



"He Makes Everything Beautiful in His Time"

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Ministry Update from John and Ellen Fleming - February 2017

"My friends don't get it. They say, 'Why do you talk with your mom every day?'"

... said Katherine about her recent experience with her mom. She is an international student who attended the recent **Bridges International** conference. (*Bridges International* is Cru's ministry to internationals studying in the US) I'll share more about Katherine's story below. What does awakening spiritual curiosity for students even look like? While many of the 1,000 students at the conference came to learn about God, some did not. They're in the **Explorer's Track**, and they came because they want to get to the beaches here in Florida. Another reason is they've discovered **it's hard to make friends as an outsider in the US**, or because, understandably, they don't want to stay on campus alone during winter break... While the Christian element of the conference seems to be just a sideline to them, God is on the move behind the scenes. This Explorer's track had a time of just that: **exploring** some topics.

One of the most common objections to the existence of the Christian God goes like this: **"How can God be both all-powerful and good? Why would we see such suffering in the world if God were both good and powerful?"**



This Family pic is in our neighbor's backyard and captures our kiddos personalities well!

Serving Cru's Ministry to Students and Faculty on campuses across America and beyond!
JohnAndEllenFleming.com
(518) 966-2255

Katherine shares that her mother suffers every day and that this question of God and suffering really matters to her. She reveals that her mother's pain has been so severe that she wishes she were dead and the situation has caused a 180° turn in their relationship, for the better. When asked, "Do you think the suffering was worth undergoing if it gave you and your mom a close relationship?"

"Yes. The suffering was worth it to me. I have this new relationship with my mom."

God is showing Katherine that He, also, was willing to suffer in order to have a relationship with her. He, like Katherine and her mom, sees suffering as worthwhile to gain the priceless gift of relationship with us. He wants to be *that* close, to talk with her every day and to give her eternal life with Him.

The question of suffering and God's purpose in it is a question with which we wrestle as well. Walking through pain and suffering in our lives has brought us closer to Jesus and has continually awakened a longing for eternity and desire for the gospel that we believe is worth it! Just as Katherine was real with her wrestling... What does it look like for us to wrestle and to be intentionally authentic about where we find ourselves with the hard questions to awaken curiosity with others AND ourselves?!



Did you Know?
Over 10,000 students attended Cru's Winter Conferences in 8 different locations!!!!



Spring Is In the Air!

As multiple tens of thousands of college and highschool students descend on the beaches and hotspots of LA, Las Vegas, and Florida this month during their spring break weeks, many of our Cru students also go to these locations, but not to get drunk with alcohol and have sex. Cru students attend our training conferences right on the beach locations to meet students who are open to spiritual conversations while they party on the beach and listen to their life stories and share their testimonies in conversation and share the gospel too, as the Lord allows. We have been there a few times with our students from Albany and it is quite an adventure that builds faith (for students AND staff like us!). Please go to JohnAndEllenFleming.com/springbreak to see our training and worship sessions in Florida almost every weeknight/morning of march. Please pray! **Attached is an encouraging letter** from our director on our new position too.



Watch a LIVE stream of the morning or evening training and worship (weekday) sessions at our Spring Break outreaches: JohnAndEllenFleming.com/springbreak

Please Pray:

- **THANKS** to so many of you who prayed and gave financially that our special needs at the end of 2016 could be met. Between the end of the year and a few gifts after year end, our goal was 99% reached!
- that we would be able to **quickly grow a larger team of people to join our ministry in prayer and financial support** so we can return to our office to support the operations of Cru. Pray for John traveling for this reason this spring.
- that we as a family would be **intentional** to live out the gospel in our interactions with each other.
- that we would walk in the power of the Holy Spirit as we have **opportunities to be Jesus at Maddie Mae's school** & in our neighborhood as we intentionally seek out others that don't know Jesus!
- for us to **keep our eyes fixed on Jesus** first & for God inspired wisdom!
- for unity, grace, love & wisdom as our team seeks to really serve & assist in all of US student & faculty ministry operations.
- for health! We have had sickness as a family and then the latest the stomach bug! We are over the latest sickness but on guard!



For His Kingdom and
The Great Commission in Our
Lifetimes

John and Ellen

Daddy Daughter Dance!