

GrantMinistry.org

Reaching COLLEGE STUDENTS with Jeff and Karen

Though we've been investing in young people all over the US lately, we always have a special place in our hearts for the students of New Jersey. Can't wait to share what they're up to!



OCTOBER 2016

Love,
Jeff + Karen

REACHING FRESHMEN

One of the first chances we have to meet new students each year is at a college's Club Fair. Many student groups try to draw students in, but few offer the hope of Jesus and a fun/safe community that will walk with them through college and beyond.

In NJ, students (like Ben here from Kean) and staff on about 20 campuses gave out 15,000 items to students. Bibles, water bottles, bags, and books (like "The Case for Christ") help connect students to the Gospel through the Scriptures or EveryStudent.com which answers questions about God and spiritual things. Think of that, up to 15,000 students each with the opportunity to hear about the hope they can have in Christ, and to experience meaningful conversations and relationship!

At Rutgers alone, over 150 students connected with Cru through the summer orientation and the club fair. Some of them were looking for us, including Ray who was involved in Cru at his High School (yes, we have a high school ministry too, and you can help bring it to your town)! We're looking forward to the experience that he has to offer to the ministry this year. Some students had never heard of Cru and were curious to learn more about Christ, including Karina who came out with a friend! Please be praying for NJ staff and students who are following up with the many contacts we've received on campuses all over the state. Pray especially for our staff team there which only has 4 full-time missionaries representing over 20 campuses! More than ever, we need you as believers from the local church to step in and help us reach the young people in your communities. Contact me to explore what this could look like for you personally!

CHRISTIAN ILLUSIONIST?

Magic isn't necessarily a word that makes Christians comfortable, but once you've seen The MAZE you'll be blown away by how this performance opens doors for sharing the gospel! Jim Munroe and his team are Cru missionaries that tour the country, using a unique form of entertainment to draw people into a conversation that breaks down barriers to faith.

At Kean University, the MAZE team performed tricks in

crowded areas on campus all afternoon, inviting them to the show. Later that night, there was a line out the door and nearly 300 students attended the event. Jim used math and science to create illusions that not only captivated the audience, but got them to doubt their own eyes and even their life choices. He then blew their minds with his testimony and nearly 40 students indicated decisions for Christ! Praise God! Please pray as we continue to follow up with students.



PRAISES

- * Students boldly sharing their faith
- * Meeting people who want to learn to spread the Word
- * Seeing God at work so clearly

REQUESTS

- * Further resolution of a few issues that have been very hard on our family recently
- * Prioritizing ministry opportunities
- * More staff and volunteers in NJ

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



FAMILY CORNER

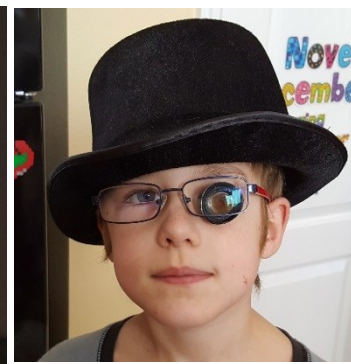
What an incredible month this has been for our family. Through fun times as well as trials, God put many people in our path with whom we were able to share the love of Jesus.

Our family joined 40,000 other believers around Florida in a gospel campaign (40DaysOfLove.net) that was born out of a collaboration of many different churches and Christian groups. Our kids responded to the challenge to pray, care for and share with our neighbors with gusto, especially Katherine.

Alongside acts and words of love, we gave out cards containing a website with compiled resources for sharing the gospel and showing God's love. Katherine doesn't go anywhere without those cards, giving them to everyone she sees, and who could resist a gift from that face? Karen has become pretty prolific with it as well, talking with folks at the gas station, yard sales, etc.

Our kids used trick-or-treating as a chance to share gospel cards with every house they stopped at, as well as attaching cards to the pretzel packs we gave out. This can be a controversial holiday, but what an opportunity to share Jesus with people who literally have their doors open to us!

In other news, my (Jeff's) family all came to Florida at once for the first gathering since we moved. We LOVED seeing our kids share special moments with their grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousins. We all had a fantastic time! It all happened just in time for Karen's birthday as well :).



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

For about a year Jeff and I have been praying almost daily that God would "mold our hearts to be like Jesus, multiply our lives into others, and mobilize laborers for His rescue mission harvest." It is especially hard to pray that first part, because God has used a lot of very difficult times to mold our hearts. But we will not stop praying it, because sometimes we are shown such a clear vision of what God is doing.

Sometimes the beauty of God's bigger picture is better seen when we feel surrounded by ugliness.

For example, we mentioned last month that our air conditioner has been the source of a lot of trouble. It was leaking and causing health concerns, so we made the very expensive decision to replace the AC system. Things got worse as inspections revealed that the installers made mistakes and even created fire and safety hazards to the point that we had to replace the brand new unit with another new unit (through a new company!). So many days of having people in our home looking at everything, so much paperwork to fill out, so many phone calls, so much time and energy. But God has been using it all for His glory!

A man named Jason from the new AC company was incredibly gracious and helpful, and by the end of our first meeting we had all shared our hearts a little and prayed together. (On another house call in 2008, Jason had been led to the Lord by Cru co-founder Vonette Bright, and his marriage and family were transformed!) He was a huge blessing to us, but he won't stop thanking us for praying for and encouraging him! He and his wife have been having conversations about going deeper with God and now Jeff is discipling him :)

Next I got to pray with *another Jason* in the Philippines (from our credit card company, working to get our refund from the first AC company). Picking up on a comment I made about my faith, he ended up really pouring his heart out and we prayed and cried together. I told him how much God loved him and that every minute of frustration over the air conditioner was worth it to be able to encourage and pray with him. God doesn't waste a single thing! Please keep praying!

40 DAYS of LOVE

