

New Jersey College Outreach

with Jeff and Karen Grant

January 2012



A lot has happened since our last newsletter! Our kids have grown, but they lost a grandfather. Several students lost loved ones as well, but over 30 people came to Christ at our [Radiate](#) conference, at least 380 committed to a summer or year-long mission trip and \$53k was raised to help reach the 10/40 window with an [art ministry](#). The students are back from break and already making big plans to reach their campus with the gospel this semester. Please pray over and read about what God is doing!

Love, Jeff + Karen

Praises!

- * Students grew in God at Radiate
- * More volunteers are discipling students
- * Karen's sharing faith in the neighborhood
- * Karen's father is home with Jesus!
- * Our kids are getting back into "normal" life

Prayer Requests

- * Relationships with non-Christians on and off campus
- * Karen's family in this time of loss
- * Balance in roles with students and volunteers
- * That we shepherd our children with joy

Recent Highlight— New Connections

God doesn't take breaks, and He's never caught unprepared! Not every campus holds a club fair in the Spring, but Rowan recognizes the many students who transfer in halfway through a year, and we were given another opportunity to give out the gospel and form new relationships.

I was in a shy mood with shy student helpers, crammed in the middle of this village of tables with bright balloons, t-shirts, music and loud conversations. We had to share a table with another club, neither able to display our handouts or signs very well. Students barely passed our way, and those that did usually didn't even notice our station. It never hurts to ask, so I poked around and got permission to slide over to a table left empty by clubs that didn't show, and spreading out turned out to open up plenty of opportunities!

Over a dozen transfer students signed up to get involved and assured us they'd come to our first meeting that night, which they were promptly reminded about by email and text. Many people took our free book [Jesus Without Religion](#) that contained our club information as well as a list of solid local churches in the area. I handed out dozens of Bibles to students sitting at the other club tables, and established relationships with several of them.

Please pray for Pat, who gabbed with me about board games (his club) then told me he wasn't religious, but respected the message of every religion. He sounded intrigued by [EveryStudent.com](#), and we exchanged contact info to continue the dialogue. Christian, pictured below, writes for the newspaper (something I did in college as well) and he told me that he believes God is probably out there, but doesn't know that he can trust the Bible or anything else to be sure. We talked for over an hour about worldviews, religions and the [trustworthiness of the Bible](#). He's already been emailing me since, so please pray!



Recent Highlight— Planning Retreat

Friday and Saturday 1/27-28, about 80-100 students around NJ headed to [Camp Tecumseh](#) in Hunterdon County, for our Spring [planning retreat](#). By the end of the weekend, they were re-centered on Christ, equipped and excited to serve on the campus with a calendar full of all their events for the semester.

Some churches nearby were able to provide food and catch a glimpse of the ministry in action. Some brought their youth to see what's next as well! Please pray for students to carry the vision for God's mission back to campus, for the new bonds across campuses, for the tough conversations that had to happen and for God to lead us rather than our own ideas.



Karen and the leadership team from one of our campuses

Family News

Our poor children had to hop from one abnormal situation to the next without any break. Two days after Christmas, the whole family was off to spend a week in a hotel in Baltimore for our Radiate conference. Straight from there, we headed to Karen's parents to spend time with her father during his final days (we'll talk more about this once we've been able to process it). That turned into a week, as we helped her mother handle arrangements. We finally got home, and of course the whole family got sick for a week with high fevers. The kids enjoyed the journey, but the routine they thrive in was nonexistent for a long time. We're excited to be back to normal, but we've also had some beautiful memories!

During Radiate, our kids spent time every day with other missionary kids their age. It was so sweet to see them making friends with kids they will grow up with in this ministry. They made friends with the college students and other Cru staff members as well, who were often a big help! Having the whole family sleeping in one room was tricky, but fun too for a few days.

I spent a long time as Mr. Mom while we were at Karen's parents and then adjusting to being home, but Karen has been getting back into the swing of things with a vengeance, taking them to play dates and "Mom Squad" events like Monkey Town (an inflatable children's wonderland that was a major growing step for my germ-careful wife). God has been stretching her as a parent, and growing her heart for other children as well!

The kids are hilarious and beautiful as always. Arthur is fascinated by machines and bad guys, begging us to make up songs about backhoes and Zurg (the arch enemy of his hero, Buzz Lightyear from Toy Story). He likes to pretend to capture the bad guys and put them in prison, "until they learn to be good guys."



He plays well with Katherine pretty often as well, and it's wonderful to overhear sweet conversations of "sorry Artoo" and "I foogive you, Kafwin." They are both starting to pronounce things more correctly, although Katherine still calls Arthur's hero "Buz Bite-ear" and asks for things by saying, "may my pease have dat?" in a squeaky little voice.



Arthur and some NJ students at Radiate, making gospel bracelets to send to Africa

What God's Been Teaching Us (Jeff)

I've begun going through a devotional book written by a couple of our ministry partners, called Words for Troubled Times, and that's saying a lot. Among my spiritual gifts, maintaining a disciplined schedule is not prominent. When I do sit down to have time with God, I find it's easy to run into one of two problems: I don't want to hear from God secondhand through a book by a human author—because only the Bible is God's word—but I don't always get much out of reading the Bible by itself either.

This book has done a pretty good job of talking about the passage itself (the situations and context) as much as it talks about the principles behind it. It's been helpful to have an applicable concept to consider throughout an entire week, without jumping around from day to day. It also inspired me to start writing my own devotional book. Please pray as I seek to help people work through a chapter of Daniel each day with context and commentary to aid readers in understanding the Bible as well as space to journal thoughts and questions that can be used to think through any passage and apply it to life today.



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