

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

The Southern Side of Cincinnati.

Northern Kentucky Church Planting News – 24 October 2007

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week I spoke by phone with a friend who has served as a church planter and is now pastoring that same local church. He asked me how things were going. I mentioned, "I'm encouraged about what's happening, but I'm struggling at times because I'm still looking for 'instant church.'" Without any hesitation, he replied, "Nah, you don't want 'instant church.'"

I needed to hear those words, for the pressure (most always self-imposed) to sprint ahead of God can be intense. I was reminded once again of the Biblical image of the farmer who works hard *and* waits (2 Timothy 2:6, James 5:7).

As for some family news, we're getting settled in "our new Kentucky home." Indeed, Michelle has done a fine job transforming a house into a home. Mary Lauren is enjoying her new friends from school, the neighborhood, and our Sunday evening children's ministry. She also enjoys talking, as some of you know! Matthew, known around the house as "little man," smiles all day and now sleeps all night. Rest! His adoption, we are praying, should be finalized later this year. And after nearly three months of being packed away in boxes, my books will soon come out of hiding as the construction of my basement study (and church office) nears completion.

Here's how you could pray for us in the next couple of weeks:

- The establishment and subsequent growth of this new church will be possible only by God's grace. This grace is exhibited through both God's supernatural work (Matt 16:18, 1 Cor 3:6-7) and His blessing of human effort (1 Cor 3:6-7, 15:10). Prayer (Matt 6:5-13); financial resources (Phil 1:5, 4:15-18); encouragement (Acts 20:1, Rom 1:12, Heb 10:25); trust in God's promises (Matt 16:18, 2 Cor 1:20); and leaders with upright hearts and skillful hands (Ps 78:72) who have a love for God, the people of God (1 Thess 2:1-12), and those without God (Luke 6:35-36) are what's needed. Therefore, ask God to provide everything that is and will be needed for the healthy establishment and growth of Grace and Peace.
- As hard as it is at times for me to acknowledge, Grace and Peace is not the world's only church planting effort; it just sure feels like it is. You may know of others involved in the work of church planting. Please take a moment and ask God to encourage and strengthen these church planters as they labor, often unnoticed and behind the scenes, to establish new churches for the glory of God and for the advancement of His kingdom.

The hard work of prayer is not glamorous nor does it draw the attention or acclaim of the world. Thank you for standing with us through prayer.

Sincerely,

Lee

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