

Growing in "Going"

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 28:19*

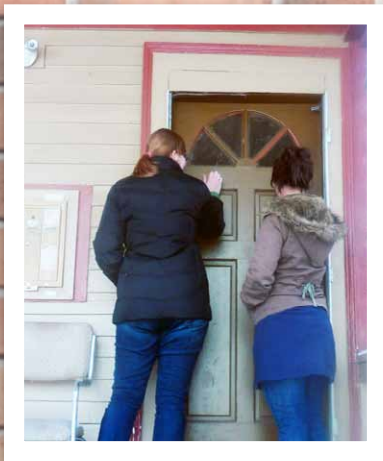


photo by Lorna Stell



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Door-to-door outreach can be an effective way to get to know your neighbors. It can also be nerve-wracking. The idea of ringing a stranger's doorbell to get to know them personally and their spiritual needs is uncomfortable for many – including our staff. But this type of outreach really complements The Boston Project's *Neighborhood Ministry House* model. Not only do we invite people into our home, but **we are growing in "going" to visit neighbors in their homes.**

On a recent cold, but sunny January afternoon, fifteen students from Campus Crusade for Christ joined us for door-to-door outreach in our neighborhood. As we met in our living room beforehand we laughed together as we realized we were all really nervous and none of us knew the best way to do this. There were no experts here, but we prayed for God's spirit to go before us and out into the cold we went in gloves, hats, and scarves.

We approached each home with a small knot in our stomach. In groups of two or three, we rang doorbells and waited. Sometimes we just waited and no one answered. **But whenever someone did answer the door, we were surprised and energized to experience the warmth and honesty in our conversations.**

One teenage guy unexpectedly shared with us his struggles with being a Christ follower and how a church had abandoned him and his family over a disagreement. He said to us, "I thought there was only one type of Christian, so I wanted nothing to do with them. I can see that you guys are different."

One neighbor let us know, after we asked her about Christ, that Jesus Christ is Lord over her home and is her personal Saviour. She continued to tell us that it's only because of Jesus Christ that she is able to stand in the midst of losing her 16 year old son a couple of weeks ago due to an asthma attack. She reminded us that although tragedies may happen, God is in control and He is faithful. And if we stick with God, we'll get through it. *Wow... when she spoke to us, we got goose bumps.*

When we reached our last home and rang the doorbell, a woman answered but looked very surprised. She had come down to pick up her mail and there we were! We laughed at the "coincidence" and asked if she needed prayer. She and her two sons just moved here about a month ago and were having difficulty in getting to know neighbors. She invited us to her apartment and there we began a friendship and shared with her local resources. God's Spirit was with us as we prayed together.

In 2011, **The Boston Project ministry staff is searching and listening to God about how we can better follow His commission to "Go and make disciples."** We would appreciate your prayers as we continue on in this adventure with God. *More to come...*

The Boston Project Staff Team

On December 1, 2010, we shared with you an urgent need for \$23,000 in one month to meet crucial year-end expenses for our ministry. **We are excited to report that through you, God exceeded our goal and provided \$26,910!** We are so grateful for you!

In the new year, we invite you to become a regular donor to The Boston Project. **Will you consider committing \$25, \$50, or \$100 a month in 2011 towards God's work in Boston?**



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director

Our family is developing perseverance in recent trials: health issues (Glenna - possible arthritis; Paul - sleep apnea), a loss of Cady and Grace's school (from 5th to now only 1st grade), and a home break-in. These have not been easy days, but in Job's words, "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" (Job 1:10). We believe God is stirring us to realign our lives to His purposes, and have stepped back from non-BP leadership and will home school all three girls next year!



David & Mindy Rameau - Neighborhood Youth Ministries

For the longest time my image of being patient was waiting calmly for the results that I wanted to see. Recently though, I've come to realize that my perspective was way off. Mindy and I are in a season where we are waiting expectantly for God to show up in a powerful way. We know that He is stirring things up and preparing us for another chapter in our life. The only thing is that we don't know what that next chapter will be. In our Spirit we feel God saying, "Be patient."



Dana Chepulis - Neighborhood Youth Ministries & Communications

God consistently reminds me that, although I have the pleasure of working in ministry, I cannot allow the everyday tasks of work go without love. I sometimes forget how precious moments can be if I remember to act with love. I see the difference in something as simple as my response to a 12-year-old boy who refuses to do his homework. **Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things. Only small things with great love."** If I live my life with actions filled with great love, I can accomplish small but extraordinary things!



Nyasha Smith - Neighborhood Youth Ministries

Every Thursday, we meet with local youth for our "Real Life" Bible study. Recently, we have realized that many of our youth feel alone in their walk with God. One of the teens shared his personal struggle of remaining consistent in his faith. He said that sometimes it's difficult to follow Christ when he doesn't feel like God is real. I couldn't help but to feel his frustration, and I began to see why God has placed me here at The Boston Project. My past experiences and flaws may be the keys to open a locked door for someone else. Praise God!



The Riddle Family - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality

I (Keith) have directed over 100 missions trips for groups serving with The Boston Project during the last 10 years. Now, because of our call to buy a house and the needs of our family, I have decided to step out of the role of overseeing these overnight trips. Our hope is to hire a Missions Trip Director in the coming months to allow me focus more on facilitating projects, teaching, and pursuing a house. Pray for this transition and the right person to fill this new position.

Liz Boyd - Executive Assistant and Community Development

I said "YES!" It is with great joy I share that Ben Cressy (*see below*) asked me the question every girl dreams of: "Will you marry me?" and I said "Yes!" Now we are dreaming and praying about our future together. We have set a date to be married in April, and wedding details are falling into place. I am excited for the opportunity to do ministry alongside my husband - not every couple gets to share life in this way. We know that it is a huge blessing to be able to live, work, worship and play together.

NEW STAFF Ben Cressy - Green Space Coordinator

She said "YES!" This is a time to laugh and to dance! A month ago, Liz Boyd (*see above*) and I were engaged. We are so excited to be living, working and pursuing the Lord together with The Boston Project. I will be coming on staff as the Green Space Coordinator, where I will develop a youth program around environmental stewardship and healthy eating habits. I will also be taking the lead role in coordinating the placement of a rooftop garden on The Boston Project's garage. I can't wait to get started!

Congrats, Liz & Ben!



Recent Photos

After unloading them from a "paddy-wagon," we wrapped over 300 presents for the local police children's Christmas event.



Homework Center Christmas Parties

