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Reaching COLLEGE STUDENTS with Jeff and Karen

It's great to share how God is at work in the lives of young people, and that we get to help encourage ministry in so many arenas thanks to your support! Enjoy!



APRIL-MAY 2016

Love,
Jeff + Karen

WHAT HAPPENS AT SPRING BREAK...

At the Spring Break Mission Trip, **2,500 Cru students** reached out to partying vacationers and saw **504 place their faith in Jesus Christ**, while the Cru students themselves were changed forever. Here are the words of some of our students.

"I was reminded of how important

it is to share the gospel. I didn't realize how many people don't really know the true message of Christ. The most valuable thing I learned was conversational skills. It's all about listening! I feel like I can now have better spiritual conversations with people. I want to be more open and intentional about my faith now, instead of staying away from the subject." - Sarah, freshman

Here's an encounter two others (Dean and Bryce) had at a Sonic restaurant a few blocks from the beach: "We immediately struck up a conversation with Tom and Alex, two high school spring breakers from Upstate New York who agreed to take our short survey. When asked how they would rate their desire to know God personally (from 1-10), Alex gave it just a one, saying, 'I wouldn't want to take away from the mystery of God by having a personal relationship with Him.' Tom, on the other hand, gave it the highest mark of TEN! In a quick silent prayer, I asked God for wisdom how to proceed with two people on such opposite ends of the spectrum.



We asked them for permission to share the Knowing God Personally booklet and they both eagerly agreed. At the end, we asked if they were ready to trust Jesus as their Savior. I wasn't too shocked when Tom agreed to take that step of faith, but I was very surprised when Alex also wanted to accept Jesus as his Savior! We asked some clarifying questions and further explained to them what it would mean to make that decision, and then we bowed in prayer. Wow!" Please pray for follow-up!



PRAISES

- * 504 gave their lives to Jesus at Spring Break!
- * Jeff's goal to move Cru toward more partnership is seeing progress
- * God made it super clear that right now homeschooling is

REQUESTS

- * Wisdom as we pursue homeschooling
- * Many upcoming opportunities for ministry connections
- * Building relationships personally and in ministry

TECHNOLOGY AND GOD?

You and I and all God's children are invited by God to join in HIS mission to rescue all those who are separated from Him. As we embrace our role of partnering with individuals and organizations on many different levels, God has put some fascinating people in our lives. We, in turn, get to encourage them just as YOU encourage us!

We recently got to meet someone of whom we've been huge fans: Remington Scott (leftmost above), whose team won Oscars for designing motion capture technology for Lord of the Rings movies. We met him on a tour of Full Sail University where he voiced a desire to use his gifts to help reach students for Christ. His latest project is also seeking to take advantage of new technology to help people meet Jesus. Please pray for Remington as he endeavors to glorify God with his skills!



Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

FAMILY UPDATE

This has been a big and exciting time for our family! When it comes to school (homeschool, private or public), we've always said we would pray about what was best for our children "kid by kid

and year by year." After all, every child is different in how they learn and thrive, and we never want to feel like we were locked into one philosophy or another for this aspect of life.

Jeff's dad has made us immensely proud as principal of a Christian school in NJ and we've heard many good things about private education. We've often talked about how our children (and we parents) can be a light in public school, and public education started out great for our family. We've also heard impressive stories about home education, and homeschool sounded like it could be awesome...for other people.

Recently, though, God put a strong desire in my heart and gave us some very clear signs, and we have made the transition to homeschool! We are thrilled by how God has already developed all of us through this move, and we are excited for the chance to tailor the style and pace of our kids' learning to match their unique designs. Arthur has an insatiable appetite for reading and a passion to invent. Katherine wants to be knee-deep in art projects and is fascinated by everything to do with animals. They have been asking for this and they love it so far; but we're still very new at it all, so please pray that the Lord continues to lead us one step at a time!



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

I (Jeff) have been starting to read a series of bible studies called the 10 Basic Steps. It was written by Bill Bright (founder of Cru) to help people to grow from infancy to maturity in every area of our relationship with God (doesn't sound so basic, right?). As I read, it feels almost like being disciplined directly by Dr. Bright, who walked with Jesus like few we've ever known.

In his step on "Obedience," he talks about everything from Insincere Obedience and Peer Pressure to Purity, Taming the Tongue, Inner Security and Knowing God's Will. In that last one, Dr. Bright reminds us that if we really trust and obey Him, "God will reveal Himself to you and direct your steps as a way of life (John 16:13)." The enemy of our soul tries to keep us from being effective and fruitful, but Satan cannot stand against a heart yielded to Christ.

"Some people are reluctant to trust God completely with their lives, fearing that He may want to make a change in their plans," but Dr. Bright asks: "Is it not logical that the One who created us knows better than we the purpose for which we were created? And since He loves us enough to die for us, is it not logical to believe that His way is best (Romans 8:32)?"

