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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen



FEBRUARY 2015

In the dead of winter, God's people have still been at work, ministering to the lives of young people from all over the world. Check out Deepal's story below!

Love, *Jeff + Karen*



FAITH & CAREER COLLIDE

I had no idea what was going to happen.

I had arranged a great opportunity for the students to engage with someone who has been out there in the industry and whose walk with God has carried him through it all, but would they come? Full of nerves as I interviewed him, Bob confessed that he felt more comfortable at gunpoint in South America than in front of a crowd. Would he deliver? Students are often so cold to Christianity. Would they respond?

As I walked into the highly secured facility, I was pleased to discover that the school had heard about our event and had even advertised it themselves, offering professional credit to any who attended the entire presentation! Bob



shared his need to do something meaningful, which resonated deeply with the packed room, and students lined up to hear more.

Of the 50+ in the room, 25 signed up to go deeper and 15 said they'd like to learn how to have a personal relationship with God. Please pray as we follow up with each of them individually!

REACHING THE WORLD FROM RIGHT HERE

One of those who asked about a personal relationship with God at our latest event is Deepal (name changed). When we met her, she had only been in the US for 10 days and said the conversation she had with us was "Very positive, unlike any God talks I've been to." When I asked her about it, she said the only encounters with Christians she'd witnessed were fierce debates. But the time we took to listen to her and other students fanned a flame in her heart to hear more.

Deepal has come to 3 of our events now, and brought 2 of her friends this last time as well. Knowing most international students never even see the inside of an American home, we've made efforts to reach out to her and even introduce her to our neighbors (who are from her country).



This morning, my neighbor told me that she has been hanging out with Deepal and is taking her to their church this Sunday. Pray for Deepal as she is excited to learn! To reach international students, visit BridgesInternational.com.

PRAISES

- * New people are joining our ministry support team
- * We've begun a **daily** prayer time with our church
- * Karen's mother moving in with us while her house is built nearby!

REQUESTS

- * Hearts we're ministering to on and off campus
- * Freedom from distraction, and ability to use our time well
- * Upcoming gospel and partnership opportunities

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you!

FAMILY UPDATE

Our gorgeous daughter turned 5 this month! We praise God even more so because it is only by His grace that our little cannonball has survived this long. Katherine is an absolute fire cracker who loves, fights, plays, cries and plays with all her heart since the day she arrived. She and Karen are now a gospel tag-team too. A few weeks ago, Katherine was riding in the grocery cart when she held up a cross she'd made out of a straw and toothpick. She proceeded to quiz the woman behind her in the check-out line about what it means. Karen overheard and joined in the conversation and now the woman has been coming to our church for several weeks along with her husband and son, and she asked about bringing friends of her own as well!

Arthur hit a milestone this month, too! He had his final eye therapy appointment and a graduation celebration with the office workers, including a 3D viewing of Disney's Frozen (Arthur had never been able to see 3D before therapy)! Arthur and Karen have been a real light in that office, including last time where the therapist told us through tears about her father and grandfather being in the hospital and her heartbreak over growing up in a broken home. Karen is sad that she won't see all the ladies she has been ministering to in that office for a while, but they all gave her personal numbers and want to meet up for lunch and some even for a tour of Cru headquarters!

We have also begun alternating attendance to our church's 7 days/week 6am prayer meeting! We have been growing in our faith and in our friendships with fellow church members, as well as seeing God do some pretty amazing things. We are grateful beyond words that Karen has experienced new freedom from despair, and life in our house has been different in a very positive way these past few weeks!



WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

One of my favorite things about ministry is the chance to “**by faith, try stuff.**” Some people talk about formulas for success, but God wants us to engage with Him in relationship, not just check boxes in our schedule. After all, “neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow” ([1 Cor 3:7](#)). Other religions put the control in our hands and our relationship with higher powers is strictly transactional—if we perform certain rituals, things will go well.

God doesn't want any of that! He says “stop bringing me meaningless offerings” and “return to me” (Isaiah 1:13, 44:22). He's interested in a relationship. My team has been studying a book called “[With](#)” by Skye Jethani, and have been learning about the 5 postures we have toward God. We often try to live “**over**” God by exchanging the living Lord and just keeping the principles and life strategies of the Bible. Other times, we live “**under**” God as if He's waiting to zap us if we don't legalistically do everything right. Then our consumerism kicks in and we live “**from**” God, like he is a butler who exists only to meet our desires. The most tricky, though, is life “**for**” God, where we spend so much time doing good things that we lose sight of the actual relationship “**WITH**” our first love ([Revelation 2:4](#)).



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

908-892-6844

www.GrantMinistry.org