

COLLEGE OUTREACH

WITH JEFF & KAREN GRANT



DECEMBER 2013

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers for us as we made this big life transition. It can be hard to be in a new place during the holiday season, but our family is brimming with happiness and fulfillment because of what God is doing here.

Love,
Jeff + Karen



FILM STUDENTS AT THE MOVIES

“Thor is coming out,” Karen started sweetly. “Why don’t you go see it?” Wishing she could come with me and not wanting to go alone, I invited one of our colleagues, Brian (2nd from right). Not only was he available, but he brought along students from Full Sail University, a film/video game school he asked me to help lead.

I invited my cable guy, Pedro (see his story on the back page of last issue), and was surprised that he was able to come as well (2nd from left). After the movie, and some chatting about super heroes, it came out that the reason Pedro moved from Puerto Rico was to attend Full Sail! He has been excited to learn what Cru is up to and how he can join in. Pedro opened up to us quite a bit that day, and asks us to pray for wisdom and strength in leading his family.

Please also pray for my involvement with the students at Full Sail. Film and video games are a strong influence on children and shape culture more than we would think. God has given us a special burden for these students and for all those God can use them to reach.



PRAISES

- * Seeing progress with campuses and churches
- * Deepening relationships with friends here
- * Making connections and blessing others at Cru headquarters

CHURCH REACHES INTERNATIONALS

The US hosts over 900,000 international students from countries like China, India, North Korea and Saudi Arabia, yet 80% of them never even enter an American’s home. What an opportunity to reach the world from right here!

I am so excited to report that a coalition of churches around Rowan University has formed to reach out to the international students there.

I got a chance to share with folks at First Baptist Church of Clayton over the summer, raising awareness for the campus which is less than 10 minutes away, and they came to me about what it would look like to reach a specific group on campus, like internationals. I gave them a “Bridges in a Box” kit that walks people through everything they need, and I put them in touch with Matt Baehr, our missionary on the ground there.

With the help of Matt’s team, volunteers set up a Thanksgiving dinner for the international house on campus. Blessing students like Fahad, ChyJune and Sheldon from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Italy, China and India. Others involved have invited them over for dinner individually and in groups, taken them Christmas tree hunting, caroling, to church for Christmas and just hanging out around a fire pit. Please pray for the hearts of these students and the churches as well!



REQUESTS

- * For Jeff to learn the ropes of distance-coaching campuses
- * For us to adjust to our new surroundings, and to find a church to call “home”
- * Church contacts seeking to reach college students

~ Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

FAMILY UPDATE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The past 6 weeks or so have been kind of a blur, yet we have felt God's peace and have had a very sweet time for the most part.

We had several parties to attend with our staff teams—what a fun way to get to know people better here. We had several home improvement projects which needed to be done so our home insurance wouldn't drop us (!!!), along with some other minor projects that just made this new place feel more like home (grouting, caulking, resetting a beam in the attic, installing curtain rods, replacing a broken pipe cover and some toilet seats, and mucho cleaning). I am proud of myself and impressed with my hubby ;)

Christmas was pretty quiet, which was wonderful. On the 21st we went to a local park, which had miles of lights you could drive through, bounce houses for the kiddos, fan boat rides and a baby gator you could hold (yep, definitely in Florida now)! We went with a sweet family on staff down here who has sort of adopted us. Pray that we can minister to their 20-something son, who has some things in common with Jeff that could potentially help them reach out to a bunch of young guys for the sake of God's Kingdom. We also had their family over on Christmas Eve, where they were dragged around by their thumbs by Katherine ("Mr. Bob, look at THIS!") and then treated to singing by Arthur at our church's Christmas Eve service. We got lots of compliments on Arthur's bravery for singing up on stage, even though he had only been to the church twice so far. Christmas day was one of my favorite days on record, with just the four of us having a special breakfast together then taking our time opening presents and spending the rest of the day playing together. We were thankful for Skype and cell phones so we could still share the day with people we love.



"Little Drummer Boy" marionette show we attended at a local mall

WHAT GOD'S BEEN TEACHING US

Maybe you know someone who's really excited about a New Year's Resolution. Or somebody who's already upset about breaking one. I (Karen) tend to be very "all or nothing," and I can get really mad at myself when I can't (quickly!) turn reality into the ideal I see in my head. From all the assessment tests we took last year, one of the most important things we learned was that I am something called "high challenge" on the [Birkman test](#)—which basically means that I catch a vision and want to get there immediately. I'm not naturally inclined to be satisfied with individual steps in a process (and often can't even see *how* to break something down into steps). The positive side of this is that I will work diligently to see something accomplished, and I'm good at cheerleading others. The downside is that I can burn myself out, and my failures bring frustration followed by the temptation to beat myself up and never want to try again. I want to give God all the glory for working in my heart and helping me to change my attitude...and my actions are beginning to follow :)

The most important thing He's shown me is that the more I spend time with Him—reading His word, worshipping, praying—the more He can shape me with His truth. I am a beloved child of the One True King, and He does not love me any more or less if I get the shower caulked today. He does not shame me, get disgusted with me or see me as a failure, so neither should I.

The next thing I've learned is that I need to continually come before Him and ask what I should be focusing on. Are my priorities His priorities, or is my latest bright idea something I should not be delving into in the first place? He can use this aspect of my personality for good and for His glory when I put it in His hands, but not if I'm spending all my time and energy selfishly (for example, I'm sure I could have had all our stuff unpacked and put away neatly in a beautifully decorated home by now if I didn't care about the needs of the people living here!)

Finally, He's enabled me to be open to help. Jeff happens to be my polar opposite in this area of the Birkman (it might have saved us about 1,000 arguments had we known this earlier in our marriage!) and I'm learning to appreciate his slow-and-steady approach to things. I marvel at his ability to see what step needs to happen next to get closer to a goal, and he is one of the most patient people I've ever met! He helps to balance me out. I've also found [FlyLady.net](#) to be very helpful. Fly Lady uses routines and reminders to help people break tasks into "baby steps." She reminds us to be loving to ourselves and to take things "15 minutes at a time" instead of getting overwhelmed by the big picture. I've come to appreciate hanging up just one picture, or unpacking just one box, and seeing how it all comes together over time.



My babies' steps :)

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