

# COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



JANUARY 2014

May the Lord bless you in new and exciting ways this year. May it be a year you look back on and say, "that's when I really saw God move in my life and help me do great things for those around me!"

Love,  
Jeff + Karen

## OLD STOMPING GROUNDS

We never imagined our path with Cru would take us back to Messiah College. After all, we'd never heard of the ministry while attending there. Having Bible study options on every dorm floor made it seem not all that necessary. God has grown our vision since then, and apparently He has done the same for Messiah sophomore, Katie.

Katie contacted our new ministries team after attending a Cru Winter Conference with her missionary brother, Sean. She told us that even at a Christian college, there are students that don't know Jesus. She wanted to bring the outreach opportunities that Cru has to the students of Messiah, teaching them how to share their faith and even reach out to the secular campuses around them.

I have spoken with Katie twice now and she has already gathered 10 students who want to be involved and to invite their friends as well. I've also contacted churches around Harrisburg to partner with them in reaching several other schools nearby. Please pray for Katie, the 4th Katie in a row with whom we've launched a campus!



Katie, with her brother, praising in the new year at a Cru Winter Conference

## PRAISES

- \* Seeing progress with campuses and churches
- \* New church and life group
- \* Making connections and blessing others at Cru headquarters

## REQUESTS

- \* Wisdom in decision-making
- \* For Karen's grandma, who needs surgery to repair a botched mastectomy
- \* For deepening relationships at work, church and neighborhood

## CALLING CALIFORNIA

As part of my efforts to bridge Cru and local churches, I've started to reach out in several directions. From our base at Cru headquarters I'm able to effectively do multiple things, including: ask regional directors which most strategic campuses still have no ministry, track former missionaries who have become pastors now, and identify our ministry's strongest supporting churches so I can offer resources and training to them. I've also been looking for staff members who have a similar vision for partnership, like Dan Allan, one of our directors in the Pacific-Southwest region, and Lauren (pictured here).

As part of her communications degree at USC, Lauren will be giving 15 hours each week to serve at Dan's regional office. After talking with me the other day, Dan has decided to dedicate Lauren's hours toward calling 360 of the churches in their region, offering to come alongside them as they reach out to nearby young adults. I will coach Lauren in Cru's resources, strategies and (most of all) in our heart to see lost students transformed into life-time laborers. Please pray for Lauren as she dives into this daunting task while considering ministry after graduation and planning her upcoming wedding!



Lauren, with her fiancé, Flying the USC colors

~ Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

## FAMILY UPDATE

What can I say? We are all just thriving here. Jeff has been overwhelmed (in a good way!) by all the opportunities he's had to minister to students, pastors, and fellow staff. I've been able to have meaningful social interaction and spiritual replenishment on a regular basis. The kiddos are mostly doing great, though we have continued prayer requests for wisdom regarding eye surgery for Arthur, as well as decisions regarding their education and activities.



We are loving this new phase of life that no longer includes lugging a diaper bag wherever we go. Katherine is excited about being a "big girl" and we are finding that we are able to do more things and enjoy our family time together more and more. Her sweeter side shines a lot more often these days, and she will spontaneously say something very encouraging or start praying to Jesus. She is a blessing and an example to us by going to Him right away in response to different circumstances!

Arthur is such a fun little guy. He got his first Legos for Christmas and loves to build and play—we have enjoyed bonding with him in this way! Certain things that happen at school have been gateways to really great conversations and prayer together, and we are thankful that he is so open with us and with God about what's going on in his mind and his heart.

## WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

I feel like, this month, God wants me to share about how I am learning to love my wife. I am by no means an expert, and I wish I listened to my own advice more often, but God has definitely taught me some things, and then taught them to me again and again :).

The devil knows that the best point of attack isn't at work but at home, and it is no different in ministry. It is so easy to be excited about what happens at work, or to see what needs to be done when

things are tough. There's an aspect that makes us want to give more and more to it, often a clear sense of how well we're doing and dynamic change.

Things are much different in the home, though. When I come home from a long day of excitement working with others for a better future, my wife has been fighting a very different battle, a very messy battle. I don't just mean dirtiness—though there's plenty of that with our two little tornadoes in the house—I mean that her role isn't simple and easy to measure. It's harder to get a sense of accomplishment finishing the laundry when another load is about to pile up. It is hard to see progress with our children that seem so mature and loving one minute and then complete maniacs the next. The other day, we read through [this article](#) from the Huffington Post that did a great job describing that tricky moment of connecting with each other after a long day, especially when you have little kids.

Whether or not you have little kids or one of you stays at home (or even if you're married at all), these questions are so helpful for getting deeper than the usual, "how are you?" "fine" cycle.

- When did you feel loved or lonely today?
- Where did you see God at work today, and where do you think the devil might be pushing?
- What did I do today that made you feel appreciated or unnoticed and what can I do to help right now?

My son and I have started asking each other 3 questions as part of our bedtime routine. We pick one about family/friends, one about fun and one about God. Often the last one is, "What did you do that would make God smile today, and what wouldn't?" It works on friends too. Ask specific questions that discover what things are happening in their life and then follow up on them, which reassures them that you remember and care. "How is your mom's chemo going? How'd that conference with Ben's teacher turn out? What's going really well with work right now?" There's a [slew of verses](#) about how this kind of fellowship is commanded by God (so it must be important), and [according to Dr. Henry Cloud](#), safe unconditionally loving community is what God uses to heal our hearts. Who comes to mind for you to talk to this week?



JEFF.GRANT@CRU.ORG - KAREN.GRANT@CRU.ORG

908-892-6844

[www.GrantMinistry.org](http://www.GrantMinistry.org)