

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



SEPT 2014

Love,
Jeff + Karen

We're missing you guys and the beautiful fall weather up north right now. Jeff Can't wait to meet up with those of you in PA and NJ when he's there this Nov!



TRAINING EVANGELISTS

Ministry for me has been living in a few different worlds: coaching students and volunteers around the US to run campus ministry, trying to shape the culture of Cru to serve together with the church more, and getting on campus to teach students and volunteers how to live out the gospel and share their faith. It's great practice for me, too!

Just the other day, I handed a meeting flyer to a student who had to get to class. He texted me when he came out and, though the meeting was over, I invited him to tag along as I started conversations with students in the patio (below). It was so cool for his first experience with Cru to be talking with people of other worldviews about their faith. He echoed what so many have said before, that people are very open when approached in a respectful and relational way.



Beth, stay-at-home mom, sharing her faith at Full Sail



A student sharing his thoughts with me about his spiritual life

The night before, I had over 30 great spiritual conversations at a nearby apartment complex when we were invited to run a [Soularium](#) game table at their video game night. Pray for student Jenny and others who are really searching!

AVALANCHE OF MINISTRY

Can anything done online have lasting impact on the real world? I think Logan's story from Greenville, SC is a resounding "yes!"

Logan's dad (a pastor) excitedly told him about some Cru missionaries who spoke at a church over the summer. He suggested that Logan look us up, but there was no Cru on his campus. Our site put him in touch with my team and, since it was summer, we started by plugging him into our "stay-at-home mission trip" called Mission Summer, even though he had missed the first 5 weeks.



He told us, "the ways I was challenged and my eyes opened during that session left me speechless. I started bragging about what God did in my life just in that initial first night of joining. God began putting a burden on my heart for international missions that evening. Little did I know He was about to rock my world." Since the end of July, Logan has formed a team that is launching five college campuses AND five High schools! Pray for Logan and the 248 others like him, who took part in Mission Summer.

PRAISES

- * God working on our friends' marriage
- * Students seeing God use them on new campuses
- * Tag-teaming with other ministries, like ApartmentLife

REQUESTS

- * Our hearts soft but strong toward the broken world
- * Jeff preparing to travel for support
- * Open doors at Cal State and Angelo State Universities
- * Katherine to listen to her teachers

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control.

FAMILY UPDATE

Our family ministry continued this month as Karen's muscle therapist, Sammy, came to church with us last week with his girlfriend and two kids. We were also blessed to attend the wedding of Shelby and Ryan, two employees at our local grocery store with whom Karen has become close. Shelby's mom told Karen, at the baby shower, how happy she was that Shelby has been coming back to church, and it's hard for me not to believe that Karen's friendship played a part in that.



Arthur has begun reading books to Katherine (which she just LOVES). He is also starting to reach out to the other boys in our neighborhood, especially Case, so please pray for Arthur to be a light here. Also this month, Arthur underwent a progress assessment in his eye therapy. We are seeing remarkable improvement! For example, Arthur started with only 1% of "normal depth perception" and is now up to 45%! There was only one area that they noticed hadn't seen much improvement (a certain kind of 3D) but last week he even saw THAT for the first time! Praise God, and pray for the office workers, as Karen reaches out to them with the love of Jesus.

Please pray for Katherine, who had a very rough week of behaving in Pre-K and Sunday School. We bought Dobson's updated edition of "The Strong-Willed Child," which has been encouraging. Praise God all her teachers are prayer warriors as we battle to direct her fierce and loving spirit toward God without crushing it.

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Ever have one of those calls that just causes the rest of the world to fade out? One of my closest friends called me this month with a marriage in crisis. There were faults on both sides that went back for years and both were tired of fighting. Call us naïve, but Karen and I have always hung onto the words of Jesus, "what God has joined together, let no one separate" (Mark 10:9) and we knew He was calling us to drop everything and be a part of saving this marriage. "But, what can we do?" We asked each other.

We started by falling to our knees, not for the last time. The enemy wants to steal, kill and destroy families (John 10:10) and boy have we felt that over these past few weeks.

We flew our friends down and took them to a [Weekend to Remember](#) hosted by FamilyLife (Cru's marriage ministry). The speakers were amazing and even met with them privately. One of the biggest things I learned is that "every moment of our marriage is either intentionally moving toward oneness or else drifting toward isolation." By Sunday, my friends renewed their vows publicly and gave Karen and I the honor of signing as witnesses!

Please be encouraged and continue to pray for our friends as they walk the rough road and return to the busy "real world." Please also pray with hope for the marriages in your own community!



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