

JAY NEWS

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

UPDATE
7.11



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

Big News



-Congratulations Banners,
Balloons, & Flowers

Tami Got Day Shift

I believe this is the longest standing prayer request I have included in my newsletters, dating all the way back to June 2009. Thank you for believing and praying on this with us for the past two years.

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.*

Proverbs 13:12 (NLT)

Tami begins day shift the week of Monday, July 25th. Amen!

Praise the Lord for his faithfulness, wisdom, and perfect timing.

Ministry Update

Hospitality & Life Transformation

Following up a comment card from a Sunday celebration service, Tami and I invited a new gal at NLC (we'll call her Meg) over to our home for dinner. After a scrumptious meal and a great conversation Meg placed her faith in Jesus. It is such a blessing to be teamed up with my wife Tami and to be able to love others in this way. What is really cool about this experience is how the body of Christ was used in Meg's life.

Meg (a hairstylist) moved into the Ann Arbor area in January, 2011. One of her first customers happened to be

one of our NLCampus staffer who asked her about her spiritual background and invited her to church. Meg came to NLC within a couple weeks and walked away saying she had, "never gotten so much out of a church service before." God continued to work in Meg's heart over a period of five months and in June she filled out a comment card asking to talk with someone about her spiritual journey. This was where Tami and I picked up the ball and invited her to dinner.

So Meg is a new sister in Christ. We were blessed to be a part of the moment in which she placed her faith in Christ. However, we were really just a link in the chain that God has been putting together for months in Ann Arbor and for years in her life. What a beautiful picture of the Body of Christ.

God worked through a haircut, through pastors speaking on Sunday mornings, through musicians leading

Ministry Update Continued...

in corporate worship, through people behind the scenes entering comment card information into a database, and through the hospitality of a meal and a conversation. The result - *A Life Transformed by Christ.*

Praise the Lord for this new sister and for God's handiwork. Pray for this gal to be rooted and established in Christ and for her discipleship.

New Life Kids -

In June, we hired Carol Keith as our NLKids Director and she officially began on July 5th. Carol is married to Rick Keith (an NLC Pastor/Elder), has a degree in education, and has homeschooled and raised four wonderful kids (ages 9-15).



-Rick & Carol Keith

Our NLKids ministry is critical for reaching the youngest generations at NLC and for serving the families within NLCity. More than this, it is absolutely essential to being able to reach new families in Ann Arbor. I am excited about Carol, her desire to serve the church family, and her passion for the growth and development of our NLKids ministry.

Praise the Lord for the ability to hire a NLKids Director. Pray for Carol's leadership, discernment, and perseverance as the NLKids Director and Pray that kids experience Jesus and grace in our NLKids ministry.

One crazy cool thing coming up for Carol is that she and her entire

family are heading to Thailand on a mission trip for 3 weeks in August. I believe the timing is of God and that Carol is going to be envisioned and impassioned in completely new ways for her new role as NLKids Director.

Pray for safety for the Keith's, for smooth travel/baggage logistics, and for God to impact and envision the entire family in new ways for Christ and His Kingdom.

Writing & Vision - In my last newsletter I shared how my writing

times have been extremely productive and blessed. We

completed a Vision Packet and have begun engaging in some final edits.

Over the past three weeks I have been focusing in on

specific dreams, vision goals, strategy, and timelines. I am pretty excited about the direction God has been giving me and I will be sharing this with the Lead Team this Sunday evening, July 24 from 7:30-9:30pm.

Pray the Lord gives us all clarity, wisdom, discernment, and a united passion to see these dreams become reality.

Team Building

On July 10th, we had a NLCity Lead Team family cookout in Burns Park, a city park in the heart of Ann Arbor. Burns Park is the same park I stood at in the fall of 2008 when I felt the Lord say, "This is the City I have called you to." Sharing a meal in this

very same park with 12 other families who are committed to seeing NLCity impact Ann Arbor for Jesus Christ was beautiful.

Praise the Lord for how far he has brought us, for the Leadership Team he has helped build, and for the passion and commitment amongst these families to see God do amazing things in Ann Arbor.

Pray Moses's words over us...

And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful! ~Psalm 90:17 (NLT)

Life Update

June 18, 2011 was our 5 Year Anniversary. Incredible how time flies. To celebrate, we went backpacking in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area near Lunington, MI. The added fun for this overnight backcountry experience was that it was Reese's 1st backpacking trip. Yep. I first went backpacking when I was 18 years old. Reese went when she was 18 months old. And she absolutely loved it.



Life Update Continued...

After the overnight in the wilderness we spent the morning on the beach, hiked out, and then drove M22 north to Traverse City for a more civilized celebration of our Anniversary.

In the end, Tami thought the backpacking was the best part. I think Reese thought the same thing too. We couldn't get her out of the freezing cold water of Lake Michigan and then we couldn't get her into the lukewarm waters of the hotel. If she had a choice she would probably still be on that beach running her heart out. She played so hard that morning that she slept the entire hour long hike out on Tami's back. Here are more photos....



A Scripture I'm Dwelling In

John 6:63b - *"Human effort accomplishes nothing."* New believers, like Meg, are captivated by God's grace and the reality that, *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life (Jn 6:63a)."* But it doesn't take long to slide back into self-dependence when we try to follow Christ; we are all guilty of this in different ways. A remedy? I suggest we look at the way, truth, and life we are trying to follow; reflect on how Jesus lived in dependence upon the Father. *"the Son can do nothing by himself (Jn 5:19a);" "I can do nothing on my own (Jn 5:30a, 8:28b);" "I have no right to say (Mt 20:23b);" "I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works (Jn 14:10)."* Live in Christ-dependence.

Praises

- Tami getting Day Shift!!!
- Five Years of Marriage.
- Meg coming to faith.
- Hiring a NLKids Director.
- An Awesome City Lead Team.



Prayer Requests

- Clear Vision & Strategic Plans.
- Discipleship & Small Groups.
- For those in NLCity to have a growing passion and burden for the people of Ann Arbor.
 - Wisdom adjusting our life and schedule to Day Shift. Tami has been on nights for 2.5 years.



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