

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



SUMMER 2013

God bless you and remind you today that there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more or less. May you see the good works He has prepared for you and be so encouraged by His power and love in your life!

Love,
Jeff + Karen

STAFF CONFERENCE

“Worship” is probably the best word to describe our experience at our [2013 Staff Conference](#)

a few weeks ago. We feel like the Lord truly met us as we worshipped with over 5000 Cru missionaries from all over the US. We got to hear from many of our leaders, as well as people who are ministering in different ways all over the world—God is at work in so many places, in so many ways! Their wisdom, experience, and passion for God help us to reach young people in a way that is relevant yet unapologetic about proclaiming the truth of Christ.



Another highlight was catching up with fellow missionaries from all over the country. We loved being able to pray with them, especially about Arthur (see page 2). We also got to meet and discuss ideas with other people who are passionate about helping artists reach their communities with God’s love.

You can [watch](#) and [listen to](#) all the teachings and see tons of great pictures on [Flickr](#) (my favorite albums are called “[Worship Response](#)” and “[Drama & Artistic](#)”).

PRAISES

- * God reminding us that He cares and that He is in control
- * A sweet summer living with family
- * Connecting with new campuses and old students

CHURCH TOUR

What a whirlwind this summer has been. Almost every week we have spoken at a different church, sharing the news of what

God has done for us this past year and the [exciting new roles](#) ahead of us. It has been great to see so many dear friends who have blessed us and our ministry over the years. We even got the chance to present a seminar on [missional living](#) that we hope God will use to inspire many of His children to put their faith into action and participate in His great rescue mission.



In addition to churches, several ministry partners have [introduced us to their friends](#), opening up doors for new partnerships and, in some cases, even new campuses! One highlight was a party hosted by our former student, Katy (who helped us launch Georgian Court 5 years ago). With around 20 guests of a variety of ages, the party lasted 5½ hours, allowing us to really get to know some sweet new friends and possibly even build potential for launching new campuses!



Please pray for God to continue to give us strength as we travel. Pray also that the Holy Spirit would bind His people together and ignite in them a heart to share the love of Jesus in their communities, workplaces and on the college campuses nearby.

REQUESTS

- * Our house to sell
- * The kids (and us!) to adjust to all the transitions going on
- * For us to meet with churches who want to reach their college students

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.
~ Acts 17:26

FAMILY UPDATE

Our summer in a nutshell: visiting different churches, attending our national staff conference in CO (see page 1), trying to sell our house (lots of packing) and taking Arthur to many doctors.

There was some concern because he walks on his toes (past the “normal” age) and has had some sensory issues (sensitive to sound, touch, etc). We are convinced God’s hand was involved, with so many praying, and we have seen changes in him over the summer—his MRI results showed everything is fine, the re-test of bloodwork came back fine, and he no longer freaks out when he hears loud noises or gets his face wet—in fact he has learned to swim and do flips underwater! As far as the toe-walking, he needs to do physical therapy for a while but he’s already made progress. We’re still seeing an ophthalmologist about his eye crossing, trying to determine if we can avoid surgery (again, we’ve seen improvement and each step seems to help). Our last step is bifocals, which we got today (please pray as he adjusts). We are even less excited about surgery since experiencing Arthur after his MRI sedation (see bottom article). Apart from that, Arthur has been a sweet little champ. So creative, he has been drawing pictures and making up stories, [Click here](#) to see a video of one.



Katherine loves building little nests out of pillows and blankets in every hidden corner. She always seems to have control over the situation, or at least she thinks she does, and is supremely confident in herself. She loves to draw, build with Trio blocks, and have all kinds of adventures (real and imaginary) with her big brother.

Churches: We have really loved visiting our partners around NJ to say “thank you” and talk about our upcoming transition to Cru headquarters in Orlando. We’ve connected with old friends, made new ones, and seen God provide for our needs. Since my mom graciously watched our kids during those travels, we were able to have grownup conversations and enjoy the hospitality of different friends who hosted us on different visits.



House: A cool story that isn’t finished: we have been praying that God would bless our house in South Jersey to someone who could use it for ministry, but it sat on the market for months with only 2 people even coming to look at it, 1 of whom made an offer. During a packing trip there, we met a couple in a restaurant whose kids are nearly the same age as ours. It turns out the husband, Justin, is the pastor of a local church-plant who loves Cru. We quickly became friends and found out that they were the people who had put the offer on our house! Please pray that their own house sells and for things to work out for both of our families financially. It looks like we are going to lose a significant amount of money, but it might be that God wants us to take this step of faith anyway. Please pray for Him to make His will clear here!

WHAT GOD’S BEEN TEACHING US

We had a week of “mountaintop experience” at CSU: worshipping God, connecting with Him and with fellow believers, and really having our hearts filled up. The day after we came home, we woke up at 4:30am, put Arthur in the car for 2+ hours to Philly, then watched our little guy get sedated and wheeled away into the MRI room to see whether he had any serious ailments (like muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy). That was the easy part.

A couple hours later we watched helplessly as he flailed and screamed while two doctors held him down. We were assured this was within the “normal” range of reactions to coming out of sedation, and that it would wear off over time, but even they seemed shocked and emotional as time went by and this gentle child was punching and kicking in fury as he tried to escape.

We saw gradual improvement over the next couple days, and it became clear that much of his rage was based on a firm but mistaken belief that he was able to walk on his own. He seemed not to notice his constant loss of balance, but kept getting mad at us for holding onto him. How often do we fight God, thinking that we can control our own lives? He patiently holds us down and cares for us. We’re thankful to the Lord for showing us a powerful example of [Proverbs 3:5](#) and giving us the strength to get through that difficult experience. We’re also thankful that the tests showed everything is normal! Here is a pic of Arthur with Mrs. Pam at physical therapy. We keep seeing improvement!



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