

GrantMinistry.org

Reaching COLLEGE STUDENTS with Jeff and Karen



JANUARY 2016

Love,

Jeff + Karen

Our beloved co-founder, Vonette Bright, finished her task and went home to the Lord last month, but we will continue to press on until the Great Commission is fulfilled!

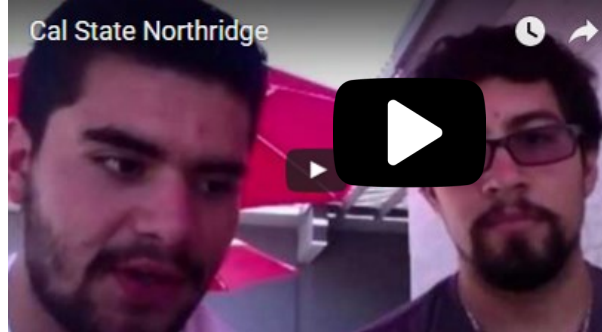


UPCOMING HIGHLIGHT

While Cru is active on over a thousand campuses in the US, there are still many campuses that have no active campus ministry.

Christian students are isolated and there is no active effort to share the gospel.

We are blessed with the opportunity to help brave young people to launch new movements where there was nothing before, like Eric and Gadiel from California State's Northridge branch in the video above.



God uses these powerful student leaders to glorify His name at their school and be a part of lives transformed by Jesus. At the same time, these movements are even stronger when lifted up by the surrounding local churches.

Eric invited us out to CA at the end of February to connect with pastors and local church members about how they can be more involved with the campus. Just an hour to the West of them, another network of churches has asked for our help in launching Cru at their Channel Islands campus of California State. Please pray for God to use this upcoming travel to unite His Church, bring the Good News to more students, and also to help provide the financial support that we missionaries need to be able to continue reaching new students and campuses for Christ!

PRAISES

- * God has been answering our prayers for new ministry partners
- * Our marriage and family growing strong with Christ
- * Building a network of Christian artists across the city

REQUESTS

- * Our kids to shine for Jesus at school
- * Upcoming ministry travel
- * Completing our team of prayer and financial partners

Deut 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

People don't always realize that Cru is more than just a single ministry to college students. Here are some 2015 highlights from some of the 70 other ministries in our organization:

Athletes in Action mobilized 950 student-athletes and coaches to share Christ in 22 countries.

Campus sent 3,500 students and faculty to 53 nations, where they saw over 5,000 people added to the Kingdom. In addition, 45 new STINT (year-long international internship) teams were sent to over 40 countries.

FamilyLife trained volunteers and staff in Mali, their 109th country. The Art of Marriage is now available in six languages with more on the way. Our outreach to families is opening some interesting doors for the gospel. Recently the Weekend to Remember was recognized by the government of China and dozens have come to Christ at recent events.

City has also launched a number of global ventures, including a church in Indianapolis that has partnered with us to reach a central Asian nation. They raised up four couples from their local body to join another couple already on staff. They are now serving the church-planting effort in the capital city.

STATE OF THE CRU UNION

Indianapolis that has partnered with us to reach a central Asian nation. They raised up four couples from their local body to join another couple already on staff. They are now serving the church-planting effort in the capital city.



FAMILY UPDATE

Christmas in Florida is a bit weird. For most of December, it was pretty uncomfortable to wear even long sleeves, but that didn't stop our community from wrapping palm trees in Christmas lights on November 1st and covering their lawns with enough inflatables to see from space.

We had a wonderful time putting extra focus on the birth of Jesus, how He broke into our world to rescue us from darkness. We're always a little surprised by the depth of conversation our kids are able to handle as we process spiritual things with them.

We had our share of decorating cookies and celebrating in silly ways as well, including putting a Santa hat on the giant cardboard Iron Man in our family room. The kids were so fully engaged with the whole process this year and even picked out really thoughtful gifts for each other.

It was tricky to find ways to keep them busy and active for their *two weeks* off of school, but Katherine had plenty of new arts and crafts supplies and Arthur read at least 4 books (and not like little books, he's into the 2nd Lord of the Rings book now)! Please let us know if you have any books you no longer have a use for that you would like to pass along to a voracious young reader!

FAMILY CORNER



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

When I was younger, I (Jeff) was diagnosed with ADHD. I learned strategies for living and thought I had overcome any major obstacles by the time I was in high school. It has come to my attention, though, that a lot of things I struggle with today are actually related to the symptoms of adult ADHD. As we explored an incredibly encouraging and insightful book, The ADHD Effect on Marriage, I was asked to describe how these symptoms feel from my perspective.

Picture a man juggling some balls. Some are important, some take a lot of time/attention/effort. ADHD, though, is like a screen put in front of the man so he can't see the balls until they are inches from his hands, making it hard for him to prepare for them. He also can't tell which are most important, so he tries frantically to keep them all going. When people throw him a shiny new ball, he has a hard time knowing whether he can/should ignore it or which he can let drop in its place.

Now picture ropes running from his heart to all the people he has relationships with and cares about. Sometimes when a ball drops, one of those people gets whipped. They may cry out at him or not even realize it had anything to do with him, but he feels responsible for hurting them and sometimes wishes they were not tied to him so they wouldn't be hurt. He doesn't know which ball would hurt which person or how badly, so he just keeps taking on new balls and trying to keep every single one going (which is of course impossible). Some are a waste of time. Some bring him life. Some of them should be juggled by the people who threw them, but it seems impossible for him to tell which is which. All of them need to be lain at the altar (1 Peter 5:7). There is lots of hope, though, as we learn more about the symptoms and treatment and even the benefits of ADHD. God has already used this to bless the lives of others, but please continue to pray.

