

GrantMinistry.org

Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

Hello and God bless you today! You are not alone! God designed us to walk together and when we do, we will see HIM save the day! Here are some stories of unity.



AUG-SEPT 2015

Love,

Jeff + Karen

TEAM EFFORT

God has truly been answering our prayers as Cru has caught a strong heart for partnership.

8/31 was a beautiful example.

Students and staff from different areas (Valencia, UCF, Full Sail and Headquarters) along with members of our church joined us on a campus where we've never been before to share the gospel and launch a new movement!

I was thrilled to see our church friends learning how to share their faith for the first time and having deep and wonderful conversations. One of them turned to me and said what many students have before, "I was scared coming here, but this was great! People are so willing to talk. They come right up to you!" She then

described how a Buddhist student was asking them all kinds of truly open questions about Christianity.

By the end of the day, over 200 students filled out surveys indicating interest in helping launch Cru on their campus. At least 4 people heard the entire gospel and two people prayed to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior! Praise God for all He is doing, and please continue to pray for Valencia College's East campus and for more partnerships around the US!



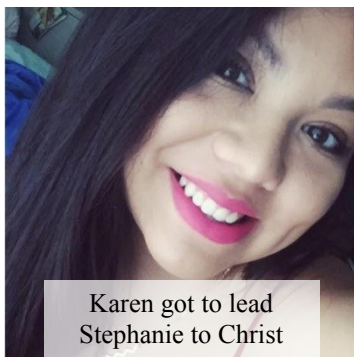
Our friends from church helped us launch a new campus

PRAISES

- * Hearing God more clearly & seeing Him move in specific areas
- * Karen is getting to reach students too, now that our kids are in school
- * Building a network of Christian artists

REQUESTS

- * Karen's mom's health
- * Upcoming ministry travel
- * Complete unity in the body of Christ



Karen got to lead Stephanie to Christ

ON MISSION in NJ

A major issue discussed at our staff conference was how our ministry needs to grow to reflect the population. Cru has not had a stellar track record ministering to minority students, and our staff is sorely unbalanced. NJ, however, has always been ahead of the curve in this area. National leaders have even remarked that the ministry there reflects such a picture of the diversity we will see in Heaven. Karen and I have always felt strongly about supporting minority staff as part of our own giving to the Lord and **Zara** is our newest addition. She just finished raising her initial support and thinks back to when she was a Freshman at Monmouth University:

"I was so nervous that I wouldn't find a good group of people to spend the next 4 years of my life with. I found Cru the 1st week of school at the club fair. I was so thankful to find a caring community passionate about Jesus and connecting others to Him. Through Cru, I found some of my very best friends and learned how to share my faith, live a Spirit filled life, and live my life on mission." Pray for **Zara** as she sets out on campus!



Center: Zara Joseph (new missionary in NJ) found Cru as a Freshman at Mon-

John 17:23

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

FAMILY UPDATE

What a month of changes! Arthur started 2nd grade and Katherine started Kindergarten (always makes us laugh that we slip into German between pre-school and 1st grade). Kat was so excited to ride the bus with Arthur and MacKenzie (daughter of our dear friends/co-workers/neighbors Brian & Amy)!

Arthur has been accepted into the gifted "SPARK" program at school; we're so proud of him and thankful he has this opportunity to challenge and inspire his amazing mind. We love his teachers and are excited for him. Little man finally lost both his top front teeth, victorious after many weeks of wiggling. Karen shed a tear when she realized he had officially grown out of his "baby face."



Katherine has been majorly into "arts & crafts" lately, drawing and cutting all kinds of things (creatures, cars, landscape) out of paper and foam pages. We're still reeling from the idea that our tiny daughter is off to school and growing up so fast. Her first few days have been met with mixed feelings as she adjusts to all the structure in addition to being away from home so much, but we're confident that her sweet and experienced teacher is the perfect ally as we help Kat grow and develop.

I (Karen) have been delighted to be back out on campus ministering alongside Jeff. I've had some really great conversations with students at Full Sail and Valencia East. I had the incredible opportunity to share the gospel with Stephanie and see her put her trust in Jesus. Let's be honest, it doesn't get much better than that! I also got to meet with Emily, who is a Christian but has gone her own way recently. While talking, it became clear that she is unsatisfied and has felt a desire to walk closely with Jesus again. I'm hoping God will use me to continue to encourage her and help her grow in this way.

Please join us in praying for Arthur's teachers Ms. Smith (2nd grade) and Mrs. Whalen (SPARK) and Kat's teacher Mrs. Beaudet :)

FAMILY CORNER



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

One of the talks that blew me away the most at [Cru15](#), our staff conference, was the one presented by Andy Crouch on [reflecting God's image](#). It was surprising to hear him describe the image of God as a combination of "authority" (Genesis 1:26) and "vulnerability" (Genesis 2:25). We tend to think it almost blasphemous to consider God vulnerable in any way—but the Bible describes a God who is often grieved, and was there ever a more vulnerable act than for Jesus to put aside all the privileges of godhood to suffer and die for His enemies (Philippians 2:5-8)?

What does that mean for us? Crouch believes that in order for us to truly flourish as image bearers, we must have both authority and vulnerability. He says that the fall created inequality, injustice and idolatry because some would escape vulnerability at the cost of others losing authority. According to Crouch, this hurts both parties, cutting us off from the life God intended for us. He calls "privilege" a wind that blows us away from vulnerability and away from fellowship with God.

You can't read Scripture without seeing God's mandate for us to love the impoverished, and that would mean those with power (that's you and me) becoming vulnerable and giving our authority to those without it. That doesn't mean a handout from on high, nor does it mean Cru comes to "show churches how it's done." Our posture must be to lift others up, and I've still got a lot to learn about that kind of humility.

