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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

Happy Easter! If God is willing to die for us and is able to defeat death too, then we are **NEVER** without hope! Read on for more stories of hope, and God bless! Love,

Jeff + Karen



MARCH 2015

AGAINST THE DARKNESS

In March, 6-million people turn Panama City Beach, FL into the "Spring Break Capital of the World." The police chief responded to a [recent shooting](#) saying, "drunk students with drugs and guns is a recipe for disaster." Cru is bringing hope.

This year, almost 3,000 students and staff shared with 5,202 vacationers and saw 508 give their lives to Jesus on the spot. When they weren't out on the beach sharing, our students were growing in their faith through seminars and packing 125,000 meals for "Feeding Children Everywhere." See [this video](#).

One of my students who was impacted by the trip was Gabriel, who teamed up with Bowling Green University to come and share his faith on the beach. He was



Students packed 125k meals for children around the world.

blown away by just how dark things were spiritually. In frustration, he prayed that God would use him before taking a break from the beach to have lunch. Then some partying students nearby engaged him in conversation (who happened to also be from Bowling Green). These students were still hurting from a shooting that had happened on their own campus, and God used Gabe to minister to them. Gabe really experienced God's goodness & faithfulness!

Students shared the gospel with 5,000 Spring Breakers in FL

BODY OF CHRIST WORKING TOGETHER

My goal is to see Cru partner with churches and students, to see the gospel advanced until everyone knows that they can have a loving relationship with their Creator! An image of that came together this month at an Easter festival in the field behind our local community college.

GO Church coordinated with students from high school and college to help set up and run 10 inflatables and carnival rides. I got to lead a team of Cru missionaries who spoke one-on-one with visitors and shared the gospel as well as opportunities to plug into God's mission around the world. Karen's gifts kicked into high-gear as she loved on people and got to really connect with

them. I was even able to use my recent training on reaching folks with an Indian background—Cecil and Lu, from a Hindu family, seemed to really appreciate our conversation.

In the end, the pastor's outreach team shared the gospel and around 30 people made decisions for Christ and my team sought them out for follow-up. Please pray that Easter draws many to Him!

PRAISES

- * God is using us to bless hurting friends
- * 508 new believers during Spring Break mission trip
- * All of us have been blessed by Karen's mom living with us!
- * 30 new believers at our church event!

REQUESTS

- * Hoping to recruit 2k students to Cru.org/Summerconnect
- * Director of Disney's Mulan will speak this month at Cru
- * Several campuses not finding student leaders to step up (in TX and GA)

1 Cor 15:14

If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

Partnered with a church to see dozens come to Jesus at an egg hunt

FAMILY UPDATE

Spring has meant tons of fun for Arthur and Katherine. Arthur has been to some birthday parties with friends, the weather has been beautiful, and we are realizing how much “inflatables” have transformed the face of childhood entertainment!

Arthur has been particularly excited about wildlife education. His favorite show right now is Wild Kratts, where two biologist brothers teach us about exotic animals and then jump into animated adventures of themselves gaining the powers of those animals to save the day. He has been so enthralled by this that he has already incorporated the Kratt brothers into the board game he has been designing (yep, creative just like his parents) and begging his daddy daily to print a new coloring page of an animal with fun facts about their habitat, diet and behavior so he can add it to his homemade science books.

Arthur was also excited to win a copy of the [Jesus Film for Children](#) at the Cru tent of our church’s Easter extravaganza (see front page) which was perfect timing as the kids got to see the gospel as one of their first experiences of a live-action movie.

Katherine still follows her brother around in almost everything he does. If he likes Wild Kratts, so does she, and she spends her rest times crafting her own “creature power discs” and her own board game (“Teaspoon the Camel Game”). She has also been super into a toy camera/projector her grandparents got her for her birthday last month.

The house being built for Karen’s mom is almost finished, and we’ll be kind of sad to see her leave, though being a 10-minute walk away eases the blow considerably :).



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

One of the ways we’ve learned to recognize the movement of God is through conspicuous “coincidence.” For example, it is no coincidence that we’ve been studying the book “[With](#)” by Skye Jethani, which explains that life is not about what God will do to us or for us, or even what we can do for Him. It’s about an intimate relationship with our Father. God has been coaxing intimacy out of me (Jeff) by all means.

I’m not generally super in-touch with my emotions. Ask me how I’m really doing and most of the time I’ll give you a blank stare until I can think of some circumstance or other that was pleasant or hard. Mostly, my happiness is based on how good of a job I think I’m doing (as a husband, father, missionary, lawn owner, etc). God is showing me again and again, though, how out of my control all of that is. Jethani says that “faith is the opposite of seeking control. It is surrendering control. It embraces the truth that control is an illusion—we never had it and we never will.”

[Scripture](#) says that God controls our success or failure, and a friend pointed out that sometimes God won’t let us see success (even as He accomplishes His good will) because it would not be good for us. I learn not to put my hope in circumstances, and as the world fades from my attention, God softens my numb heart and draws me to a special place with Him like a candle in the dark.

