

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



MARCH 2014

Love,
Jeff + Karen

The ups-and-downs of the day-to-day keep us dependent on the Lord and show us new ways He is refining us all the time. We are so thankful for everything God chooses to do through us, and so thankful to YOU for your prayers and support!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JOEL?

Some of you who have been with us a while may remember Joel (pronounced Joe-Elle), whom I disciplined at Middlesex County College. I have continued to mentor him, and he has graduated from NJIT and has now joined staff with Cru!

Currently, Joel serves on 4 NJ campuses. Here's a little of what God is doing there:

- Over at [NJIT](#), students have been taking one day out the week to go out sharing their faith as well as pray for their campus!
- At [Kean](#), students have been inviting speakers to speak at their meetings on relevant, hot topics such as "Does God Exist?" and "Sex and the Search for Intimacy."
- At [Farleigh Dickinson](#), they hosted an event called God, Love and Relationships focusing on godly relationships.
- Even at [Hudson Community College](#), where Cru had only launched just last semester, God has been using Elizabeth, our only student leader currently, to bring new people each week to the weekly Bible study.



Joel, a student coached by Jeff, now a Cru missionary!

To hear more stories of students in NJ, visit JerseyMetro.com/blog

PRAISES

- * Messiah students had a great experience at Big Break!
- * We're really "putting down roots" for the first time in years
- * God using us to minister to co-workers in & out of the office

REQUESTS

- * More opportunities to share God in our community
- * Churches to unite in reaching students in NH, CA and across the country
- * Reveal/remove idols in our hearts

INTO THE LION'S DEN

Just a few weeks ago, I mentioned launching a new outreach-focused [ministry at our alma mater](#), Messiah College, with a dynamic student named Katie. I'm so thrilled to share that they have jumped on the opportunity to participate in our strongest outreach mission trip, called [Big Break](#).

About 1,000 Cru students gather in Panama City Beach, FL each week for the month of March to be trained and sent out to engage other college students who came to throw their lives full-time into the party lifestyle. We have seen tremendous impact during this time in past years, and our students always return ready to pull out all the stops on their own campus.

The week Katie and her 3 Messiah classmates were there, Cru connected with almost 6,000 vacationers and saw **257 immediate decisions for Christ!** I have a list of their first names if you would like to pray for them. You can also see a video of Katie sharing her experiences at our newsletter website:

GrantMinistry.WikiDot.com/Newsletters



1 John 5:14-15

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.



FAMILY UPDATE

In the words of Francesca Battistelli, “This is the stuff that gets under my skin, but I gotta trust You know exactly what You’re doing. It might not be what I would choose, but this is the stuff You use.” We had some hard stuff to deal with in March between homeowner woes and health stuff. We

discovered mold in our house and part of our downstairs was torn up for a while. We feel very blessed that it wasn’t too widespread, that God gave us the strength to deal with it, and gave us the ability to take care of it on our own—mostly owing to the fact that we’ve done mold remediation before (I guess FL wasn’t the place to go to avoid humidity :). My dreaded allergies

are actually what helped us discover the mold and take care of it before it became a bigger issue.

Another struggle is that, with all the sickness injury and exhaustion, it’s been very hard to spend quality time together as a family. This is one of those situations where I can’t imagine how God is using it for anyone’s good, but I just need to trust that He has His reasons for having us go through it. We are trying to “lean in” and depend on Him and let go of expectations.

At the same time, there are some great things going on! Arthur has been learning to read, and there is something magical about walking in to find your 5-year-old reading to your 4-year-old. They are just crazy about each other and it is sweet (most of the time, haha) to watch their interactions. Both of them have great imaginations and love to tell us stories they’ve made up. Katherine really likes to do sweet things for us and then sing out the word “HELPFUL!”



WHAT GOD’S BEEN TEACHING US

Lately I (Karen) have been praying for wisdom about how to use my time, resources, energy, skills, etc. And I mean I’ve frequently been crying out in frustration because I don’t feel like I have enough of any of those things to really make a difference anywhere.

A month ago I met a woman with a butterfly tattoo and we had a brief conversation in the bathroom of Chick-fil-A. I was in a part of town that was out of my comfort zone, with Katherine, without my GPS. This woman told Katherine she had beautiful hair, “like a princess.” We exchanged pleasantries and departed. A few minutes later, I drove past that woman as she pushed her 2-year-old son in his stroller. I knew she hadn’t eaten at Chick-fil-A, because I saw her outside asking a man for money right before we saw her in the bathroom. I asked if she’d like to go back so I could treat her to lunch, but she said she was OK with her food stamps. What she really needed was money so she wouldn’t get kicked out of her hotel room. She was gracious, almost cheerful when we parted ways again.

I eventually found my way home, after being pulled over for still having (expired) New Jersey plates on the car. The officer changed my plates (the new FL one was sitting on the floor of the car, 1 of a thousand things on the “to do” list) and I burst into tears when he asked if I knew my way from there. Did I know my way? I wanted to go back and find that woman and her son and bring them home with me. I wanted to know where I could have sent them for help. I wanted to know what hotel she was staying at and what her name was. I wanted to help every person I had seen out on the street that morning. I wanted to NOT feel like a failure—I couldn’t manage to change my license plates, let alone change the city of Orlando. All I wanted was to rescue that woman with the beautiful butterfly tattoo. And I kept crying the rest of that day.

The next day, I was listening to a talk on James and the speaker (Jennifer Wilkin) said “You’re not responsible to help them all. You’re responsible to act out of the ability that you have.” Then the study notes referenced Deuteronomy 10:18 “He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.” God already had His sights on that woman and her little boy. He already loved her and wanted good things for her. He wanted me to meet her and be broken and be part of this story in some way. Less than 2 weeks later, I received an email letting me know that the ladies on our team (the National Campus Office) will be volunteering in May at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission—a gospel-centered organization that provides resources and programs for homeless and at-risk individuals to meet their spiritual, physical and emotional needs. The location is right near the road where I met that lady. God dropped an opportunity in my lap because I was asking for one! (please see Bible verse on front page)

Friends, God is so eager to answer. He doesn’t care if you don’t think you’re capable, because HE is capable. He doesn’t want me to alter my entire life for every cause I see or hear about, but He doesn’t want me to be paralyzed and do nothing. What breaks your heart? What does He keep bringing up? Sometimes God makes Himself so obvious. Just hold out open hands and trust that HE will give you what you need in order to do what HE wants you to do!

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