

COLLEGE OUTREACH

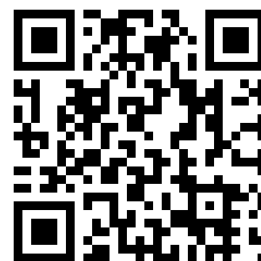
WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



MARCH/APRIL 2013

PRAISES

- * God is boldly moving around the world
- * Our family is getting stronger spiritually and physically
- * NJ students sharing Jesus Christ during Spring Break
- * Opportunity to expand our ministry



REQUESTS

- * Renewed efforts for God on NJ campuses this semester
- * Finding the best fit for our passions with Cru
- * Jeff's writing would equip Christians to follow God's mission
- * Parenting with grace

"Whom have I in heaven but You? I desire You more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; He is mine forever."
~ Psalm 73: 25-26

We're praying that God blesses your life as you read this. Over the past month, students flooded Panama City Beach, Florida to tell Spring Breakers about the love of God.

Last year, 420 people asked Jesus into their hearts and 3,144 will bring that message back to their campuses. Since NJ campuses had different weeks off this year, some joined those in Florida while others participated in Hurricane Sandy relief. Pray that their labor will have eternal impact! Also, see Jeff's missionary journalist articles at GrantMinistry.WikiDot.com/Stories.

Love,
Jeff + Karen



Christina (left side of the picture) is a fun-loving Christian girl, but the lure of college life really got to her. As a Freshman at Fairleigh Dickinson University, she turned away from her walk with Jesus. But Christina's

CAMPUS EVENTS: LURE OF THE WORLD

Christian friends stayed in touch with her and continued to pray for her.

Recently, she said she's "empty and in need of Jesus." In tears, she explained, "everyone around me in my sorority looks happy, but they're really all missing something, and that something is Jesus." Now, she is excited to meet with a discipler every week, to truly know Jesus and to experience deep relationship with Him! It's because of your support that ministry like this is possible. Thank you for praying for the hearts of students in this spiritual battleground.

NEW MINISTRY ROLE?!

Even before we joined staff, Karen and I have had a heart to help the church engage college students. According to [Barna's study](#), more than half of Christian teens walk away from God and the church after high school. After learning the ropes of campus ministry, Karen and I began to develop some ideas for volunteers to connect with

Cru, including the [church partners handbook](#).

Through a series of surprises, we ended up in this training program at Cru's global headquarters in Orlando. I was excited to share what we've been working on, and I hoped to find a few others doing the same thing so we could compare notes. What if we could really start to make a difference toward keeping churches connected with that "missing link" age group of 18 to 29?

God has been moving!

Not only has there been a lot of excitement over this project, but God brought me into contact with the best group in Cru to help make His calling a reality. The Student LINC team runs campuses all across the US (that have no on-site missionaries) by coaching student and volunteer leaders over the phone and internet.

Gilbert Kingsley, who leads that team, has **invited me to join them as the Church Partnership Specialist for campuses in NJ and all across the country!**

Please pray for us, because this feels like an answer to so much of what

God has been doing in our lives these past few years. It looks like everything is coming together, and the Lord seems to be giving a lot of green lights, but there is a lot to think and pray through with such a big life transition. We would love for you to pray for us and with us, and to call or email us with questions. We could not do ministry without your prayers and support, and we want you alongside us every step of the way.



FAMILY CORNER

Arthur is growing like a weed, and surprising us every day with sweet things he's learning and thinking about (including, apparently, a "journal" he keeps at school :). He loves to take time out to pray for people/situations as they come up. Katherine has been getting a lot better with authority and discipline, and has moments of being the sweetest little love you could meet. She randomly runs up to me, throws her arms around my leg and says, "Mommy, I double-love you!"



With the prospect of Jeff transitioning role (see front), God is showing us His hand at work in beautiful ways. It is so clear how He's used our previous experiences to bring us to this point. Imagine finally being told you can do exactly what you thought God was calling you to do, and suddenly seeing very clear reasons why everything needed to happen in HIS perfect timing. It's rare (and thrilling!) for God to be so obvious.

I'm excited about the prospect of moving to Orlando for personal reasons as well. Having a regular schedule has given me breathing room to put a lot of I-wish-I-could's into practice. Reading the Bible every day, and a monthly "1/2 Day with the Lord" have been literally life-altering for me. I'm able to enjoy quality time with Jeff and my kids because my head isn't constantly spinning.



My health has also been improving lately. Thank you so much for praying for "Karen's health" over the past couple years, because I've had random, vague physical troubles. The only medical diagnosis we've confirmed is that I have Raynaud's, so I "need to avoid cold" (how about another vote for Florida?).

Aside from consistent time with God, community has been the best part of being here. Living so close to headquarters gives me access to a ton of other staff wives/moms, some of whom I've been getting to know these past months.



The kids love making friends with other "missionary kids," and they have continued to thrive as God has brought healing to this family in so many ways. I'm also excited to get more involved at the office—I've been presented with many opportunities, please pray that God would show me HIS best fit for me!

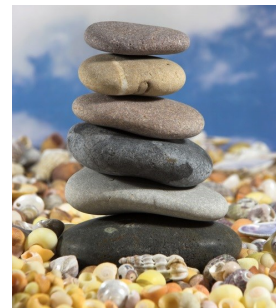
WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US (Karen)

Psalm 37:4 tells us, "Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desires." A year ago, my desire was to have peace. I believe post-partum depression was God's gift to me to begin a process of soul surgery—idols, fears, faulty beliefs and confusion were all brought into the light so He could deal with them. Between taking the action steps of forgiving, owning my own "junk," and replacing lies with His truth, something happened as a side effect. I started to delight in Him.

When you're in the word daily, you see how much He loves us and what He was willing to do to get us. When you forgive, you realize you are following the example of a God who is extravagantly merciful. When you understand the depth of your messed up-ness, you rejoice in the freedom and grace He gives as He makes all things new. You can't help but delight in Somebody like that!

So what about my desires? Yes, He has been faithful in giving me peace! I truly feel His peace for the first time I can remember. It isn't temporary, and it isn't budging. The me from last year would have been freaking out—from what we can tell, it looks like we're about to move again, sell our house (which has decreased in value), spend the summer making ministry trips, move back here, and start transitioning all over again. The only reason I could even type that sentence is that God is faithful and He has taught me to trust and rest in HIM!

This verse has another implication as well: as we delight in Him, He will give us new desires. When we're being filled with desires that reflect His heart, we find there is less room for selfish, earthly desires. What about you? How have you seen God replace your desires with His own in your life? How have you seen Him fulfilling your desires as you delight in Him? Create some kind of "standing stone" to celebrate what He's done ([Joshua 4:1-7](#))—keep a journal, email a friend (like me!) about it, or create a physical piece of art as a reminder you can see.



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