



Grace & CLEATS

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2012

PLEASE PRAY...

- that I would resolve to grow in my knowledge and affection for Jesus Christ and Him crucified every day
- for diligence in completing my MDiv by April 2012.
- for God to use this ministry to reconcile people to Himself through Jesus
- for wisdom/discernment to properly restructure the ministry throughout 2012
- for God to raise up leaders with a heart to serve in this ministry
- that my life toward, and before, Jenni and the boys would exude grace and model Christ-likeness
- for God's financial provision.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb 18-26: CRUISE!!!!
- Apr 14: Field Word Day
- Apr 30: FINISH MDiv!!!
- May - July: Men's Softball
- June - July: Sports Camps
- Aug - Oct: Youth Soccer
- Wed: Open Gym Volleyball
- Thurs & Sat: Open Gym Basketball
- Saturday: Flag Football
- Sat: Peacemaker Study

Cha-Cha-Chaaaange

In previous letters, I have made comments about needed changes for this ministry to see sustainable growth. Those changes have begun, kicking off a year of major transition.

I have always felt the need to get people into the best fit for their God-given gifts and passions. When we operate there, we tend to serve with more energy, be more efficient, and see more fruit of our labor. This does NOT mean we ignore areas where we may be weak or less passionate. It simply means that God has wired us in a certain way, and the gifts and passions He has given us, He intends us to use for His glory.

This is as true for Grace & Cleats as it is for any ministry. With that

in mind, we have begun placing 2 or more individuals over each sport/recreational area of the ministry. This new leadership team is largely responsible for each ministry activity tied to that particular sport from planning to execution to evaluation to future growth ideas.

This change spreads the planning and administrative workload, freeing the ministry up to grow. This also frees me up more to focus on ministry vision and leadership development.

I believe this will be a huge benefit to the ministry long-term, but being a transition year, there is much to pray for:

- That I would manage time well as I am still heavily involved in

each aspect of the ministry.

- That I would let go of control of certain areas. This is needed for the ministry to grow in a healthy way.
- That God would continue to raise up gifted, passionate leaders.
- That we would get the right men and women in the right fit for their gifts and passions.
- That these men and women would serve not out of duty, but out of love for Christ and His Gospel.

Help Has Arrived

Another major change that will prove to be a huge blessing to the ministry is the addition of a Sports & Recreation Administrator.

Laurel Dean has been serving on the leadership team for Grace & Cleats from the beginning, but this past fall she approached me about raising financial support to take on this role. Her passion for Christ and for using sports as a means of taking His Gospel to the community is a great encouragement to me.

Her primary responsibilities will be to help alleviate the administrative load of this ministry which can be downright oppressive during the busy seasons. This involves ministry emails, website maintenance, promotional materials, social media, monitoring registrations, etc. This is no small task, and I can't express how excited I am to hand it over to Laurel's capable hands.



Please pray for Laurel as she raises support and as she transitions into this role. There is a lot to learn and a lot to do, but I am confident that the benefit of her labor will be immeasurable.



“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”

-Ephesians 5:25

Cruising!

If Jenni had her way, it would be 90 degrees all year. She is not a fan of Indiana winters and has wanted to get away to the beach for a while now. So, years ago, I began saving in order to surprise her with a beach vacation for our 10th Anniversary. Shortly before I was going to begin planning this trip, we found out that Jenni was pregnant with Cohen. This threw a pretty significant monkey wrench into the plans as Cohen would only be 6 months old at the planned departure date.

Long story short, I told Jenni what I had been thinking, we got talking, a cruise was suggested, then friends who were also celebrating their 10th anniversary were invited, and voila...the greatest vacation ever was planned!

That last part might be a little over the top, but we are so excited to get some time away to rest, enjoy each other and great friends, and to take in some great food, weather, and tropical scenery. Perhaps even as you read this letter, Jenni,

myself, and 3 other couples will be on a cruise ship in the Caribbean.

My intention is not to cause you to sin as you endure the winter months. We understand your potential bitterness :). We have felt it before. But if you are able to pray for us, please pray for a time of rest and renewal physically, spiritually, and relationally; for Cohen as we are away from him for the first time; and for a time of developing relational depth with good friends. Thank you!

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SUPPORT UPDATE:

2012 PROJECTED SHORTFALL
(4,000)

Please make **tax-deductible** contributions to:

Crossroads Community Church

14885 Southeastern Pkwy
Fishers, IN 46037

Memo: SRM - Staff Support

“...rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

- 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

End in Sight

It is hard to believe that after almost 11 years, the completion of a Masters of Divinity is in view. I like to joke that I took the Tommy Boy track, but I also know that God has sovereignly ordained the length for His glory and my good. I rest in that.

A little on my Tommy Callaghan-like history: I attended Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS) from 2001-03 in the MDiv program. While there, my ministry philosophy was turned upside down in a great way. This ultimately led to me feeling called away before completing my degree.

We returned to Indiana where I

utilized my accounting degree from IU for the next 5 years. In that time, utilizing the credits I had earned in the two years there at CTS, I completed a Masters in Theological Studies.

After coming on staff at Crossroads, I began the process of transferring everything from CTS over the LAMP Theological Seminary in order to complete my MDiv while I work on the field. I have been chipping away at this for the past 3+ years.

At this point, I have just two classes remaining and I hope to be able to complete them by the end of April. Once done, the real study begins as I prepare for

licensure and ordination within our denomination, the PCA.

This is a rigorous examination process that will likely require an additional 9-12 months of preparation.

This has been a long road, but I am grateful for God's faithfulness through it to not only enable me to persevere, but to refine me in the process.

Please pray that I would remain diligent in completing my studies. Also, I wrestle with being anxious about licensure/ordination and everything that follows. Please pray that I would trust God to be faithful as He has always been.

As always, thank you for being such an important part of what God is doing in and through this ministry and in my life and family. You are a blessing. Let me leave you with a verse that has blessed me recently from Jeremiah 17:

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

May you be blessed as you continue to make the LORD your trust!

Grace
David



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