

Cru College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant

Jan/Feb 2013

Hello friends and family! We hope you had a beautiful holiday season and that God blessed you and your family in special ways. January, for us, was a month of exploration. We've been diving deep into the Bible with a seminary class on apologetics, a series in church on the Holy Spirit, and a personal devotional by CS Lewis. God has taught us a lot about His love for the world, and how He is moving throughout it, especially through the internet (as you'll see below!). Also, Jeff's articles as a missionary journalist are posted at GrantMinistry.WikiDot.com/Stories.

Love,
Jeff + Karen

Praises!

- * Marriage and family thriving
- * Relationships with many new ministries
- * NJ students blessing their communities
- * Fresh passion for our walks with God!

Prayer Requests

- * Renewed efforts for God on NJ campuses this semester
- * Finding the best fit for our passions with Cru
- * Jeff's writing would equip Christians to follow God's mission
- * Parenting with grace

Campus Events: Online Outreach

Sarah had no idea how her Christmas break would make such a difference so close to home. Just one of 1,000 students to attend Radiate, our Christmas conference in Baltimore, Sarah heard speakers talk about the theme of "Restore." They explained how we live in a broken world and how Jesus restores all things that are broken. Many students' hearts were touched by how Jesus invites us into the ministry of restoring *alongside Him*." You can see the talks online at Vimeo.com/channels/453477.



Responding to Jesus' invitation right away, Sarah and her friends answered the challenge to spend one night of the conference participating in an online outreach to their friends and family back home. They were asked to record testimonies and pair them with evangelistic videos then post them to Facebook and to start online dialogues. One of the videos used can be found at FallingPlates.com. Feel free to use it yourself!

While staff members ran a prayer table, Sarah came up and asked for prayer because her sister who lived in Baltimore responded to her outreach and wanted to meet to talk about spiritual things the next day! Please pray as she ministers to her surprisingly open sister.

Students today have 'communities' online. If we are to reach the college campus today, the Gospel needs to be where they are—online strategies of evangelism are becoming more effective in our changing culture. The potential for taking the gospel worldwide could begin to happen through these means. I'm learning at Headquarters that, because of this, one of our main components has become Virtual-Led Movements (enabling staff and students to do evangelism and discipleship, even when meeting face-to-face is not possible).

New from HQ: Online Missionaries

A woman named Evelyn contacted me for help recently when she saw my name on the "Ask a Question" page of EveryStudent.com (Cru's primary evangelical website). She said, "It's hard for me to really understand the Bible, and I think that's why it's hard for me to really have faith in God. What do I do cause I really want to understand and follow His word?"

I'm posting my response on the back page, but Evelyn's plea is a great reminder to me of how God can use us through something as simple as an email. EveryStudent is a partner with GlobalMediaOutreach.com which sees hundreds of thousands of visitors each day. Would you consider becoming an online missionary—using your computer to share your faith with seekers, or help struggling believers strengthen their walk with God—through this ministry? Email me for more information.



Family News

We had a very low-key Christmas and New Year, which was exactly what we were hoping for. We stayed down here and celebrated with a few other STINT families. We've felt really blessed to have family visit so much since we've been here. My mom was here again a few weeks ago, and Jeff's parents just returned home again. Both have been able to babysit while Jeff and I attended some pretty important events, including a dinner at the home of (Cru president) Steve and Judy Douglass. In spite of being accustomed to speaking to crowds of thousands of people, Steve was perfectly content to have a great conversation with Jeff and I about helping to install his own fence! We are so thankful for leaders who are real, humble, and just plain fun to hang around with.

It's been fun to see our kids growing in many different ways, including spiritually.

About a week ago, Jeff's co-worker asked Katherine, "How do you know God is real?" and without missing a beat she said, "Because He's in my hawt." Meanwhile, Arthur and I have been having great theological conversations in the car, partially thanks to things he hears on the radio—"Mommy, what's 'grace'?" and "What does 'hope' mean?" (thank you, Z88.3!)

Arthur started preschool at the beginning of January, and he absolutely loves it. This free program is at a local church, several of the other STINT families send their kids there and love it, and

God made it clear that it was time to try it out. It has been great for Arthur and we know it was the best step for our family, but we'd appreciate your prayers as we adjust to a new schedule and help Katherine adjust to the changes.

The kids have such a blast together—acting out little stories, doing craft projects, singing, and just making each other burst out laughing (half the time I don't understand what's funny, but apparently it's hilarious). Please join us in praying that their hearts and minds will be open to the Lord and all that He has for them!



What God's Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

We Christians trust the Bible's claim to be the living word of God that explains the whole story of life and answers every major question. It was a refreshing experience preparing a response for Evelyn, an online seeker who asked me to help her understand how to read the Bible. Here's some of what I said:

Ask God for Help: The Bible says that we need the Holy Spirit in our hearts to explain it to us. Ask God to show you what He is saying to you, and commit yourself to searching out who He *really is*, not just what you want Him to be.

Learn together! Join a group of people (Christians if possible) and study it together. God Himself is community (Father, Son and Spirit) and He designed us to discover and live with Him as a community.

2 Parts: The Bible divides into two basic sections. Testament is another word for covenant or promise (God's promises to us). The Old Testament (OT) covers from 2500-400 BC. The New Testament (NT) were written 40-90 AD.

3 Styles: Both the OT and NT break down into 3 styles of writing in this order

1. **History:** True stories about events that happened. You can learn about God based on how He interacted with His people. The other sections were written during and about events described here. The OT History books are Genesis through Esther. The NT History books are Matthew through Acts.
2. **Wisdom:** Specific topics (suffering, love, parenting, etc) and situations that rose up in the churches (heresy, legalism, etc). The OT (Job through Song of Solomon) are poetry while NT (Romans through Jude) are letters.
3. **Prophecy:** OT Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi) spoke mostly about two major catastrophes in Israel's history (warning and explaining). Several foretell Jesus 400 years before his birth. The NT prophecy is Revelation which mostly talks about Jesus' return.

Helpful Resources: [Backstory](#); [JESUS Film](#); [And God Said](#); [Lesson on the Word](#); [Storybook Bible](#); [66 Love Letters](#); [Audio Bible](#)

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