

GrantMinistry.org

Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen



SEPTEMBER 2016

Fall Semester is underway and already new students are turning to Jesus! We're thrilled to help people start new ministries on campuses in every corner of the country!

Love,

Jeff + Karen

PARTNERING FOR RAUL

In our goal to get local churches and Cru missionaries working together to reach young people, Full Sail University has been one of my guinea pigs. It is my hope that Cru leaders on other campuses will see what's going on there and begin to reproduce similar relationships with local churches near them until EVERY campus is working closely with local believers to win, build and send students for Jesus Christ.

So far, I've seen about a dozen churches connect to the campus for one-time or ongoing ministry with the students, but no one has invested more in these students than Pastor Red (pictured on the left). He dedicates at least two hours every Friday to feed, pray for, and encourage the young men and women passing through the campus on their busy ways. I've gotten to help Pastor Red team up with Steve Rivera (pictured right). Steve (along with a team he has recruited) volunteers his time outside of the Jesus Film master studio to share the gospel here at his alma mater. These two warriors of love are a consistent presence and blessing on the campus.

This month, Pastor Red and I had the opportunity to speak to newly-trained Cru staff members about what partnership can look like. The new missionaries were blown away. Many of them have a heart for similar partnership but weren't sure it could work or how to get started. God used us to give them hope and ideas!

After we parted, Pastor Red went to Full Sail where he and Steve immediately entered a conversation with a film student named Raul. Raul then prayed to invite Jesus into his life! Praise God for Raul, Steve, Pastor Red, and partnerships!



PRAISES

- * Steadily building momentum on campuses
- * More lay people sharing the gospel
- * Progress on some health issues!

REQUESTS

- * Upcoming ministry opportunity in NJ
- * Traction at some of our newer schools
- * New partners on and off campus
- * God's healing and favor in health and financial issues (see family article)

BODY OF CHRIST UNITED

Last month, I talked about a growing trend of unity among churches even of different denominations. I've got an awesome example here in Orlando to share.

Every month, a gathering of pastors and ministry leaders from around central FL come to a different location for an event called Collaborate. We worship, pray and plan how to work together in practical ways to reach this area for Christ! They gathered at Cru headquarters this month and, after our US director spoke, they invited me to talk about how churches can reach high school and college students. Pray for those ongoing connections!

Also this month, we kicked off a collaborative outreach initiative called [40 Days of Love](#).

MINISTRY LEADERS FROM ACROSS FLORIDA

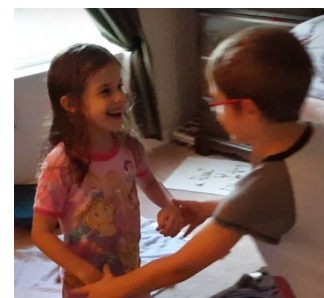


[Love](#). I am partnering with 100 other churches & ministries representing 60k believers in central FL to share the love of Jesus with at least 10 people each. You can join us! Watch [this video](#) and jump in with your family and also take a moment to pray now.

Isaiah 43:19a

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I (Jeff) think if this month's family stuff had a theme it would be "joy in the midst of adversity." We've got about 6 major issues going on at the same time and yet, when it got to the worst moment, I watched Karen get a peace from out of nowhere that can only come from God ([Philippians 4:7](#)).



What are the adversities we've been facing (you may ask since you're reading :) ? We had a pretty big scare with Katherine over some bloodwork that came back askew (eventually found out that the doctors had ordered it incorrectly). Arthur needs to start physical therapy for his legs and it took 3 weeks of phone tag to even set up an initial appointment. Karen has had severe headaches for 2 months that we finally identified as caused by an incorrect contact lens prescription. I just found out there's a possible blockage in my carotid artery (please pray for that). Our 15-yr-old car was diagnosed as no longer drivable without some major work. Finally, we found out that our new air conditioner (which doesn't work properly) may require \$1,000 of electrical work to even pass the permit inspection (the most recent of multiple issues we've had with the AC installation). Many of the headaches (figurative and literal) were caused by professionals who messed up, and we need prayers as we try to pursue folks to get things fixed without letting it burn us up or burn us out.

It's a lot coming all at once, and I have not had the most fantastic attitude through it all, but Karen has been a marvel. Just when you'd think the final straw would break her, she is gaining new strength from our heavenly Father. She reminded me that careless people/companies are not the enemy. We have a legitimate enemy who wants to steal our joy and, with God's help, we can say "NO" to the lies that God doesn't care or won't help.

This month's difficulties led to great conversations with our children. Fear and frustration opened wounds that reveal deeper places that need God's healing, and we've invited Him to work with those. The bad experiences caused us to be more thankful for things that have gone well, and Karen has actually cried tears of joy when someone has been kind or helpful. Pain and tears have been a vivid reminder that our hope is in Jesus and that this broken world is not our final destination. When the peace came at the least likely moment, we didn't doubt for a second that it was from our good, good Father who loves us.



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Have you ever struggled to read certain parts of the Bible? Maybe you do okay with some books, but you feel bad skipping big sections of stuff that doesn't make much sense or is boring. I remember being very proud when I first completed an entire read-through of the Bible, but I get intimidated diving back into books like the prophets that I remember as a lot lot lot of yelling (though certainly justified).

However, we've recently found a series of short animated videos with voiceover that explain each book of the Bible with incredible clarity! The visuals help us follow what's happening and even visualize the structure of the book. I'm so glad to have these and not miss on the artistic and beautiful nuances of these amazing books, and also come to understand how the people of the day would receive and relate to them. Finally, it helps answer really tough questions, like [this one here on Joshua](#) which explains at one point why God would seem to call for the extermination of an entire people.

God is an infinitely deeper well than we can fathom; but since He asks us to dive in and try, I praise God for the people who make creative tools that can help us :)

