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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

2014 ended in a whirlwind of illness and some tough emotional stuff, yet we saw God work in and through us. We are thankful to enter a new year with a fresh start, having had the chance to "slow down" and engage with God.



JANUARY 2015

Love,
Jeff + Karen

STUDENTS RALLY FOR CHRIST

Over 1,000 students from around the Mid-Atlantic region attended

our winter conference called [RADIATE 2014: Anchored](#).

- 24 put their faith in Christ!
- 105 committed to spending at least a year in full-time ministry!
- 220 committed to going on a [summer mission](#) opportunity with Cru!
- 741 signed a pledge of surrender which can be [found here](#).



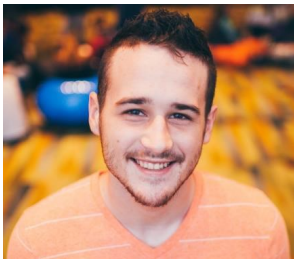
PRAISES

- * New people are joining our ministry support team
- * We've all begun to exercise and study the Bible more
- * Churches are stepping up to help us reach their local college students

One student impacted was Zach, who had drifted over the summer. Plagued by fears and doubts, he called himself an agnostic and was resentful toward God.

Through Cru, Zach came back into fellowship with Him and even joined a city outreach during the Christmas conference. He challenged a young atheist, "do you think it's possible that there is a God?" The man even agreed to hear Zach's [gospel booklet](#). Zach explains, "you just have to show up, just say 'I'm willing to share,' and God takes care of the rest."

Pray for Zach and view the main talks [here](#).



REQUESTS

- * Wisdom in planning & making decisions for this year
- * Karen's mom will be living with us for 2-3 months
- * For us to desire God above all else

WHAT THE STUDENTS THINK

I'm so excited to hear the hearts of my students as they seek to launch movements where there has never been one before. Listen to Malaysia from Albany State:

"I am writing this brief statement just to speak having CRU on campus would be extremely beneficial to students. Although there may be positive organizations already, CRU stands out. CRU is an organization for those of us that not only want to grow more in Christ and learn his word, but reach out to the student body as well. CRU is a positive organization that wants to help others.

In college, many students can easily fall away from God, being that some become involved in negativity since they are away from home. CRU is an organization that wants to build up together to make a strong family, and let one another know that it is okay to not follow the crowd. We simply want to have this organization to help others become closer to God, and hopefully it will help transform this campus in a positive way."

Please pray for Malaysia, for Cru to become an official [club at Albany State](#) and for other schools that still have nothing like this.



Daniel 3:17

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us...

FAMILY UPDATE

God is so good. Yes, we all got sick (very sick, sinus infections and bronchitis ran laps around our house), but He provided the strength we needed to get through it. He also provided family and dear friends who visited us over the holidays and this month as well.

One of the great things about living in Orlando is that people we love always have some reason to be here. In Katie and Darren's case (top), they were here for the Run Disney Dopey Challenge (48.6 miles total)! Whatever reason brings you to our city, definitely call us up so we can give you a hug (and possibly a tour of Cru world headquarters)!

The kids had a great Christmas, full of art supplies and construction toys. They even got a crayon maker (thank you, garage sale!) so they could melt their old broken art supplies and construct new ones :). Karen bravely went "dumpster diving" and cleaned up an old whiteboard that is big enough for both to draw on at once (thank you, neighbors!) :)

We are excited to have taken on a new role at church, as part of the teaching team for our middle-school Sunday school class. This is an answer to our prayer that we could get more involved in serving our church family, and we ask for your prayers for wisdom and love as we seek to disciple these young hearts well.



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

I thought this [ad for Dockers Jeans](#) is a riot, but it also drives home a point: "Once upon a time, men wore the pants, and wore them well. Women rarely had to open doors and little old ladies never had to cross the street alone. Men took charge because that's what they did. But somewhere along the way the world decided it no longer needed men. Disco by disco, latte by foamy non-fat latte, men were stripped of their khakis and left stranded on the road between boyhood and androgyny.

But today there are questions our genderless society has no answers for. The world sits idly by as cities crumble, children misbehave and those little old ladies remain on one side of the street. For the first time since bad guys, we need heroes. We need grown ups. We need men to put down the plastic fork, step away from the salad bar, and untie the world from the tracks of complacency. It's time to get your hands dirty. It's time to answer the call of manhood. It's time to wear the pants."

This March, my church will host a men's weekend retreat based on [FamilyLife's Stepping Up](#) video resource kit. A foundation of strong men will be a blessing to their families. Pray for us, and check it out yourself :)

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