

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



OCTOBER 2013

Love,
Jeff + Karen

The Lord is good and He knows best. Apparently that's a theme for us this month and, if you're doubting that today, we hope these stories will be an encouragement.

OPENING DOORS WITH NEIGHBORS

A friend and fellow supporter of our ministry shared this

recent story with us about how Cru opened up an opportunity to connect with her neighbor:

"I just took a walk with a neighbor who just sent her oldest son off to college this year (University of New Hampshire). They [had] no prior knowledge of Campus Crusade or Cru. My friend told me her son joined something called "Cru" and went on a retreat with them this past weekend. Her son said he had a "great" weekend, which apparently is saying a lot since he is a pretty low key kind of guy. I was able to fill her in on some details about Cru...we talked and walked, grateful to God for the way he works, and grateful to you [Jeff] and others who follow His lead!"

If you know anyone with kids headed off to college, ask us about what Christian communities are on or near their campus. Even non-Christian neighbors may appreciate knowing their kids have a safe group of friends on campus who can be an encouragement.



PRAISES

- * We're finally in our new home!
- * Already made friends with many of our neighbors :)
- * International churches also getting plugged in

GOD USES OUR STRUGGLES

A student I've been discipling has long wrestled with feelings of homosexuality. He has chosen to allow God to use this to open doors in building relationships and spreading the gospel to the LGBTQ community in a way someone without that struggle never could.

He gave me permission to share this recent online conversation he had with a friend who grew up in the church but is now actively gay and was condemned by his church (names changed). [Click here](#) for more of the convo.

Simon: The law is what condemns us and says 'homosexuals have no place in God's kingdom.' But the good news is we are free from the death penalty of the law if we gave our lives to Christ.

Bob: Then why don't you date guys?

Simon: We are no longer bound to the punishment, but the sins we commit cause our spirit to suffer. That's why you feel the way you do. God's law is no longer condemnation, but a spiritual guide for how to live in the best way.

Bob: I want everything a normal relationship would have. I want a husband with a few kids and a normal life.

Simon: Because you think that's what's best for you though, but God KNOWS what's best for you. He puts you through things because he loves you and it's what's best for you.



What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

~ Psalm 116:12

FAMILY UPDATE

We knew moving our family across the country was going to be an adventure, and we have had many opportunities to watch God work. He gave us supernatural grace for closing agents, banks and moving companies that didn't give a rip about our timetable (I prayed we'd be in by my birthday and we made it just in time :). He provided a place for us to stay while we signed a zillion papers and waited for the key to our house. He gave us a neighbor who was kind enough to bring over his ladder and climb in our window when I locked myself out within hours of getting that key. God used friends to provide sleeping bags and such while we waited for the moving van. He made us feel welcome through friends and strangers.

He enabled us to share the Gospel with the man who installed our internet as well as another who sold us his kitchen table at a yard sale (\$25)! I'm already involved in a Bible study with some friends I made here last year, as well as a sweet new friend from my neighborhood...whose son is in Arthur's new kindergarten class! God has just been lavishing us with these little gifts on us even while things were stressful. We feel so loved and welcome, and we have this peace like we are finally where we belong after being in transition for such a long time.

Arthur loves school...he's actually sad on the weekends because he doesn't get to go! He's excited about his new friends. God put us in a neighborhood with a bunch of other 5-year-old boys and a great playground!



Without giving too much detail, Kat has taken a few steps backward with potty training. Aside from that, she is doing great and loves our new home. There are a few little girls nearby that she made friends with last year, and she is also loving the mommy-daughter time while Arthur is in school. Both kids are pretty happy to see all the toys they haven't seen in over a year. It's been a little like Christmas for all of us. We love love love our new home and can't wait to see what else God has planned for us here :)



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Have you ever felt like everything was going wrong at once? There are so many balls in the air when you move, and the past month sometimes felt like each one of them was spinning out of my control. Both our real estate agent and our mortgage broker frequently said things like, "never in all my years have I seen this." A week of serious cleaning later and the moving van still hasn't come with our beds, dressers, dishes, etc. On top of the logistical issues, we all have emotions about leaving our family and friends in NJ, and about Karen's grandmother who is having a dangerously difficult recovery from major surgery.

During times like this, it's easy to fall for the devil's lie that God isn't good, but Karen has been reassured (and reminded me) that when things don't work out the way we want, God really does have something better in mind. That's easier to say about an inconvenience ("God may have had us be late in order to protect us from...") than it is about deep wounds, but I firmly believe God desires our best ([Jer 29:11](#)) not just for a little while, but for eternity ([2 Cor 4:17](#)).

Pedro is a perfect example. If we had been in the house at any different time, he would not have been scheduled to set up our internet (he usually works in a different part of the city). After noticing Arthur's [Action Bible](#) and my Christian T-shirt, he began to ask questions which led him to ask for prayer and advice. Since moving from Puerto Rico he had stopped going to church and now he was considering leaving his wife and child after a big fight. He wept as we prayed over him and declared vigorously that he wanted to get involved with our ministry saying, "I need to *make* the time!" Please pray for Pedro and praise God. He is good, He is in control and He knows better than we do!



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