has been thriving in NJ.

Our house is filled with singing and games these days, as Arthur and Katherine interact with each other more than ever. They are making lots of friends with students and have even been taking part in the ministry, offering prayer request forms to students on campus.

Arthur is very excited because we switched their bedrooms. He doesn't care that his is now bigger, he just loves the green carpet. He just turned 4 years old this week, and his imagination is through the roof. He has enjoys building complex structures (see picture) and turning his "bad guy" toys into "good guys."

Katherine is testing boundaries left and right. We moved her into a big-girl bed, from which she constantly escapes, and we would especially appreciate extra prayers for patience. Mealtime can be especially messy right now, but a lot of fun too. She loves to copy Arthur, who loves to prompt her with silly noises and yes... lots of singing!



Arthur and Katherine with fellow staff kids: Joel, Callia and Levi Baehr



What God's Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

It's easy to think that serving the Lord *more* (by giving more time to ministry) automatically means our relationship with the Lord is better or that we are walking more closely with God, but in fact it can mean the opposite. Often ministry itself can get in the way of our relationship with God, and the more we put into it, the less useful we are to Him. A friend of mine sent me a link to [an article](#) that talks about how our work and our hearts are constantly shifting between two masters.

Based on [Matthew 6:19-34](#), he says that "Christ gives us only two options. Either I've attached my identity, meaning, purpose, and inner sense of well-being to the earth-bound treasures of the kingdom of self or to the heavenly treasures of the kingdom of God." As a heart check, he says to ask the following: Missing *what* causes us to want to give up and quit? Pursuing *what* leads us to feeling overwhelmed? Fearing *what* makes us timid rather than hopeful? Craving for *what* makes us burn the candle at both ends? The "need" for *what* robs life of beauty and joy? Desiring *what* sets up tensions between work/ministry and family?

For me, I am torn between the desire to be useful and successful in my work, and to provide stability and value to my family. The author suggests that what we are looking for in work, relationships or even ministry is what only Christ can give us, and already has. My value, success, hope and stability won't be created by my own hand!



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