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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen



JANUARY 2017

Love,
Jeff + Karen

Our prayer for you this month is that all of us would spend more time in awe of the Lord, letting Him grow bigger in your eyes as your obstacles become small and futile.

A NEW SISTER IN CHRIST!

We don't know what God has in store as we venture out on any given day. God's word never returns void ([Isaiah 55:11](#)), but we don't always get to see the fruit. Pastor Kortney and I joined an outreach at UCF, sharing the truth in love and leaving the results up to God.

It was a strange day on the bright campus, walking past trees where clumps of students stood staring silently into the branches. We discovered that there was an assignment to "observe a squirrel."

Later, a student named Kiana was passing by our [Perspective Banners](#) when I stopped her to see if she would do this "quick survey." She went through each banner, sharing mostly ambivalent views

about who God is and our purpose in life.

When she got to this one on Jesus, however, her whole demeanor changed. She said she believed He was "Creator and Savior" and wanted to know more about Him. She invited Him into her heart with enthusiasm! Praise God!

I quickly called Delaney, a Cru missionary dedicated to the UCF campus, and they began a [discipleship relationship](#) right away. Strong roots built through discipleship help our faith stand through trials ahead ([Matt 13:20-21](#)).

What an honor to watch God welcome a new daughter into His kingdom!



Kiana (right), a new believer with her new discipler, Delaney (a missionary at UCF)

REACHING A CITY TOGETHER

Partially because of the recent hurricanes that recently tore through the Caribbean islands, our city is being flooded with 300,000 displaced people. What an opportunity to love those in need!

Collaborating with a network of local churches and organizations, we are linking arms to deliver the gospel to every single home across Orlando. We will hang bags on



Phil Cohn, President of Christ for all Peoples, donating 750,000 JESUS Film DVDs

each door containing: the JESUS Film, an offer to take prayer requests and requests for help, and the information of a nearby participating church. I love how multiple churches and denominations are uniting, and how each church is owning the responsibility to care for the needs of those in their proximity. I'm inviting Cru staff on local campuses to get these into dorms, and another organization to help with apartment complexes.

Please pray for this effort, [participate if you're nearby](#) and [pray for your neighbors](#) as well.



PRAISES

- * Great opportunities to bring God's people together
- * Students boldly preaching in a hard environment
- * Karen's health is growing stronger

REQUESTS

- * Wisdom in which opportunities to go after
- * Karen's body to be as strong as her heart for Christ!
- * Building our team
- * Spring Break trips approaching
- * Family to grow in love and maturity

Psalm 2:1-4

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?...

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.



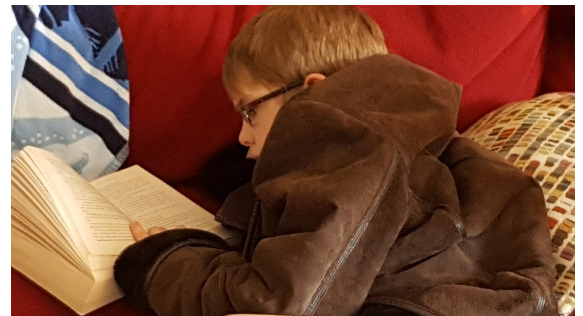
Arthur and Katherine joined us as we continue to build friendships at the local board game store. Here's Arthur winning against a group of young adults while Katherine delights everyone with stuffed animal cuteness!



Since meeting over board games, we've been discipling Bobby through some of the most important decisions and stages of his life. What a treat to participate in his wedding to the very sweet Jennifer!



Thanks to a great Christmas gift from family (which includes a swing & other attachments), the kids have been working on their acrobatics.



We knew it was only a matter of time before Arthur was more well-read than we are, but the hour is approaching faster than we thought.

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

One of the pivotal moments that drew me (Jeff) on staff was actually an event hosted by a different college ministry. When I was in college, I attended Urbana, a missions conference put on by InterVarsity. The spark in my heart for full time missions was set ablaze at that event, and nothing else was going to satisfy the longing God had put on my heart.

Urbana continues to ignite the hearts of generations toward God's mission, and though I haven't been back I do tune in occasionally to the speakers there. A few years back, Pastor Sundar Krishnan gave a talk called [Pray Big And Pray Bold](#) that is as relevant today as ever. Speaking from [Acts 4:23-31](#), he painted a picture of the church attacked from all sides that did not pray for relief, but for boldness to faithfully preach and for God's wondrous intervention to prove their words true to the communities around them.

Pastor Krishnan explained that they could pray this way because they knew God to be "Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth." While the world around them raged, they knew that it didn't thwart God's mission. They also drew from Scripture for courage. Quoting King David in [Psalm 2](#), they knew that the nations and enemies of God "waste their time with futile plans" to fight the Lord, who responds with laughter.

The early Christians took their overwhelming, humanly-insurmountable concerns to the Master who alone cuts through all obstacles—not to bring us an easy life, but to accomplish His mission.

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