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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

God is at work all over this country, and so are we! Check out the latest on our travels and how God is using us to start avalanches of the gospel. God is on the move! Let's join Him!



OCTOBER 2018

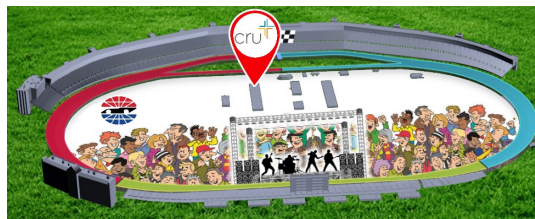
Love,
Jeff + Karen

WORKING TOGETHER

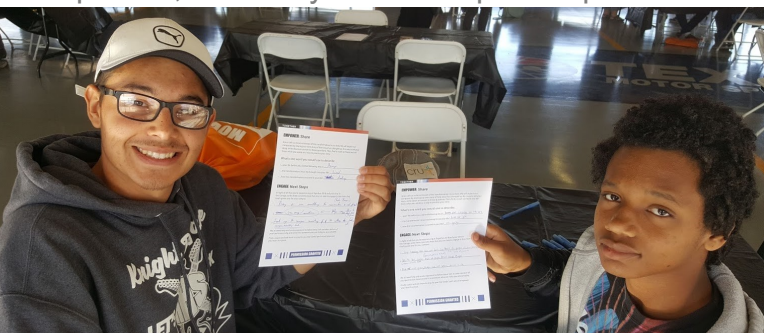
There I am standing in a sea of what I'm told were 80,000 people attending the Together 2018 conference at the Texas Motor Speedway in October. What an incredible opportunity to hear from over 40 bands and speakers like Francis Chan, Hillsong and Priscilla Shirer! So why on earth would I stay out of ear-shot most of the time, cooped up in some garage? The answer is beautiful!

While many conferences like these suffer from people going back to "normal life" afterward and losing much of what God did in their hearts, we were able to offer another option. Teaming up with InterVarsity, Chi Alpha, YWAM and several other ministries, we worked side-by-side to create a journey for students to walk through. Here they could explore the next steps God put on their hearts to reach their college, high school and town for Christ. Watch this [time-lapse video](#) of people praying over their communities on a giant world map.

A highlight for me was meeting Joe and Kayden, both high school students. After mapping out who in their lives needs to hear the gospel, how to share it, and who could help them, it was my turn to help them plan their next steps. They texted their youth



pastor to hold them accountable to the goals they set. They're committed to reading the Bible each night, praying more consistently through the [Echo Prayer App](#), asking non-Christian friends the [Sometime Question](#) and making friends with [Christian students](#) at their future college. What goals will *you* make?



NEW LIFE AT FALL RETREAT

Across the country, ministries from multiple campuses have been teaming up to host fall retreats, a special time of accelerated community and spiritual growth for many students. Listen in on this neat conversation some students had at one recently!

There we were, standing close around the fire, when a guy I didn't know budged into our talking group to roast a marshmallow. Some of us introduced ourselves and he mentioned that "this is the best weekend I think I have ever had ever!" One of the girls from my school exclaimed "Me too! I don't think I've ever had a better weekend!" When I asked them why, the man said "well I'm really new to religion, so this whole Jesus weekend has been really wonderful."

He had come to know Jesus only a couple of months ago, under extreme circumstances. To this, the girl said "I just met Jesus on Tuesday!"

What a wonderful sight it was for me to witness this exciting conversation between two new believers in Christ. They were both so joyful, telling each other "I'm so glad you found God!"

Please join me in praying for these new Christians, and the many others exploring faith in Jesus in the midst of new community!



PRAISES

- * New gospel movements in LA
- * Groups putting differences aside to minister together for Jesus!
- * Karen loved her latest seminary class
- * Growing pockets of unity in God's Church family

REQUESTS

- * Fall Retreats all over the US to see gospel momentum, new believers, and strong community
- * Cru on 15 potential new LA campuses
- * Our kids to keep owning their faith and education
- * For us to grow in faith and all that God has for us

2 Cor 9:8

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.



Making homemade pretzels



Field trip to Dinosaur World



Salt-dough maps of Mesopotamia



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

At Cru, we've been going through a great Bible study together and the past few weeks have been about relating to people according to [Romans 12:14-21](#). Paul instructs us to bless those who curse us and overcome evil by doing good. This is hard stuff! In fact, it is humanly impossible, and that's what makes it so special. When we love our enemies, or those who are acting like it, that is a kind of supernatural agape love that doesn't come from a sinful, human heart. It's injected into us as we receive the grace of God through the cross and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Living this out, however, is not a once-and-done thing. I (Jeff) can go through seasons (or moments) where I demonstrate that agape love and then other seasons where I'm not plugged into the source of life and love. When we're not plugged in, we can see others not as people to bless, but as mere floatation devices in our own private world meant to bring us what we need, or as obstacles to avoid because they are preventing our happiness.

I even simulated a dialogue of how Karen and I talk past each other during moments when we are not tapping into the source for our needs (check it out [here](#)). When we are plugged in, though, and our own needs are met, we can really see other people the way God sees them and that's when we will be doing our best to live at peace with all men and women!



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