

# The Malkemes Family Update

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*Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.*

*Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.* – Isaiah 1:17

If you have been around our home anytime since early October, you know we are in a fierce battle to save our daughters' school. As part of the Boston Public School's redesign plan, the school superintendent wants to merge Cady and Grace's school (Lee Academy Pilot School) with a traditional school in the same building. The process has been painful. Families are not sleeping at night. There is much to be lost.

Early on, Glenna and I had to decide if we would stand up for this cause; we don't know what the final outcome will be or whether it will benefit our daughters. We took our cues from Scripture, and again sensed God's passion for defending what is right and fair, rather than moving on to what may be easy. Our plea is for traumatized children who have found shelter in this school; for the struggling parents, ourselves included, who come together at a weekly Parent Coffee Hour for encouragement; and to preserve the intentional focus by staff on caring for the whole child (social-emotional, academic, and physical needs). These reasons and many others are things we believe God cares about.

What initially was a 3-week campaign has now turned into 10-weeks. As you can imagine the fall months feel like a blur, but let us share two blessings that have come so far:

- **New Relationships with Families.** Fighting for a cause can galvanize people, and because of this we have had opportunities to share our ministry and faith with others.
- **Understanding Strongholds.** Throughout this whole process we have been asking God for guidance. Issues of injustice are often complex. We have been learning how to pray and campaign with God's perspective.

In the midst of this school battle, we are beginning to enjoy the significance of the Christmas/Advent season. Scripture indicates that when Jesus came into the world, things were also a little chaotic. We are helping our daughters focus more on the blessing of giving over receiving (Acts 20:35), and together experiencing again **the joy and simplicity of this season.**

*Merry Christmas! - Paul & Glenna*



Grace in the autumn sun.



Cady and friend Tahnai.



Building a lean-to in the NH woods.



Glenna at Museum of Fine Arts



Paul volunteering at school garden cleanup.

2010 Missionary Support

100% Raised to Date. Thanks!

We are **so grateful** for your help in reaching our 2010 goal of \$48,000. Additional gifts will help us respond to the immediate crisis below.

## Prayer Requests

- **God's Peace and Strength** in the midst of this school campaign.
- **Family Ministry.** Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
- **Neighborhood Ministry Houses.** Pray for our new programs/outreaches, our fine-tuning of daily operations, and as we wait upon God for a second neighborhood ministry house.



## Could You Give a Special Year-End Gift?

The Boston Project faces an immediate challenge. Giving to missionary staff has remained strong, however charitable giving to the ministry has declined by 11%. This has created real financial pressure since missionaries only raise part of their support and the ministry covers all other expenses including the balance of payroll, health insurance, utilities for our ministry house, and outreach costs. **In December, The Boston Project needs to raise \$23,000 to meet basic expenses.** All gifts will help immensely. Thank you!



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# The Riddle Family Update

- by Keith

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*  
- 2 Corinthians 9:15

**"Dad, do you work on cars?"** The question from Joseph caught me off guard until I realized that 1) he was learning about careers in his kindergarten class, and 2) I was wearing my Mazda dealership shirt that I got for free from a closing uniform shop.

Of course, after I answered, "No, I don't work on cars for my job," the next question was "Dad, what do you do?" A million things went through my mind as I tried to figure out a way to summarize my ministry with The Boston Project in a way for a 5-year-old to understand. In a God-inspired moment, I answered, "I help people to help people."

**This is my new favorite job description**, and I am thankful for such an amazing group of people that give of themselves so much so that my family and I can do this! THANK YOU - we can't say it enough!

## Feeling "Stuck"

As we look forward to beginning a new year of ministry, we also sometimes struggle with discouragement after two roller-coaster years of house-hunting. Pray for a faith that perseveres in times of waiting. It does give us perspective to see that God's promises sometimes take longer than expected (see Abraham, Moses, Joseph and so on), but right now we just feel "stuck," and we need the courage to continue trusting in God's guidance for our lives.

## Missionary Support

**Praise God - we have already exceeded our family's support-raising goal for this year!** However, the ministry has significant financial challenges (see below) that affect all of our staff, including our family. **Would you consider a special year-end gift to our family or the ministry's general fund?** In 2011, we expect to increase our support goal by at least \$6,000 (\$500/month). Thank you for your continued generosity and prayerful support.

**100% Raised to Date. Thanks!**



*Sarah's parents visit for Grandparent's Day at Joseph's school.*

## Prayer Requests

- **Praise God!** For 9 Service Days with over 275 volunteers; for Joseph adjusting well to school; for opportunities to minister to neighbors; for meeting our fund-raising goal.
- Continue to pray for our search for a house, for the ministry's overall finances, and for our personal preparation to enter this coming year of ministry.
- Family Ministry. Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
- Neighborhood Ministry Houses. Pray for our new programs/outreaches, our fine-tuning of daily operations, and as we wait upon God for a second neighborhood ministry house.



Director of Service-Learning Programs  
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*Harvest party with friends from our street.*



*Aaron stays warm on a chilly service day.*

*Keith presents a Veteran's Award on Being Thankful for My Community Day.*



*Celebrating Keith's Grandmother's 80th Birthday and 60th Wedding Anniversary in the mountains of NC.*

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# Liz Boyd's Update

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:11-12*

## Overflowing in Thanks to God

This fall, we have been sharing the above passage with volunteer groups, and I have been struck by just how relevant these verses are to my day-to-day life. The months of October and November tend to be dominated by one thing for me: **Thanksgiving Baskets!** This year, we provided over 80 baskets to families and seniors in our neighborhood, and I spend weeks in preparation for this event. I speak with families, shop (and shop and shop some more!), fundraise, coordinate volunteers, schedule deliveries, and try to keep a bit of my sanity.

Despite the hectic feel, it's always been one of my favorite days of the year. **It's one of those blatantly clear moments where my gifts and talents collide with supplying the needs of the Lord's people.** The result? I can't help but to be overwhelmed with thanksgiving to God. Even though on the surface providing food baskets may look like a "me helping you" type of event, I have been blessed in return year after year. This year, as I delivered the last basket of the day to a neighborhood friend, I was blessed with a full Dominican dinner. Thanks be to God!

There are so many things to be thankful for in my ministry. I've come to appreciate the roles and opportunities God has put before me more and more – from my administrative duties which frees others up to do what they are gifted at, to being an advocate for community change by working with resident leaders and elected officials, to just hanging out (or having dance parties!) with youth on our front porch. **My life is overflowing with joy and thanksgiving that comes from a life of service.** Thank you for helping make this ministry possible.

## Financial Update

As the year draws to a close, I remain hopeful that I will reach my 2010 fundraising goal of \$7,500. **I have approximately \$1,500 left to raise.** Would you consider a special year end gift? Your partnership is extremely valuable as I continue the work God has called me to do.

**80% Raised to Date. Thanks!**

**Goal for 2010: \$7,500**

## Prayer Requests

- Prayer for God's financial provision for the ministry. We have seen a decline in giving to our general fund, which helps pay for many of our daily operational expenses.
- Pray for Ben and I as we seek God's direction for next steps in our relationship.
- Pray for us as we share in the Christmas season and that we are bold in sharing our faith.
- Family Ministry. Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
- Neighborhood Ministry Houses. Pray for our new programs/outreaches, our fine-tuning of daily operations, and as we wait upon God for a second neighborhood ministry house.

November-December 2010



Executive Assistant & Community Development

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*Showing off the 80+ Thanksgiving Baskets we gave away.*



*I took some friends from the neighborhood apple picking for the first time ever.*



*Ben and I have enjoyed some local hiking while the weather is still nice.*



*My downstairs neighbor Timmy – middle children and I have a special understanding.*



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# The Rameau Family Update

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

*Romans 5:1-2*

## Discovering Our Purpose

We just celebrated our "Being Thankful for My Community" Day, and through that process I discovered many things about myself as the director of the annual event. One of my personal goals by summer 2011 is to grow in my leadership abilities, particularly in the area of being in charge of details. So at first to step into this detail-oriented role was a bit overwhelming. For those of you who know me, you may be laughing right now since details have not been my strong suit. However, little did I realize how God has been preparing me for this position even a year in advance.

Last year, I took on the big job of making sure we had enough food for all our neighbors and volunteers (75 plus mouths to feed). I kept saying to myself, "Why did I sign up to do this?" But it was going through this challenging experience that allowed me to gain the skills I needed to make this year's event a success as the director. I learned the importance of being persistent, checking-in with folks, writing things down, leading team meetings, and much more. **It's great to see how God builds upon experiences He allows us to have, and in time grows and matures us for even greater responsibilities.**

Mindy and I are personally in a season where it is easy to focus on our circumstances and become discouraged. Yet we trust and believe that God has a purpose for us (Psalm 139). The season we are in and the circumstances we face are not foreign to Him. In fact, our season and circumstances do not hinder us - rather they are, *believe it or not*, helping us reach our purpose (James 1:4). We may not always see God's purpose, yet we know we are not forgotten.

As we face difficult times as a ministry and unknowns in this upcoming year as a couple, we remain hopeful. **Hopeful, that the good work God has started in us, He will see out until completion (Phil.1: 6).** We know that He did not bring us this far to leave us. We've come this far by faith and hope; and on hope we shall remain.

**61% Raised to Date. Thanks!**

**Goal for 2010: \$7,200**

Could you help us meet the our family support raising goal.  
*We still need to raise \$2,840 in December.*

## Prayer Requests

- Pray that we keep our eyes on God and not our circumstances. Continue to pray for God's direction in the coming year for us.
- Pray for Mindy as she continues with nursing classes and her clinicals at the hospital.
- Family Ministry. Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
- Neighborhood Ministry Houses. Pray for our new programs/outreaches, our fine-tuning of daily operations, and as we wait upon God for a second neighborhood ministry house.

November-December 2010

Neighborhood Youth Ministries



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*Enjoying lunch at Being Thankful Day.*



*David working hard on fall Service Days.*



*Playing foosball with a teenager.*



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# Nyasha Smith's Update

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.  
He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.*

~ Genesis 50:20

Many teens struggle with the idea of believing that our invisible God cares about their very real situations. "If He really cares, then why am I still in this situation?" or "What's the point of trying to live for Him? Nothing will change." I am reminded of the disciple Thomas and his struggle with the resurrection of Christ. He needed to physically see the holes in Jesus' hands to know that He lives. He needed the proof that God is really God.

So I decided to share my testimony with the teenagers during our "Real Life" Bible study. My hope was to paint a very real portrait of my life, not to receive praise or evoke personal despair, but to encourage the youth and give them hope.

I shared with them my difficulties of growing up in an abusive household while my father struggled with drug use. As a result of this reality, I learned to not trust others. I had developed a very independent and apprehensive attitude. This was part of my survival. For so long, I too felt like Thomas wanting to see Jesus and know that He was real.

Little did I know that while Satan was hard at work trying to destroy me, God was using every situation as an opportunity to pour His love into me. My stubbornness drew me into church and into His arms. My independent attitude helped me to filter out those negative influences and to hear His Voice in the midst of chaos. Because I didn't trust others, I didn't struggle with the same peer pressures of teenage life and was in turn able to lean on Him for strength.

I now believe with confidence that God was and has always been with me. God continues to heal and fill me in such a way that my past almost seems like a distant dream. He gave me the tools and the power from His Son to tear down every stronghold, every demonic force, and everything that comes against His Kingdom. I am a conqueror in the Army of Armies and my duty is to help those who have fallen and encourage them to fight with our Lord and Savior. **Please pray for the encouragement of our teens and that they will begin to see God clearly in their situations.**

## Prayer Requests

- Pray that I am able to continue to grow and mature in areas that God is calling me to. Sometimes I allow my flesh, attitude, or circumstances dictate what and where I can go.
- Pray that Maurice and I will continue to grow spiritually as a couple. God is doing awesome things in our relationship, and we are thirsting for deeper intimacy with God.
- Family Ministry. Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
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Eating lunch with neighborhood kids and volunteers at our Being Thankful Day.

Me and Mo-Mo!  
He moved to Boston in October, and is transitioning well.



Setting a table with winter hat donations during our Thanksgiving Basket event.



Painting one of the buildings at Bethel Tabernacle Church on a Service Day.



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# Dana Chepulis' Update

*Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*  
*Psalms 37:4*

"I'll see you at 5:30, Dana! You better be ready to dance!" I often hear this from Sasha\* a 7-year-old neighbor, while I walk down the block to work. When Homework Center ends and 5:30 arrives, Sasha and a handful of other neighborhood girls meet me on the sidewalk in front of The Boston Project house. Few things bring more joy to my heart than those times when I get to share laughs with my young friends while moving to the sounds of our own feet stomping and our imaginations taking over our bodies as we dance our silliest of dances. It is times like those when I think to myself "This is my job - I get paid to do this!"

**God knew what He was doing when we brought me to Boston.** He promised me the desires of my heart, and he kept that promise by giving me more than I could have imagined for myself. I always wanted to work for an organization that would allow me to pursue my creative passions as well as helping others. At The Boston Project Ministries, I am able to use my college degree in communications and work with children in need, all in the same day.

In the mornings at The Boston Project, I work on various communication projects such as designing outdoor banners, creating business cards, and writing press releases. During the afternoon, I help run the Homework Center where I connect with youth ranging from 4-17 years old, assisting them with their homework and pouring into their lives. By the end of the day, you can find me anywhere from running around at the park with the younger children, playing cards with the teenagers, or dancing on the sidewalk with Sasha and her friends.

In the midst of life's transition, it's easy to lose sight of the little things God blesses us with. I am reminded every day that God will always provide for me. Whether it be someone deciding to sponsor me financially for the first time, a teenager looking to me as a mentor for guidance, or a 7-year-old teaching me new dance moves, God is consistently pouring his abundant love in my life. **I am thankful that He has brought me to a place such as The Boston Project so that my eyes can continuously be opened to the little things that make life so fulfilling.**

*\*Name has been changed.*

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for my growth as a mentor in the relationships I have with the teenage girls.
- Please continue praying for my financial needs, and that I am wise with my finances.
- Pray for new supporters to commit to giving towards my goal of \$600/month.
- Family Ministry. Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
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Neighborhood  
Youth Ministries &  
Communications

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*Presenting Miss Carol with the 2010  
"Neighbor of the Year" Award.*



*Nyesha and I led a service day painting  
at a local church building.*



*Showing off homemade moustaches with  
kids at Homework Center.*



*Fellow BP staff at an AmeriCorps training.*



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