

New Jersey College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant September 2011

Prayers have been answered in so many ways this month, and God has been growing our family, though that is not always an easy process. Karen has had a terrible battle with a tooth involving several trips to the dentist, but God has blessed us with dentists who donate their services for our ministry. Karen's dad became dangerously sick, but this also triggered some very special time she got to spend with him. Many of our campuses needed new leaders, but students have been stepping up to the task!

Love,
Jeff + Karen

Praises!

- * Standing room only at our first JCru meeting
- * Campus ministries working together
- * Jeff is ministering in the neighborhood
- * New connections with Young Life
- * Our kids are beautiful, healthy and happy

Prayer Requests

- * Many freshmen to come to Fall Retreat
- * Karen's health
- * Non-Christians attend seeker Bible studies
- * Volunteers to pour into student leaders
- * That we direct our children toward God

Recent Highlight— Club Fairs

Wouldn't it be great if the first textbook a freshman received in college was a Bible? Cru has given more than 1.3 million "freshman survival kits" to college students. The kits contain a Bible, a book like *More Than a Carpenter* or *The Case for Christ*, a DVD or CD, a water bottle and coupons and goodies from local merchants. All of that is then wrapped in a mesh laundry bag emblazoned EveryStudent.com, our evangelical website which sees an average of 600 people become new Christians each day.



Our campuses in NJ made a huge effort to reach the Freshmen this year, giving out hundreds of these items and inviting new students out to an event every night of the first week on campus. What a great way to meet the desperate need they have to make friends in this strange new environment, before they connect with those that would lead them down the road of destruction. This effort works in conjunction with our club fairs (Rowan's pictured above), where we ask people to take a survey indicating their interest in hearing the gospel and plugging into our fellowship. At Rowan alone, we saw 44 ask to join the group and another 35 asking us to share the gospel with them. Please pray as we follow up with searching souls!



Upcoming Mission— Focus at Fall Retreat

This event, which sees about 200 students from NJ and eastern PA, has always been essential for helping busy students find a quiet place to connect with each other and with God. Many have come to Christ during the Fall Retreat, and many more have gained a vision of Him that they carry back to their campuses, fueling them to run the race marked out for them throughout the rest of the semester.



This year, our seminars, speakers and worship will center around the idea of focusing on God and His mission, letting our other ambitions and distractions fade to the background as our Lord remains the center of everything. Please pray that lives are changed, unity is forged and momentum is built to reach the campuses with the love of Jesus. Visit JerseyMetro.com/Events for details and invite your college students too!




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Family News

It finally feels like Fall! We've picked out pumpkins and gourds, and I put up some decorations in the house and on the porch. Arthur particularly liked the shelf I put up and covered in (fake) sunflowers—"Mommy, that's very impressive."

Arthur and I took Grammy, Poppy and cousin Luke out for a day of adventure. We went apple-picking, visited some farm animals, and played at a park. It was so adorable to watch the boys playing together and to hear their conversations—Luke is about 1/2 a year older, so it's funny to see how similar they are in some ways and how different they are in others. Also this month, Arthur had his first visit to the eye doctor. He seemed to really enjoy it, especially sitting in the cool chair and checking out all the equipment. He's doing a great job wearing his new glasses—he picked the ones that looked like Daddy's so he could be handsome, too. We are having so much fun doing "big boy things" and watching him learn and make new connections every day. He is frequently complimentary and always picking up new vocabulary.

Katherine is also learning more and more vocabulary. She continues to amuse us with her love for etiquette—she says thank you, please, and bless you almost all the time, and has now started to say "excuse me" and "you're excused" (well, "goo me" and "goozed"). She also hosted her very first tea party; it consisted of herself and Daddy, but she took it very seriously as she served each item and waited to hear how delicious it was. I've had so much fun doing "girly" things like putting her hair in pigtails for the first time, and even painting her tiny toenails pink.

Last week, both kids started practicing for the Christmas musical at church. Our hearts were ready to burst with cuteness-overload when they started showing us the dances they are learning!



What God's Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

I gave a talk at the first Cru meeting at Rowan about organizing your life around what is most important. After a silly skit about the pressures students face when heading off to college for the first time, I opened with this quote from Steven Covey, "Because we don't know what is really important to us, everything seems important. Because everything seems important, we have to do everything. Other people, unfortunately, see us doing everything, so they expect us to do everything. Doing everything keeps us so busy, we don't have time to think about what is really important to us." Sooner or later, we either break down or take a break to figure out what we need to focus on. Hopefully the students will take advantage of our Fall Retreat to do just that. Since I can't take you all with us...

The Bible says that we were created to love God and each other ([Luke 10:27](#)) and that the best way to do both is to tell people about the love of Jesus ([Matthew 28:19](#)). It also tells us that we turn our backs on our purpose because we each want to be the king of our own lives ([Romans 1:21](#)) and that this act of treason is why life is screwed up and we are separated from God ([Romans 6:23](#)). We would never be able to fulfill our purpose if Jesus hadn't allowed himself to take the punishment of separation and death in our place ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). We can do nothing to fix the world or ourselves except take the free offer that God gives us through Jesus ([John 1:12](#)).

Once we do this, we once again have a purpose in life, to love Him and bring other people to Him ([2 Corinthians 5:18](#)). All difficulties in life are temporary, but what God is using it for (to rescue souls and develop our character and relationship with Him and others) will last for eternity ([2 Corinthians 4:17](#)). If you could draw a line from one end of eternity to the other, how significant is your lifetime on Earth ([James 4:14](#))? God wants to use your few years here to have a huge impact on eternity ([John 6:27](#)). Our national directors say, "Anything you're doing that isn't winning, building or sending people for Christ... cut it out!"

That is the only mission you can organize your life around. Be a good worker and family member, etc. But, do those things primarily as a means to reflect God's love in this world! When you think about each task in light of that, you can choose what gets done and what you drop, and everything you do (even laundry) can bring God glory ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)).

