

# COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



MAY 2013



Our year-long training is at its end, and we are filled with lots of emotions. God has taught us so much this year, we've made great friends and it's hard to say goodbye. On the other hand, we have so missed everyone in and around NJ, we can't wait to see you again! This Summer promises lots of traveling (CO, NJ, PA, FL) and transition, but we embrace the adventure ahead because it is so clearly from God.

Love,  
Jeff + Karen

## CAMPUS EVENTS: TAKING A STAND

Samantha, a sophomore at Rowan University, was inspired by Cru's message to be an ambassador for Christ on campus. She decided to write her final paper for Philosophy on Agape

love.

Her professor asked the students to summarize their intended papers in front of the whole class, so she started talking about how the unconditional love Jesus has for us is impossible for us to show others, yet is what we are all looking for. She went on to say how we are not random and that there is an answer to this love we're all searching for... Jesus! Through His love we are made new again.

The professor had no comprehension of, or categories for, the stuff Samantha was saying. He started to ask questions like, "what is the whole deal with the cross?" and, "why did Jesus' death matter? Couldn't someone else's sacrifice count?" Samantha stayed after class to explain more of the gospel to her professor.

Please pray for Sam's witness as she is the only Christian in her class that she knows of. Pray also, as she writes this paper, that the Spirit would give her the words to write.



## PRAISES

- \* Students are willing to risk rejection for the sake of Jesus
- \* Our family is getting stronger spiritually and physically
- \* God is placing us where we can do the most good
- \* Increased trust in God's goodness and provision

## KAREN'S NEW ROLE?

Cru has done an excellent job at reaching the campus, but hasn't always been fantastic at helping alumni plug into ministry for a lifetime. To that end, Karen has been asked to be one of Cru's first official "transitional coaches." Her job would be to stay in regular contact with students who have committed a pledge to go, do, say and give whatever God calls them to. She will help them discover how God can use them in the "real world" and plug them in with Christians in their community who will live life on mission. I contacted some girls she has discipled to find out what they thought:

"Karen is humble yet wise, open minded and openhearted, approachable and a listener like no one you've ever met. She kept me on track loving the Lord when nothing seemed to go 'my way' back in college and inspired me to wait on God's timing. Thanks to Karen's humble guidance during formative years in my life I'm loving Jesus more than ever." ~Laurie



"Karen is such a calm and sweet person with a gift for comforting and encouraging. I am so grateful to have been discipled by her and gotten to know her. Karen is a blessing to this world and being around her inspires me to be a better person because of her patient, caring and giving personality. Karen is so much fun to hang out with too." ~Monique

## REQUESTS

- \* our house to sell
- \* our kids to deal well with transitions & travelling
- \* fruitful meetings with churches who want to reach college students

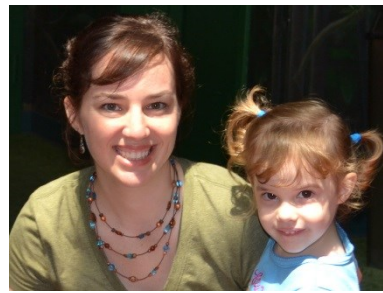
<sup>3</sup> You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.  
<sup>4</sup> You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.  
<sup>5</sup> You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

## FAMILY UPDATE

We have officially finished our year at Lake Hart Stint. We've said most of our goodbyes and are just packing up to head back to NJ for the summer. It's been a year of growth for all of us, and we have been so thankful for coaches, leaders and friends that have poured into us.

Arthur just turned 5, right after graduating pre-school. It's been fun to watch him learn and grow in so many ways. He's learned to write his name, count to 100 and draw recognizable pictures. He loves "arts and crafts time" and brought home so many creations from school. He loves to sing along with the Christian station here, and we have a few favorites that we belt out together (he even made up his own motions for a couple of them). I'm always surprised to hear how many lyrics he actually knows! He is very thoughtful and empathic, and it was fun to watch him interacting with so many new friends (Oliver, below, was one of his best school friends). Please pray for God to be his rock and to comfort his little heart as we process goodbyes and go through this transition.

We are grateful for the many ways Katherine has grown this year. She has become so affectionate and it's much easier to communicate with her these days. She is very clever and loves to explore the world around her. She is particularly interested in different textures (which can make meals a bit of an adventure). She has strong opinions and a strong will, but we have seen her become more cooperative and gentle, and we are excited to see how God will use those aspects of her personality to bring Him glory as she learns to live for Him. Please pray that she will see God clearly and feel His deep love for her.



## WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US (Jeff)

As a parent, have you ever felt scared that you're doing something wrong? We want to point them to God and teach them well, of course, but when something goes wrong it's easy to wonder if it was our fault. Parenting and Christianity seems to have been a theme for us lately, and hopefully what God has been showing us will be helpful to you as well. In church the last several weeks, Karen and I have had the opportunity to take a class based on the book Spiritual Parenting by Michelle Anthony. We were taught:

- To be the primary spiritual nurturers of our children, not Sunday school or anyone else
- To desire not simply behavior change but hearts transformed by the gospel
- Only God can change their hearts, not us
- Ten environments we can create for our children to connect with God

My heart has also been broken as I've met many parents whose teens and grown children are not walking with the Lord. According to Barna statistics, close to 60% of people who went to church as teens drop out after high school. They created a book (and now a group study) called You Lost Me which gives ideas for avoiding pitfalls and passing on a vibrant, lasting faith.

Among those who've gone astray is one of the children of Cru's president, Steve Douglass. Steve's wife, Judy, created a group called PrayerforProdigals.com that just hosted a worldwide day of prayer for prodigals. The same week, Karen found an article by Abraham Piper, former prodigal and son of well-known pastor and author John Piper, who offers insight into 12 specific, practical ways you can reach out to the prodigals in your life. One is to let them come home, "because your deepest concern is your child's heart, not his actions... spray their jacket with Febreze, take her to her ultrasound. If he's been staying at his girlfriend's – or boyfriend's – apartment, urge him not to go back, and let him come home." Join me as I pray for the prodigal children and their parents!



JEFF.GRANT@CRU.ORG \* KAREN.GRANT@CRU.ORG

908-892-6844

www.GrantMinistry.org