

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



SEPTEMBER 2013

We're shocked (and thrilled) by how quickly we've been able to jump into our new role with church partnership! Check out this video from Pastor Jessie in Plano, TX: GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/newsletters. Then, read these cool stories what God is up to right now!

Love, of
Jeff + Karen

PIONEERING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Just like Pastor Jessie (above), Pastor Thomas here contacted us at Cru because he was looking for help in reaching the students at nearby Frostburg University in Maryland. He had already had some experience working with another national organization and had launched a ministry on campus, but he found they just weren't partnering with him.

Already busy running a church of his own, Thomas was hoping for someone to come alongside him with resources and connections with other nearby campuses. I had the chance to tell him about our [Church Partnership Program](#). Over the past few weeks, we've had several conversations, including one where I was on speaker phone with a whole room full of Frostburg students. Now, Thomas and his team have decided to become a movement of Cru.

Since then, they've already met with our staff team and students at West Virginia University. Thomas as also applied to become an [affiliate staff](#) (official volunteer) with Cru. We've also begun to discuss how to approach other churches in the area to create a network of Christian partnership focused on reaching this campus for Jesus!



Pastor Thomas Winborn and his adorable family

PRAISES

- * OUR HOUSE IS SOLD!! (See back)
- * We got to visit a lot of our supporting churches & see people we love
- * Karen's grandma is recovering well from surgery

ADOPT - A - STUDENT

Another friend told us how much it meant to her to have a local church with volunteers pouring into her daughter:
"A church across the street from The College of New Jersey (where my daughter, Leanne, attended) had an 'adopt a student' program.

Ellen [who adopted Leanne] was a BIG part of my daughter's life. When Leanne didn't want to listen to me, she would listen to her. So much so that I wanted to meet Ellen. Ended up Ellen and I were the same age, listened to the same radio station, read the same books, were a part of the same organization... truly an answer to prayer. My dad always said that love is not divided, but multiplied, and we were so thankful Leanne had the influence from a Godly woman when she was making major life decisions."

Do you attend a church not too far from a college campus? Consider rallying some friends there to pour into the lives of local students with an ["adopt-a-student"](#) or ["discipleship"](#) program. No experience necessary! We would be happy to train and resource you if you contact us.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.
~ Come, Thou Fount of
Every Blessing



Leanne at TCNJ

FAMILY UPDATE

We are so excited that we will be moving to Orlando in just a few more weeks! In the meantime, we've been making the most of our time in NJ by connecting with friends and family and by enjoying outdoor events in the gorgeous autumn weather.

Arthur started kindergarten and he absolutely loves it. We love how excited he is to show us everything he's learning. He really enjoys drawing/writing in his journal, both at school and at home. He also loves making new friends and does this very easily wherever we go. This is a wonderful quality that we love about him, but it also makes us sad that he is so heartbroken when he has to say goodbye! Please join us in praying that he will make sweet friends in Orlando that will be in his life long-term. Our other prayer request for Arthur: the doctor confirmed that he needs eye surgery. This is a bummer because he has been such a champ doing everything he needed to do without complaining (wearing glasses all the time, patching 2 hours each day, trying bifocals). It's also hard for lots of other reasons you can imagine, but we trust that God is good and will give us everything we need.



Drawing & giggling together

Katherine loves to sing, dance and express her affection ("Mommy, I love you too many!"). She likes to be a helper, from folding towels to shopping for groceries. We are really enjoying watching her grow in her understanding of God and her desire to know Him more. Lately we have been listening to CD's called "G.T. and the Halo Express" which have stories containing Bible verses put to music. We probably like them as much as the kids do, and at any given moment you might hear any one of us singing Bible verses at top volume :)



Katherine dancing while Arthur waits for the bus



Arthur & Dakota met at the park one day over the summer and were thrilled to reconnect at a community event a couple weeks ago!

Please continue praying for God's peace and provision as we make this transition. It has been and will be literally life-altering in many ways, more than any other move we have made. God has been gracious every step of the way, and we are so thankful for His faithfulness that has brought us safely this far :)

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Listen to what God has been doing! When we heard God's call to move to Cru headquarters in Florida, we began to pray that God would use our NJ house to bless whomever bought it and that it could continue to be used for ministry. In spite of its great condition, however, it sat on the market for months with only 2 couples even coming to look at it. One put in an offer, but it was contingent on the sale of their own house.

Frustrated and confused, we took a trip to the house (Karen's mother has been graciously hosting us this summer) in order to pack it up. At dinner, Karen's heart was gripped by the Holy Spirit when she saw another family across the restaurant. She felt like God wanted us to do something for them. She tried to get me to buy them dinner and we ended up offering them some of our kids' outgrown toys.

It turns out the man, Justin, is the pastor of a local church plant who has heard of Cru and loves the idea of connecting with me in my new role as the Church Partner Specialist. We hit it off and exchanged contact info. A few days later, as I was putting his business card into the computer, I saw that they were the ones who put the offer on our house! They've wanted this house for years, but weren't in a position to buy it when we did. We became friends and have continued to pray for one another, and they were able to rent their house to a friend. God asked us to take a major step of faith by selling the house at a significant loss, but He has shown again and again that it isn't our money or our house to begin with—everything is HIS. The house we are about to buy in Orlando came on the market the exact day we said "yes" to their offer! Our new house is exactly what we need, and we're excited to see what God will do with our new home :)



Jeff and Karen with Becca and Justin who run Missio Dei church and bought our house

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