

New Jersey College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant

June/July 2012



God bless you and make you a blessing to others! What greater blessing can we receive than to be used by our beloved Creator to help fulfill His mission to rescue His children from darkness? Karen and I have been having fun reconnecting with churches and individuals who believe in the call to reach college students with the gospel. We hope some stories from our life bring encouragement to your heart. Please let us know what God is doing in *your* life, and how we can be praying for you!

Love, Jeff + Karen

Praises!

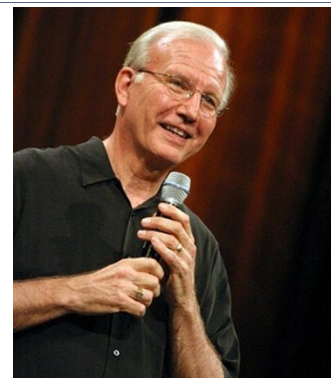
- * Our Cru Partner website is underway
- * Students led 4 to Christ on mission trip
- * Karen's health returning big time
- * More churches getting involved
- * Arthur is learning to spell

Prayer Requests

- * 5 interns to raise their support to join staff
- * New ministry partners
- * Preparing for Florida (see bottom article)
- * That we demonstrate the gospel to our kids

Recent Highlight— President of Cru Visits NJ

Dr. Steve Douglass, president of our entire international ministry, came to speak at Jersey Cru at the end of May. It was such a momentous occasion for the ministry, and I'm not even sure the students realized who he was! They don't care a whole lot whether it is the president of the largest mission organization in the world speaking or one of their fellow students. What impresses them is the word of God, seeing Him move in people's lives and being challenged to follow Him with their own. When Dr. Douglass began to speak, the students were absolutely captured by the stories he told about God.



I was a little nervous about how a prestigious and refined gentleman like Dr. Douglass would respond to the milling throng of unruly NJ students, but this past week he sent his monthly global communication and, wouldn't you know it, he was talking about us! He said, "The mood was electric. It seemed like every time I gave an example of what God is doing around the world, there was spontaneous applause... you could see the joy of Jesus Christ radiating from their faces... I sensed a depth of commitment to and involvement in the ministry." He built a lesson on how God used our ownership of the ministry to do great things. You can read his entire article at MovementsEverywhere.com. Please for that ownership of God's mission to spread!



Upcoming Highlight— We'll be Communicating to the World

This year, Karen and I will have the opportunity to take part in a leadership development program at Cru's World Headquarters! We will receive training from national leaders including president Steve Douglass. While there, I have been asked to serve on the Writer's Team—I'll be telling stories of what God is doing around the world for our magazine [Worldwide Challenge](#), developing web content for various sites, and helping to produce communications for radio broadcasts, videos and even the president's office. I'm excited to find out for myself what God is doing throughout the ministry worldwide, and I can't wait to share with you!

This will also be a fantastic opportunity for me to develop my heart for church partnership. This summer, I have been creating [tools](#) that clearly communicate practical ways for church members to reach their local campus, and folks at headquarters have already voiced interest in running with it.



Writers Team at Cru HQ

Family News

So far our summer has been full of adventures. We are very thankful for a nearby park with a great playground, and even more thankful for some good friends with pools! Both kids have been far more adventurous in the water than last year. Arthur went from barely playing on the steps to boldly venturing out in his tube. He's very excited that can touch the bottom with his feet in the shallow end. Katherine zooms around in her little pink tube and doesn't even mind getting splashed by the bigger kids.

Arthur is excited about Zelda and Mario, and has even been playing his own Elmo video game where he works with letters. We're surprised at how quickly he learns things. He's also doing much better at pronouncing his L's and R's. He is very interested in God and is always asking questions and saying "I need to know God better." Don't we all! In Sunday School they are learning about creation, and if you ask him what his verse is he will say, "oh, you know...(pause to giggle)... 'You made the world and everything in it.' Pants 89:11." He says that Psalms is too hard to say and that it should be pants. He also finds himself very amusing (can't imagine where he got that ;o)



Katherine has become much more affectionate and a little less opposed to authority. She loves to do whatever Arthur is doing, but that is a little tricky because she also really loves to destroy things. She likes to sing and use Play-Doh, and loves to experience her food with all of her senses. She has adorable conversations with her toys. It is really delightful to watch and listen to both of them playing when they don't know anyone is observing. It blesses our hearts to hear them being polite or even talking about God, when we're not supervising.



What God's Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

It is distressingly often that students I meet on campus will say in the same conversation that they belong to a certain religion but that they do not believe in God. Religion, for many, has become more of a family tradition than an actual set of beliefs, and certainly not a relationship with a living and loving God. They act as though faith was just some childish thing they had to go through before they could move on to "real life," and they are often closed to other perspectives because they think they've heard and dismissed all the Bible has to offer.

I've heard the same story from many church members who said that, growing up in the church, they had no idea what a personal relationship with God really was. They say that they were always told "what" to do, but never "why." This was resonating in my heart as I listened to a powerful message at a partner church this past Sunday called The Trouble with Traditionalism. In Matt 15:1-20, Jesus accuses the Pharisees of valuing their own traditions over the very commands of God. He said they "honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." Legalistic "religion" is just another way people try to take control away from God.

One of my seminary professors compared this to the pigeons in his psych class. Each student had to teach his bird to hit a lever to receive food, but the birds always added steps they thought were necessary (like pecking above and below the lever first). Christianity is about a relationship with Jesus (John 17:3), and anything more, he said, is like pecking above the lever. A book we hand out on campus, called Jesus Without Religion, reminds us to focus on what the Bible shows us about Jesus, confessing and discarding any "extras" that get in the way of knowing Him.



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