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Reaching COLLEGE STUDENTS with Jeff and Karen

While hurricanes stormed our shores this month, we also stormed the campuses, linking arms with God's children across the nation to share the love of Jesus. Check it out!



SEPTEMBER 2017

Love,  
Jeff + Karen

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?

Club fairs continued this month, offering us the opportunity to launch more new movements. At this one, we got parked right next to the LGBTQ club and the Mslm club. What an awesome opportunity to demonstrate the unconditional agape love of Jesus!



I got to have good interactions with both groups and even share the gospel with Moe, the president of the Mslm club (left). I'm in that weird pose because they believe there are angels on each shoulder keeping track of our good and bad deeds to be weighed on the scales to enter paradise. The gospel teaches that there is no way to do enough good to outweigh our cosmic treason, but that Jesus switches scales with us when we ask Him to be our savior.

We are standing in front of the Perspectives Banners, a tool we used to have dozens of deep conversations and gather many new members for the "club." Pray for Moe and the other students we are reaching!

## PRaises

- \* Students are taking up the challenge of being missionaries
- \* 40 Days of Love program reaching the White House
- \* Family safe from Hurricane Irma

## REQUESTS

- \* Many families displaced by natural disasters
- \* Karen's body to be as strong as her heart for Christ!
- \* Changes in our ministry team
- \* Upcoming mission trip with executive leaders of Cru

## UNITING THE BODY OF CHRIST

In our efforts to see God's children come together, we have discovered how important it is to build those personal trust relationships. Here I am helping several faith-based film directors discover the free filming space offered by Full Sail, which will also be a great connection for my Christian students as they seek to use their gifts after school.



Below is a gathering of ministry leaders at the largest campus in the US. They are reaching professors, international students, minorities and fraternities. These ministry leaders first want to get to know MY heart, so they will be ready to work with the dozen local churches who are asking me to help them partner with Cru. Please pray for trust and generosity all around, and for God to open doors.

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."



# FAMILY CORNER

September was a wild mix of highs and lows. In the stream of recent natural disasters, Hurricane Irma impacted us most directly by causing physical and emotional upheaval throughout Florida. We also had a very personal low as our pet Shadow died. Next, we got some sudden news about our staff team that forced us all to rearrange our schedules and wonder what our roles will look like in the future (we'll share more as we are able in the coming months). Finally, I found out that one of my best friends was going through a miscarriage.

To be really honest, my head is still spinning and my feelings are a little raw. But I want to focus on some of the good things that happened in September. God is worthy to be praised even in the really hard times; I also believe that the more we cultivate thankfulness, the more we will see His goodness in the midst of the junk.

So here is a list, in no particular order, of things we want to celebrate. Our family and property were spared physical damage from Irma. We had good friends and a good counselor to help us through a bit of the emotional impact. We were able to be good friends to others who needed to talk about their experience. We started our homeschooling co-op and the kids absolutely love it. We are all making new friends. We got to go on a couple of field trips that were fun as well as educational. We have been able to have some really difficult conversations with the kids that point us all to a deeper trust in the One who made us, rescued us, and is coming back for us. Arthur got to go on his first (MUCH anticipated) fishing trip with Jeff and our dear friend Pastor Red (one of our church partners at Full Sail!). Katherine's reading ability has increased dramatically. The kids love playing together and creating worlds/items/activities based on different things they are learning about. We appreciate you coming on this journey with us to mourn when we mourn and celebrate when we celebrate :)



## WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

I (Karen) am still processing my feelings surrounding Hurricane Irma. It's been helpful to have many local friends who had a common experience and want to talk about it as well. Seems like just about everyone felt some pretty intense mix of emotions and had their lives completely thrown off-track for about 2 weeks.

The week before Irma was exhausting, full of decisions. We needed enough news to be prepared (should we buy more supplies or evacuate? should we sleep in the closet or go to someone else's house? should we have all our "important things" in the car or leave them in waterproof containers?) while trying to avoid too much information (articles about Irma being the hugest and most potentially dangerous storm ever, pictures of empty shelves at every store). The storm itself was exhausting—in Orlando, the worst of the storm raged *all night*. We heard unknown objects hitting the house, the front door shook like crazy, and the wind was just *so loud*. The aftermath was exhausting. Every person we encountered was a little on-edge and in varying states of tired/cranky/unwashed as we waited for everybody's power to come back on and things to feel "normal." There were so many emotions as everyone found out how everyone else was doing—such a crazy mixture of relief and heartache. Different friends lost different things: a pet cat, a friend (who died while trying to help someone else), their parents' roof, a car, freezers full of food, many hours to cleaning up debris, and countless hours of sleep while pumping water away from their home.

Here's what I think I learned. It's OK to feel scared. Yes, I had a sweet extended time of prayer and felt God with me every second while the wind and rain thrashed in the darkness. But He was with me *through* a frightening experience, He didn't *remove* the frightening experience. It's OK to be sad. Having joy in the Lord does not equal being happy every moment (or pretending to be) when you are going through something difficult. It's OK to feel angry, as long as you don't let that anger dictate your behavior or your opinion of God. God's thoughts are higher than ours and His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9). It's OK to acknowledge that sometimes we don't like His ways. It's OK to feel thankful and make note of God's incredible goodness and grace while still feeling all those other things :)

Do you need to share anything? The news lately is enough to give anyone an onslaught of emotions! You can always call or email us if you need someone to encourage you, help you process, point you toward Jesus, or just listen.

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