

New Jersey College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant

March/April 2012

How amazing it's been to see students stepping out in faith to share the love of Jesus on their campus! The Rowan students I mentioned [last issue](#) have generated momentum with the rest of the group, committing to step out and love on non-Christians every week before their large group meeting. Freshmen hosted their first [Pizza and God outreach](#). Students all over NJ celebrated [QuEST Week](#) by reaching out to share the gospel more than ever!

Love, Jeff + Karen

Praises!

- * Students unashamed of the name of Jesus
- * More volunteers are discipling students
- * Karen's health is beginning to return
- * New leaders stepping up for next year
- * Our kids are romping outside among the flowers of Spring

Prayer Requests

- * Deeper relationships with non-Christians on and off campus
- * Karen's health to keep improving
- * Students to attend summer missions
- * That we shepherd our children with joy

Recent Highlight— Sharing Jesus at GCC and Stockton

Michael has just about the brightest smile I've ever seen. He started with [Cru at GCC](#) like so many others—excited about God, but not recognizing how God affects every part of his life. Michael wanted to connect with other Christians and to grow in his walk with the Lord, but didn't really know how or even why he should connect with non-Christians. I've been encouraging him to put his God-given talents with people toward helping change people's lives and bringing glory to his Heavenly Father at the same time.

At [Jersey Cru](#), our statewide meeting, he saw hundreds of other students committed to sharing the unconditional love of Jesus, and he came back excited to help us start our [Alpha course](#) outreach on campus, but still resisted the idea of starting conversations with people he didn't know already. This past month, however, we've started setting up a prayer request table outside the cafeteria, and Michael's heart has swelled with joy as he's been able to stop people casually to ask if we could pray for them about anything. Pray for his continued growth.

On the other side of South Jersey, I've been building connections with the students of [Stockton Christian Fellowship](#), a large group of young people who spur each other on toward loving Jesus while at college. Similar to Michael, most of them have not been taught about evangelism, and shy away at the very word. Since Cru is entering into partnership with this pre-existing ministry, and since I am not able to be there every week, I have been pretty gentle with introducing the concept so far, prioritizing relationships with the students and earning their trust. Last time, however, Casper (left) went out to [share the gospel](#) on campus with me. We had a great time, and he's excited to use these new skills with his apologetics club when they visit the Atheist convention in DC!



Recent Highlight— "Who Am I?" Seminar Outreach

Last Thursday, Matt Baehr (fellow Cru missionary) and I teamed up to run a brand new outreach we put together that teaches students to identify their own personality types based on the [Myers-Briggs scale](#). After a short test, we explained what their results revealed about their interests and passions, helping them see what majors/careers would bring them life, and

how to interact with those they don't naturally get along with.

It was an easy transition from how fearfully and wonderfully they were designed, to introducing the Designer that made them with such care. Over 60 students attended, and several stayed long after the seminar was done, like Sparkles (right) who is ready to choose Christ!



Family News

Before gushing about the kids, we wanted to update you briefly on the prayer request, “Karen’s health.” To make a very long story short, she was on Cymbalta for post-partum depression and needed to stop due to side effects. The withdrawal process has been physically debilitating, but she is doing very well emotionally. We know God used the Cymbalta as part of a healing process, but she’s glad to be done. She is more than happy to share more if you call or email. Please pray for follow-up blood work results.



We never realized how many milestone stages there would be in our children’s lives, that every day would bring beautiful little moments to celebrate. Katherine had her “second ever” hair cut (right) and it was bittersweet to watch her tiny wisps float away in the breeze. She turned 2 at the end of February, and it sure is clear that she’s in the boundary-testing stage. She’s starting to grasp what it means to be under authority, and she’s not happy about it! On the other hand, she’s getting more sweet and affectionate as well, flashing these dazzling smiles and calling out for us in a way that makes us feel like we won the lottery. She has also been singing more and more. As long as her will is not being thwarted currently, she is the most delightful sunshine. It is not easy to be the ones whose job it is to thwart that little will and teach her how to live in God’s world.

Arthur has become such a big-boy helper. He loves to help us dust and to vacuum the kitchen with “Little Vac,” and he always asks to help with yard work. We’re pretty sure he’ll have a



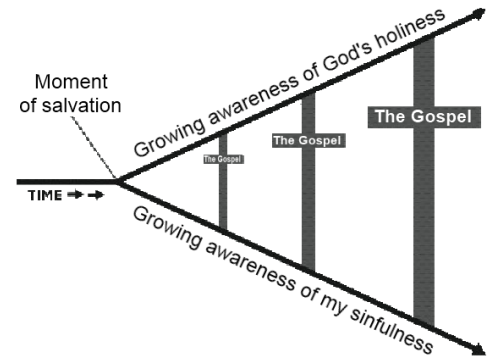
career in landscaping or construction—he consistently tells us he wants to drive a backhoe when he grows up! He also wants to be Buzz Lightyear and fight evil. I don’t know if it’s just a stage, or something unique to his personality, but Arthur is extremely thoughtful and sensitive. He often gives compliments and asks how we’re doing, and he can’t stand to be in the room if someone (even on TV!) is crying.



What God’s Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

I’ve been reading a book on discipleship called Postcards from Corinth, and learning more about behavior change versus heart change. The author says that “when we forget the gospel, we cheat our disciples. We give the impression that being a follower of Jesus means becoming less broken, less sinful, less hopeless... Gospel-centered discipleship focuses on internal change... You can tweak external behavior all day, but to change the desires of the heart, you need the gospel.” It is so easy for me to focus on behavior, but heart change and the gospel seem so abstract. What exactly is the gospel, and how can it change us?

External change is about looking good. We all work so hard to fool people, even ourselves, into thinking we’re ok, “good Christian” men and women. But Pastor Tim Keller describes the gospel by saying that “you are worse off than you ever dared imagine, but God loves you more than you ever dared to hope.” John 3:19 explains that the gospel is God’s love, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus, bringing precious life-giving sunlight. That light can’t help change us while we are hiding in the darkness with our sin. Our hearts are transformed with gratitude as we realize more and more just how big a debt was paid on the cross.



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