

JAY² NEWS

Jay: a nickname for Jason. A2: a nickname for Ann Arbor. Together my News.

UPDATE
12.10

CHRISTMAS
EDITION



Ministry Update

Wow! God is doing incredible things here in Ann Arbor and I'd like to share some of the stories with you from the from the past few months.

October - Thank you for all the prayers over C4. Our kick-off C4 service was exciting and provided two strategic elements for us: 1. a number of people in the community found new opportunities to utilize their gifts in helping run the service; and 2. it provided a new rally point for the community side of NLC. At this launch service, I shared my testimony and Steve Hayes, the Lead Pastor of NLC, shared the story of NLC and some of the dreams we have for the community and the city of A2.

If you are interested in listening to this talk you can find it at:

<http://nlcweb.org/node/797>

November - This fall we had a number of new couples in the A2 area begin attending NLC and all were looking to get connected in our Home Groups.

I invited all of these new couples to a Sunday afternoon meet & greet and as we were wrapping up our time I was intrigued by one of the husbands responses to a few of my questions. It was apparent that he was not a believer but did have an interest in hearing the gospel message.

The following evening Tami and I invited this couple over to our house to share the gospel. That night he prayed to receive Christ. It was a powerful evening for everyone involved. I'm in awe of God's timing as this couple is now five months into their marriage and able to have Christ fully at the center of it. After they left, Tami turned to me and said, "That was fun!" I couldn't agree more.



-If you have heard the story about how Tami prayed for a burning bush in regards to where we were to live, here they are. The "Burning Bushes" that surrounded our old apartment in A2.

Since then, the home group has grown to seven couples. Pray that this Home Group really deals into life together and spurs one another on towards the pursuit of God in all areas of their lives.

Ministry Update Continued...



-Reese's First Apple Orchard

December - The college students at UM entered into finals this week. As a way of blessing some of our key student leaders on the campus side of NLC, a few of the women from the community made Exam Survival Packs for all of the campus small group leaders. Furthermore, some of these women are mothers who home school their children. They were able to incorporate some aspects of creating the survival packs into the curriculum with their kids while simultaneously teaching them to give and serve others.

In the end, 75 survival packs were created and distributed and the students that received them were blown away. UM students are pretty driven and often have a mindset that they have to do in order to receive. When these leaders received a survival pack from community women and kids in NLC, who many don't even know, they felt extremely loved and honored. I love this story because it highlights the beauty of having both a vibrant college and community ministry within

one church, multiple generations serving one another.

Team Building

Our Community Leadership Team continues to meet every three weeks on Sunday evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. We have met for the final time this year and will resume meeting on Sunday, January 9th, 2011. Please continue to pray for wisdom, direction, clarity, and unity amongst this team. God is doing great things with this team.

One desire we have for this lead team is to see all of the men and women within it raised up as deacons and deaconesses. As a step in this direction, I have started a Discipleship Group (D-Group) specifically for the men in this group (5-7). We will be meeting every other week on Monday mornings from 6:30-8am. Please pray for these men and our time together.

A Scripture I'm Dwelling In

Ephesians 6:10-18 - The Armor of God. I come back to this passage time and time again because I love the perspective I gain from it. The idea of suiting up daily as a soldier in order to stand against the devil's schemes reminds me of the bigger picture. This earth is not our home but a battlefield and the spiritual forces war around us daily. I need to function and operate in the armor of God so that I can stand firm. *What piece of your armor could use some attention right now?*

- Do you need to hear truth?
- Do you need to see yourself as righteous in Christ?

- Do you need peace that comes from the Gospel?
- How is your faith right now?
- Are you firm in your salvation?
- How are you at wielding the scriptures from memory, the sword of the Spirit?

And above all we must pray.

"...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." -Ephesians 6:18

May you be on alert, sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, and in prayer throughout this Christmas and New Year season.

Life Update

Today, December 15th 2010 is Reese's 1st Birthday. We had a party for her this past weekend at the church and had a blast. The following is a photo of Reese with her cake. There was no hesitation on her part. Both hands, all in, immediately. Too funny.



-Reese's First Birthday

Additional Help

As I close out this final newsletter for 2010, I want to share one way that you could be a huge help to me and my family. I was officially released to ministry in September of this year. However, I went through training in the winter of 2009 and worked for 18 months before reaching my support goal.

During the support raising process I was paid a percent of whatever I raised. Because I did not reach my 100% goal until September of 2010, this meant that for 18 months I was being short-checked (if 25% of my monthly salary was in my account then I received a check that was 75% short of my actual pay).

NLC has kept track of all the *pay* I was shorted during those 18 months of work, which is classified as *backpay* owed.

Now that I have reached 100% of my support goal, any additional funds or special gifts will be used to help me recover my backpay. As of today, December 15, 2010 the total backpay owed to me is \$24,444.89

Would you consider giving a special gift of \$100, \$300, or \$500 that will go towards recovering my backpay?

Please know that whatever gift you are able to make will be greatly appreciated.

There are two ways to give:

1. By Check: Check made out to "New Life Church" with my name (Jason Bennett) in the memo.

Mail the check to:

New Life Church
Finance Department
1541 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

2. Online: Go to nlcweb.org/give
Log into your account or create a new one. Click on *Give Now*, select Staff (Jason Bennett) under *Categories and Funds* and complete the form.

Thank you so much! I am grateful for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support.

In the A2 Gap,

Jason, Tami, & Reese



-Car Seat Shopping

Praises

- Reese's 1st Year of Life
- The young man's salvation & launch of another Home Group.
- God's provision for our family
- We are taking a much needed vacation the first week of January.

Prayer Requests

- Unity in Leadership
- Discipleship & Small Groups
- Balancing work, night shifts, & family. Date nights!
- Day Shift for Tami
- Pray for safe travels & good health on our vacation, Jan 3-8.



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SUPPORT GOAL

