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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

As we share about the wonders of God this month, we pray that you will be encouraged and inspired to discover what God has been preparing for you to do as well!



AUGUST 2017

Love,
Jeff + Karen

VIDEO GAMES FOR JESUS?

Fall is always a crucial time in our ministry. When even Christian students get to college, 3 out of every 5 walk away from the faith they grew up with, largely because new friends make Christian life seem foolish and lonely.

That's why we put out so much effort the first few weeks of each semester to welcome all the freshmen to school with lots of fun activities. This year, Karen and I brought the kids with us to the University of Central Florida, the largest school in the nation. In the heat and the crowds, we gave out music, videos, comic books and invites to the always-popular Cru pancake party! No one could resist the children and we built bonds with students, staff and even other clubs. It was truly a family effort!



PRAISES

- * New connections made on big campuses
- * Spreading prayer across the city
- * Karen and the kids involved in student ministry

REQUESTS

- * Karen's energy and wisdom in juggling life, ministry and school
- * Churches to reach University of Central Florida
- * Jeff to grow a team of partnership specialists for the whole country

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

GATHERING ART MISSIONARIES

God has called us to offer the good news about His Son to every person and every *kind* of person. To that end, Cru has launched movements to young people, athletes, doctors, soldiers, lawyers and the impoverished (to name a few); but we've not had a concerted effort to establish a ministry to and through artists and entertainers. This is something we are working to change.

At the Cru17 staff conference, I hosted a table for those who either are artists and entertainers or have a heart to reach them. I connected with 29 missionaries with this same interest and we are continuing the conversation as to how God can use us together to pour into this vital part of our society.

One of the powerful ministries already happening is our artist residency program called TransForm in NYC. Residents become a kind of artist missionary for a year while they learn how to reach their fellow artists. A project I've been developing is a board game based on our animated series "Archivo Cero" (file zero) which will launch conversations and relationships, teaching Biblical literacy through a choose-your-own adventure!

TRANSFORM



FAMILY CORNER

We've really hit the ground running these past few weeks! Even though we work through the summer, there is something a little exhausting about that first week back to staff meetings and regular activities in the office, as well as the rush of events on campus for the incoming students. I (Karen) also had our "first day of school" for the kids—we did a lot of homeschooling through the summer, but decided the official start of new grade levels would be the same day public schools started here. With the gift of hindsight, I don't think we'll start everything in the same week again next year!

The kids are doing great. Both of them are very into animals of all kinds (yes, Kat is holding a snake in that picture. Arthur and I held it, too) and very excited about learning in general. Kat loves math as long as she doesn't know we are "doing math." Arthur continues to devour any book he can get his hands on. We really enjoyed sharing God's love with UCF students last week. We're all very eager to start our homeschool co-op soon.

Would you please pray for me as I juggle responsibilities and opportunities? I still struggle quite a bit with low energy and it is very frustrating when I can't do all the exciting ministry things that we're presented with (or when I try to, I am knocked out for several days afterward). Would you pray for the Lord to reveal what is really going on with my health and to bring healing?

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Last month, we mentioned briefly how much overwhelming content there was at the Cru17 staff conference and that we'd be unpacking each of the life-changing perspectives for quite a while. One of the messages that has continued to impact the way I (Jeff) do things came from Jenny Allen, author and founder of the [IF:Gathering](#). In her message, which you can watch [here](#), she drove home the value of life-on-life discipleship.

Jenny's first point to us was, "Do not underestimate the value of a Sonic run." She had been a Christian for only a year when she started at University of Arkansas and felt like the only believer on campus. Before long, though, she met a Cru missionary named Michelle who invited her out to coffee at a local Sonic and just got to know her. This turned into a regular thing, and those simple talks did more to form her heart for the Lord than many sermons and Bible studies.

She said Jesus taught us that life-on-life discipleship is how we change the world ([Matt 28:18-28](#)). Things look pretty grim on the TV and the internet, and we can often feel helpless, but those seemingly small relationships where we pour into Christians and non-Christians make all the difference. After all, Jenny explained, "great people do not do great things. God does great things through surrendered people. To do the work of God is to believe."

The idea of discipling others may seem daunting, but Jesus lives on the other side of our comfort zones, out on the deep water. Would you ask the Lord who He has put in your life into whom you can multiply the faith He has given you?

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