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Reaching **COLLEGE STUDENTS** with Jeff and Karen

Hello and God bless you today! God sees you and has a plan. He's on the move! You are already marching with Him alongside us in prayer. Thank you and stay the course! Love,



JUNE 2015

Jeff + Karen

GOD'S SMALL WORLD

Karen and I have been able to bless people and launch ministries because of the help of our supporters, and Cherryville Baptist is a great example. Because they think of us and come to us for help, we've been able to connect their young people to

Christian communities away from home.

Brianna is the newest installment in that story. At University of New Haven in CT, she got involved in a Christian club, but they decided they wanted to be more than just a "club." They wanted to effect eternity by reaching their campus with the love of Jesus Christ. So, they changed their name to Cru and God has blessed their efforts to build community with dozens of students, but they weren't connected to other campuses, tools or missionaries.

Brianna reached out to us because we spoke at her home church and she introduced me to Mary, the club president. Now Mary is plugging in with our Summer Connect program (below) and blown away by the ideas and structural help we've been able to provide.

Pray for Brianna and Mary as they seek to support each other and step out in faith to reach their classmates for Christ!



Brianna and Mary at an "Ugly Sweater Party"

REACHING THEM WHERE THEY ARE

3,059 students are attending 180 Cru mission trips this year in 52 countries. They come back changed forever, saying it was the best experience with God in their lives. But only about 5% of our students get to go, while

many of the rest fall away from God without the fellowship they had on campus.

That's why I've teamed up with my former supervisor, Rob Mittuch, to be a part of creating this online mission trip called Summer Connect, which takes them through daily devotions and weekly faith step challenges using apps, social media, etc.

Each Sunday night, 1,300 students gather in a web conference (from as far as Iceland) to share what God's been doing in their lives and to hear from our top speakers!

Pray for the impact they can have for the kingdom! You can get a sneak peak into what they're up to [THIS WEEK](#) or [sign up yourself!](#)

PRAISES

- * God is using us to bless hurting friends
- * 1,300+ students plugged in with our digital Mission Trip
- * Building a network of Christian artists across the city

REQUESTS

- * Upcoming mission training conference
- * Karen starting a new ministry role as kids enter grade school
- * Unity in and among churches

Colossians 4:5

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Our former NJ supervisor coaching digital team leaders



FAMILY UPDATE

We had so much fun planning and celebrating Arthur's 7th birthday. He got to pick the theme and invite his friends, and Karen and I had a great time making up all sorts of decorations and games. It's amazing how mature Arthur has gotten. A

FAMILY CORNER



Arthur chases Katherine in a themed version of "duck, duck, goose" at his birthday party in the park

birthday present he's been requesting for a long time is Minecraft. We were hesitant at first, but have found a lot of family bonding as both kids tell daddy what they want him to build in their dream house...in "peaceful mode" ;)

We are starting him with an allowance to teach him about saving, spending and giving according to some great resources we found on DaveRamsey.com (a Christian financial counselor). Arthur's already showing himself to be thoughtful, generous and responsible. We're hopeful that we can teach him to avoid some of the pitfalls a lot of us run into with money.

Katherine hit a major milestone too, graduating from pre-school. She's going to start full-time Kindergarten in Aug (which is a milestone for mommy, too, who is anticipating diving deeper into ministry outside the house). Though clearly the more sporty of the two, Katherine also surprises us with how fast she picks up information!

We're gonna miss these kiddos so much during our upcoming [staff conference in Colorado](#), but we're also so grateful to Karen's mom for watching them, which is giving us space to really enjoy the time together. This conference has always been a time of renewed vision, healing and refreshment, and we are looking forward to seeing how God will move this time!



Cooperative Interior Design with Minecraft

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

This month, God has been teaching us how He can use a willing heart to change lives anywhere. You may remember meeting Shelby and Ryan from a previous letter, where Karen [met them at our local grocery store](#), became friends and attended both their [baby shower and wedding](#). They've both been hungry to

grow in their walk with the Lord and have been coming to Karen and I for advice about faith and parenting. Shelby left a message for Karen one time saying, "I really love the way I see you interacting with your children and I want to ask you questions because I want to be a mom like you."

This month, we sponsored them to come with us to a Weekend to Remember marriage retreat put on by FamilyLife (a ministry of Cru). They LOVED it, took tons of pictures and notes and then asked us to take a picture with them holding up their marriage covenant. They've now asked us to help them reach out to other young families they know with a marriage Bible study.

FamilyLife made a [book](#) with the teachings from the conference (though I doubt you could capture the humor :) and a DVD series called the "[Art of Marriage](#)" so you can run a conference right from your church or home!

