

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



FEBRUARY 2014

Love,
Jeff + Karen

Spring is almost here :) We hope the news of what God has been doing this month encourages you and blesses your heart. We'd also love to show you a video Jeff put together about some volunteers from NJ (click the "[Newsletters](#)" button on [GrantMinistry.org](#)).

ANYONE CAN DO IT

Levi from Kansas (on the left) is the perfect example of what I want to see happen. My dream is to see all evangelical churches actively reaching all age groups (college students being one of the biggest missing links), and for all campuses to have a thriving ministry of students reaching their peers and being poured into by local churches. To achieve that dream, part of what I'm doing is finding where things are going well and showing the world how it can be. It can be like Levi.

Here's a guy who has never taken a college class and works a full-time job in a machinist shop, yet God is using him not only to run Cru at his own local community college, but to coach a team of other volunteers running 3 other schools!

Levi would be the first to tell you that he has made mistakes, and God has taught him a lot, but he chokes up with emotion when sharing about the lives God has touched right in front of him. He says, "If I can do this, anyone can!"

Please pray for Levi and pray that God draws more people to do what he is doing. If that means you, give me a call!



PRAISES

- * 4 of our Messiah students are going to Big Break!
- * Karen's Grandma's surgery went smoothly and she is recovering well
- * We joined a church

REQUESTS

- * For people to come to Christ during the Big Break conference
- * My grocery store ministry (see family article)
- * Jeff reaching Christian colleges and seminaries

CHURCHES DO IT, TOO

Most of our campus ministries are run by individuals—some combination of missionaries, volunteers and student leaders. Occasionally, though, an entire church takes it to heart to adopt their local college students. That is just what is happening with Pastor Alan (bottom left) and his church in Enid, Oklahoma.

"We'd drive by all the time and see the students," Alan told me. "I was convicted that I needed to start an outreach to them."

Since then, the church has rallied around the campus, providing food and prizes each week for their on-campus meeting, teaching and mentoring the students, and taking them on trips to serve locally and across the US (such as hurricane relief).

Pastor Alan has been conducting this Cru ministry even after the missionary who recruited him left staff. For the past few years, they have had no contact with Cru, but now I'm happy to report that I will be coaching and connecting him with resources and other campuses. Alan is thrilled to see how God can use his congregation in the lives of young people. I can't wait to see this happen all over.



~ John 17:23

I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

FAMILY UPDATE

Sometimes I (Karen) joke that I don't even know where my "comfort zone" is anymore, so I might as well just try things and see what God has

for me. So even though large groups of small children scare me and I get carsick, I decided to help chaperone Arthur's class trip to the zoo. It was a great day! I did feel a little sick on the bus, there were several incidents involving bird poop, and I'm glad I packed wet wipes, but I'm SO glad I went and shared this incredibly special experience with my son and his classmates. I got to meet some of his friends, hang out with other moms and experience a lot of nature. The above "act like a monkey" picture includes two of Arthur's best friends (Isaiah is next to him, Daniel is on the far right) who live in our neighborhood and have families who love Jesus—what a huge blessing! Please pray that these boys will continue to grow in the Lord and encourage one another toward love and God-honoring actions.



Our little Katherine turned four last week! We celebrated together with a piñata and custom-designed cake (aka I tried to draw a pig and a Lego ninja character using colored icing, per their requests). It seems like she has grown up so much these past few months, as she has gained more control over both her body and her emotions. She loves to help Mommy around the house, and I'm frequently surprised at how quickly she catches on when I teach her all kinds of things. Kat is a little ball of sunshine and we both love to start conversations, so one of our "on the side" ministries together is to build relationships with the employees at Publix (local grocery store). Would you join us in praying for a special young lady we have been getting to know there? She and her boyfriend just found out they are expecting a baby, and she hasn't told her parents yet.



Please continue to pray for both our little ones to grow in their love for Jesus. We are so thankful that they both ask us great questions and go to God in prayer (especially Katherine, who will spontaneously start praying out loud anytime and anywhere). Pray for them (and for us!) to continually grow to know God better.

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Don't you love introducing people? There's a special kind of thrill when you can help two people meet and see both benefit from it. God is teaching me (Jeff) to be better at truly seeing and listening to people. That gives us the chance to identify ways they are valuable as well as what needs they have. Both show a person that you care about them, and are great ways to live out the body of Christ! Not all

connections work out, but it is always worth the effort. One time it did work out recently was with Dori and Jenna.

Dori (top) is the Director of Family Ministries at the church where I grew up. Over the years, I have watched her and her team of volunteers really revolutionize the children's ministry program. I've seen more and more young people coming to the church and seen them thrive under her dedicated leadership. On top of that, I've heard Dori's heart not just to settle for what's always been done, but to continually seek after God's heart for what would best serve the children under her care.

Flash forward to our new church in Orlando, where Jenna (bottom) is the children's ministry coordinator. Though the program is still in its early stages, I've been impressed with just how carefully they have thought through their ministry. Jenna's dedication to our kids (and to coming alongside parents in having a heart for scripture and to follow God) struck a familiar cord during our initial conversation. She reminded me of Dori, and it occurred to me how sweet it would be to get them in touch with each other.

This month, I was able to set up a call between the two of them and just listen in as they discussed issues far beyond my understanding. It was clear, by the notes she was taking and the questions she asked, that Jenna found a lot of value in what Dori had to say. Likewise, Dori seemed to truly appreciate the opportunity to share and was revitalized herself by this blessed new relationship!



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