

JAY² NEWS

UPDATE
02.11

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



“Pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took Hold of Me.”

Ministry Update

Writing - These past two months have really flown. As a lead team, we have had some really good conversations regarding the vision and structure for the community side of New Life Church (NLC). These conversations have sent me into a season of heavy prayer and writing. In fact, this week (Feb 28 - March 4) is the University of Michigan's Spring Break; NLC has eight spring break trips out in six states and two countries abroad. With most of our NLC staff leading trips all of my regular meetings in A2 have been canceled this week providing me ample time to develop our vision and dreams for Ann Arbor.

Please pray for wisdom and clarity in this writing process and that I am sensitive to the Spirit's leading in this process. It has been a joy so far and I

look forward to sharing more details with all of you in the coming months.

Vision Sunday - Another highlight for the Ann Arbor side of NLC during this Spring Break week is that both Sunday services (last week's and this coming March 6th) are completely geared towards the young professionals and families within our church.

This past Sunday I spoke on parenting - a topic not often frequented at NLC due to the heavy college demographic. And this coming Sunday Steve Hayes will be revisiting NLC's longstanding dream of embracing the city of Ann Arbor in greater ways.

I am extremely excited about this coming Sunday and ask that you pray for people to have eyes to see the possibilities that lie ahead for us and a passion to be a part of the journey. I

will give you updates on this in the coming weeks.

Home Groups - In the past two years we have seen our Home Groups at NLC grow from five to eight. Over the past four weeks I have visited six out of our eight groups. I have been greatly encouraged through these visits because we have great people in our faith family; I look forward to helping us find a more unified and intentional focus within our effort of advancing the Kingdom of God in the Ann Arbor area. *Please pray that these Home Groups remain open and vulnerable in their relationships, that their vision for being on mission together is renewed and expanded, and that God works in and through them in mighty ways.*

New Life Kids - Perhaps the biggest news so far this year for the Ann Arbor side of our faith family is that the elders have approved a

Ministry Update Continued...

proposal to hire a part-time New Life Kids Director. The NLKids Director is one of the many roles I assumed when I was released to ministry in September, 2010. And as thankful as I am to have had this experience over the past six months, I believe the kids and families at NLC deserve more than I am able to deliver right now.

I spent a fair amount of time in January crafting the job posting and application process. The application deadline is March 13th and we are hoping to have a hire in place by May. This will provide the entire summer to bring the NLKids Director up to speed before launching into the 2011-12 school year. *Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and clarity in this hiring process and that we are led to the director the Lord wants for NLKids.*

Life Update

We kicked this year off with a much anticipated and much needed vacation the first week of January. Tami, Reese, and I loaded into a car and traveled sixteen hours to Maine in order to meet up with four friends from college. All of us are now married and living in different location, both in and out of the country. Additionally, we

have six kids amongst the five families which made the logistics a bit tricky.

We ended up renting a house in Maine that accommodated all sixteen of us for three nights. It was a such a blessing to see each other in person and to meet many of each others kids for the first time. The weather cooperated, the house was great, and we had a lot of fun both in and out of doors. That was until the 24 hour stomach bug hit and ran its course through 15 of us. On the last night, eleven of us rotated through the three bathrooms until day break. Not exactly a picture perfect ending to our time but a shared experience nonetheless.

Thank you for your prayers over our travel safety, relaxation, and refreshment. It really was a refreshing trip and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see these dear brothers and their families again.



- Enjoying the Snow in Maine

A Scripture I'm Dwelling In

Organic Faith: Colossians 2:6-7 Specifically, "Let your **roots grow down into him**, and let your lives be built on him (NLT)." Every tree you lay eyes on has roots. The trees that will weather every storm life throws at them and ultimately stand the test of time are those whose roots are well developed. *Am I as focused on my roots as I am on my fruit?* Our fruit depends on our roots; sink them deep into Christ.

Praises

- January Vacation!
- Opportunity for NLKids Director
- Great Home Groups and a solid faith family at NLC

Prayer Requests

- Writing Vision
- Sunday, March 6th - Vision Sunday for NLC & Ann Arbor
- Hiring NLKids Director
- Day Shift for Tami - Persistence!



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