

GrantMinistry.org

Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

God bless you, and thank you for taking the time to read about what the Lord is doing through our family and ministry to college students! Praise God who is always GOOD!

Love,

Jeff + Karen



SEPT-OCT 2015

MENTORING MENTORS

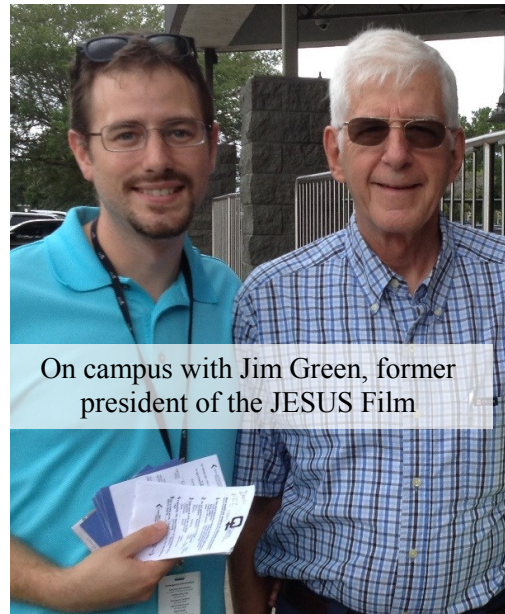
God has given us the great opportunity, working out of Cru world headquarters, to rub shoulders with many pillars of faith and missionary role models. Most of the time, we are students who drink in the wisdom and experience of those who look back on a lifetime dedicated to the work of the Lord and have seen Him

move all around the world. Sometimes, however, God turns the tables and allows us to teach them!

As part of my effort to see more of the Lord's people actively sharing their faith and pouring into the next generation, I've been assembling teams from churches and other Christian organizations to get on campus with the gospel. The JESUS Film Project, a ministry that has brought a visual gospel to EVERY country in the world, has jumped in with both feet!

We've been amazed to hear even seasoned missionaries, like Jim Green, exclaim their gratitude to Karen and I for showing them how to interact with students and how easy it is to talk to young people about spiritual things! A video of some of them is posted here:

TinyURL.com/JFatFullSail.



On campus with Jim Green, former president of the JESUS Film

PRAISES

- * Karen's mom recovered well
- * Karen is able to be more actively involved in ministry
- * Unprecedented opportunities to bring people on mission with us

REQUESTS

- * That we would be more God-attentive, God-dependent and God-responsive
- * Ministry travel
- * Complete unity in the body of Christ

UNITING THE CHURCH

The other week, I was contacted by Jon, a minister in Minnesota who oversees 240 churches. He said they've been looking to grow in their ability to reach college students. They knew that was something Cru excelled at and wondered whether Cru did anything to help equip lay people.

Because God opened up this role for me in Orlando, Cru was able to say "yes" where they would previously have needed to say "no." I took him through a brief [overview](#) of the training and resources that I provide and he kept exclaiming how overwhelmed he was at the quality, at the care, and how we provide this as a complimentary service to lay people and churches. We closed in prayer together, both of us brimming with excitement for what the Lord seems to be doing in our hearts and in the united Bride of Christ!

As many areas of the world seem to darken, watch carefully for the light of Christ to shine brighter among his people and pray for unity (John 17:20-23).

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

Katherine and Arthur are settling into a routine with school now. They were delighted to have a visit from Grandma (Jeff's mom) and show her all the craft projects they'd been working on, which match her creative nature perfectly!

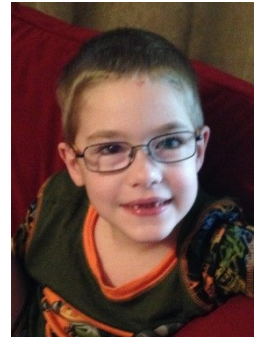
FAMILY
CORNER



The first few weeks of school were tricky for Katherine, who hasn't encountered structure to that level before, but she's moving along smoothly now! She still prefers weekends, and needs that alone time to unwind in her room more than ever, but she's making friends and growing like a sprout.

Arthur had a rough start too, because his best friends from the past two years got put in one class and he in another. We were getting concerned for a while that he was losing heart over that and some other issues with a teacher (things seem better for the moment, but please pray for him). On the other hand, the gifted program he's in now, called "SPARK," is aptly named as it has ignited desire to learn all kinds of new things alongside other passionate students.

On the grownup front, Karen has been getting in touch with her artistic side, and God has been so gracious to provide her opportunities and people who encourage her. She's going through a study called The Artist's Way with some amazing women of God that have been a huge inspiration. She has started journaling and playing the piano (when Karen's mom moved here, she gifted us with the piano Karen grew up learning on and we were thrilled!). She also began to pray about woodworking (furniture, etc) and within 48 hours someone at work advertised that they were selling just the tools she needed at a cost that matched what a friend had insisted on giving her for painting their bed frame (!!!). The tool seller has become another amazing new friend and prayer warrior—he has spent years blessing people through the National Prayer Center here at headquarters. We have been absolutely blown away by the freedom God has been bringing physically, emotionally, and especially spiritually around here!



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Karen and I have come to realize that our hearts have different needs. If we are going to minister well to our family, our community and our mission field for the marathon rather than a sprint, we need to take good care of ourselves as well. We try to become champions of each other's "tanks," keeping an eye on whether our spouse is getting the time they need alone, with God, with friends and doing specific things that bring us life (like art or woodworking as Karen is rediscovering for herself).

It's amazing to see the difference in our attitudes when we're filled up, but it's also important to recognize that those tanks will not stay full. They need to be monitored and refilled, but there's a deeper truth too. We cannot rely on having our tanks or our needs met as the basis for whether we're doing well. God talks about not trusting in broken cisterns (or wells), but rather in the spring of living water that is a relationship with God ([Jeremiah 2:13](#)) and fellowship with the Holy Spirit in particular ([John 7:37-39](#)).

So, what is the answer? Do we take care of ourselves or rely on the Lord? In [Matthew 6:33](#), Jesus said to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." That's not a mystical concept that we will be fulfilled even without the things we love. God LOVES to lavish us with gifts and opportunities, giving us back whatever we surrendered ten-fold!

