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Love,
Jeff + Karen

WORKING TOGETHER

Over Christmas break, about nine thousand students gathered in hotel conference rooms at 9 locations around the country for an intense week of spiritual growth and action. Here's how one student, Shalom, was impacted:

"[Before the conference,] I asked myself: at what point do I stop being a Chinese immigrant and start labeling myself as American? As years went on, I started to suppress my Chinese cultural identity and began to embrace the full American culture.

Now, after this conference, I no longer see myself torn between two distinctly different cultures but as a bridge to reach out to the Chinese/international communities around my school. I realized I was gifted the knowledge and understanding of multiple languages and cultures by God to be a missionary to my fellow classmates at UCI!"



God has gifted Shalom to be a bridge for Jesus between cultures

The event was an incredible spiritual accelerator for Shalom and the other 1,200 students attending in LA. They also had opportunities to share the gospel during the Day of Outreach. Stepping out in faith, many for the first time, in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God... He allowed them to have 702 spiritual conversations with people around the city and 50 people prayed to ask Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior. Your prayers and support are helping students like Shalom reach their classmates with the eternity-changing love of Jesus!



Gospel rally getting roudy at a Cru student Winter Conference

PRAISES

- * 60,000 new believers being SENT for Jesus
- * 9,000 students attending Winter Conferences
- * Karen loving another seminary class
- * Our kids owning their faith

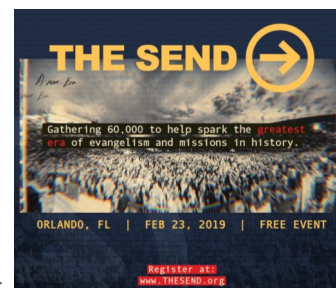
REQUESTS

- * Students to take what they learned back to campus
- * Preparing to prayer walk 75 new campuses Feb-Apr
- * Our kids to keep owning their faith and education
- * For us to grow in faith and all that God has for us

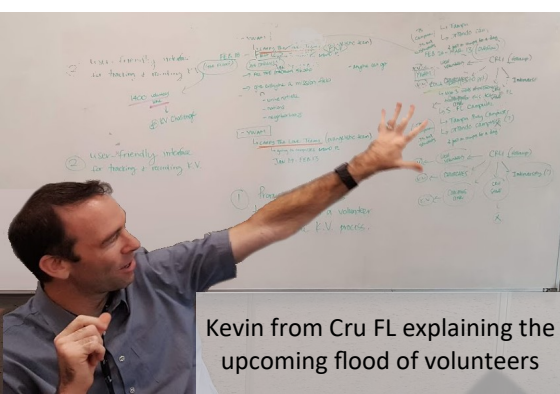
KICK US OUT, LORD!

In the only prayer request Jesus commands of us, He says, "ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:38). The word "send" is ekballō which is closer to "cast out." It makes me think of big bouncers coming to throw us out of our comfort zones.

Near the end of February, over 60,000 of God's children will gather in a soccer stadium for 12 hours here in Orlando to an event called The SEND. Francis Chan, Lou Engel, YWAM, Hillsong and many others are asking God to use them to "cast out" these believers into high schools, colleges, neighborhoods and nations of the world with the love of Christ.



It sounds incredible! We can't wait to be a part of it and we hope you join us, but Karen and I have already gotten to have an incredible part in this! We met with one of the folks running the event and introduced him to the Cru leaders overseeing ministry in FL. Because of that, 370 volunteers from the Send will stay for a month afterward, walking on 75 campuses and launching new Cru movements that we will then teach local churches how to run! Praise God for the unity of His Church!



Kevin from Cru FL explaining the upcoming flood of volunteers

John 16:33

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.



Katherine loves the idea of excavating dinosaur digs. They're both crazy about dinos!



I love how kids of all ages play together at co-op. Here's Arthur playing football.



Arthur winning at a game I recently designed. He's getting hard to beat!



Kat and her friend love capturing and studying wildlife.

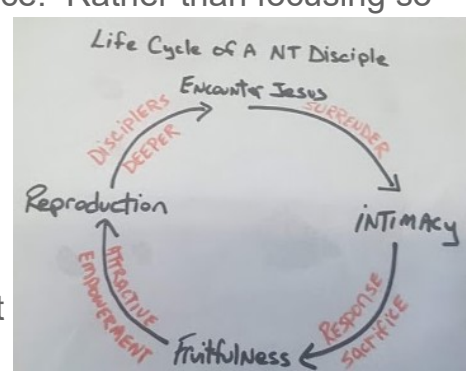
WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

I (Jeff) can swing back and forth between striving "for God" on one side and running from work entirely on the other. I act like I'm really running with God, but I'm doing it under my own power instead of His, and doing what I think should be done instead of letting God take the lead. When that happens I may get a lot done, but who knows if it is even what the Lord wants to accomplish. I certainly stay busy, but it is only a matter of time before I feel burnt out.

When burnout sets in, I stop wanting work for Him at all. I crave "me time" and would rather be distracted by entertainment, especially the kind that doesn't require much energy.

This isn't the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10, but it isn't because God is holding out on me. I'm the one spending so much energy without plugging into the source. Rather than focusing so hard on results, I need to abide in (make my home with) Christ.

The model to the right came from a pastor and ministry partner who has learned this first-hand. Our only part in the cycle is seeking and responding to intimacy with God. I know that means spending time in God's word, but one of the biggest dangers there for me is familiarity. Another friend encouraged me there, saying that God speaks to us through His living word even in passages that don't directly relate to what you're going through. I'm sitting at His feet more, praying deeper, and waiting on the Lord. His plan is better than mine, and a whole lot more livable!



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