

The Malkemes Family Update

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Trials & Perseverance

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” – James 1:2-4

Our family is in the process of “developing perseverance” following several months of emotional and physical trials. After dealing with joint stiffness and hip pain for quite some time, initial test results indicate Glenna may have a rare form of arthritis. Paul also received a medical diagnosis of sleep apnea (which explains his tiredness this past year).

Right before Christmas, Cady and Grace’s Boston public elementary school was approved to be reduced to a pre-school to 1st grade only (formerly to 5th grade). This was very disheartening after a 10-week campaign to save their school.

And during New Year’s weekend, our home was broken into; several computers were stolen, including our personal computer and back up drive with 10 years worth of family photos. The combination of these events plus life’s other “normal” challenges (whatever *normal* is) took a significant toll on each of us.

A Time for Healing

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,...and a time to heal.” - Ecc. 3:1-2

We have no doubt that God knows what he is doing. These have not been easy days, but in the words of Job, “*Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?*” (Job 1:10). We believe there is a purpose in everything that has been happening to our family.

One thing we believe God is stirring in us, as Paul would say, “is to consider a realignment of our lives to His purposes.” There are some godly values such as simplicity, family, and rest, which we have stepped away from over time.

2011 will be different for us as we listen to God and experience his healing in our family. To this end, both Paul and I have stepped out of our significant volunteer leadership roles (apart from The Boston Project). Additionally, we will be home schooling all three girls next year. It is thrilling to dream and plan together with them about the new opportunities for our family. Please pray for us as we step out in faith and obedience to God.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.” - Ecc. 3:11



Glenna sledding in NH. Where’s the snow?



Left: Cady’s 8th birthday - a cupcake party.
Below: Paul’s side job: snow shoveling.
Below left: Grace checking out Grandpa’s flea market jewelry.



L to R: Grace, cousin Noah, Cady, Megan

2011 Missionary Support

25% Raised to Date. Thanks!

OUR 2011 NEED IS \$58,000. NEW THIS YEAR: WE NEED TO COVER OUR HEALTH INSURANCE.



MEGAN’S CHRISTMAS WISH: A PIE IN THE FACE.



Ministry Financial Update: 2010 Great News!

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670 Washington Street
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The Riddle Family Update - by Keith

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."
-Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I (Keith) have either directed or co-directed almost all of The Boston Project's overnight missions trips for the last 10 years (over 100 trips total!). Through these trips, close to 4,000 people have joined us with hands to work, minds to learn, and hearts to seek God. For many, this was an opportunity to "let your light shine before men so that they see your good works and give glory to your heavenly Father." (Matt 5:16) I can only trust that God has used me over these years to produce fruit in the lives of these servants and in our neighborhood.

Because of the call to buy a house and the needs of our family, and after much prayer and consideration with Sarah and our ministry's leadership, we have decided that I will be stepping out of the role of overseeing these overnight missions trips. Over the coming months, our hope is to hire a Missions Trip Director who will take what we have developed and run with it for years to come! I will still have a role when these teams come to Boston (mainly in the areas of teaching, training staff, and facilitating service projects), but will no longer directly oversee overnight teams due to the overnight nature of that responsibility.

How this Transition Impacts our Missionary Support

In order to make this transition in 2011, our family will need to increase our support-raising goal from \$30,000 to \$38,000. The majority of the additional funds (\$7,000) will free up money that will be used to hire the new Missions Trip Director. The rest will give a small boost to our family's salary in the coming year (\$1,000).

To meet this new goal, we need your help. We invite you to begin supporting us in 2011 with regular gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 a month. We also invite current donors to consider increasing monthly gifts as you are able. These regular gifts are most helpful as they provide consistency, but special donations are always appreciated. If you would commit to supporting us in 2011, please fill out the enclosed commitment card. Thanks!

For the third year in a row ('08-'10), our family has exceeded our financial support-raising goal - praise God! We know that we are blessed with an amazing support system that not only is generous with giving, but also is generous with prayer and encouragement. It's hard to express how thankful we are for the big and little ways that people have cared for us, from a quick note on facebook to a phone call just to check in. Know that we are so grateful for you!

Prayer Requests

- **Praise God!** For time with family and safe travels at Christmas (2,300 miles driven!); for a season of family birthdays (4 in 9 weeks); and for snow - yes, we love it!
- Thank you for praying for Joseph's adjustment to school. He is doing superbly, and we are learning how to better encourage him as parents. Of course, he still loves snow days :)
- Please pray for Sarah's grandfather, who has been dealing with health problems over the last few weeks, and for family who is surrounding him with care.
- Pray for a balance in the coming months of continuing our house search, family time, spring break missions trips, service days, hiring a new staff, and preparation for the summer.



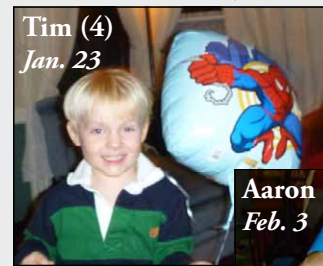
Director of Service-Learning Programs
keith@tbpm.org • 617-825-3290 (home)



Christmas with the family



We have had enough snow this year to re-create our 40-foot snow slide!



Tim (4)
Jan. 23

Aaron (1)
Feb. 3

It's birthday time!



Joseph (6)
Nov. 30



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Liz Boyd's Update

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I Said "YES!"

It is with great joy that I write to let you know that about a month ago, Ben Cressy sat me down and asked the question every girl dreams of... **"Will you marry me?"** Of course I said "yes," and we are extremely excited as we dream and pray about our future together. This new season is full of joy, and of course, lots of questions!

Ben will be joining The Boston Project staff as our new "Greenspace Coordinator." It's amazing to think that we will not only be joining each other as partners in life, but also as partners in ministry. We have set a date to be married in April, and Ben will be moving to our future apartment on Elmhurst Street very shortly. We'll be living in the same house that I used to live in - and I am amazed at the way God provided an affordable place for us to live so quickly. Details are falling into place as we plan a wedding on a short timeline. It's so encouraging to see so many signs of God's confirmation as we take this huge step in our lives.

Partners in Ministry

One of the things I am most excited about in this next season of life is the opportunity to do ministry alongside my husband. Not every couple gets to share life in this way, and we know that it is a huge blessing to be able to live, work, worship and play in the same neighborhood.

Having both been in ministry for a few years, we have individually raised missionary support to allow us to serve in our neighborhoods. In 2010, we both reached our financial goals. Thank you for being a part of my team!

In 2011 we will need to raise \$20,000 together. Please prayerfully consider if The Lord is calling you to be a new or continuing financial supporter in 2011. We are also seeking partnerships with new supporting churches in New England. Please consider if the Lord can use you to connect us with your home church in this way. We couldn't be here without you, our friends and family!

Our 2011 Pledge Card is enclosed for your convenience.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Ben and I as we plan our upcoming wedding. We are enjoying the process, but it has also revealed areas of growth in our relationships.
- Please pray for smooth transitions for both Ben and myself including moving and then of course with marriage. We have a very supportive community, but we will be learning what it looks like to love our neighbors as a couple.
- Pray for Ben's transition as he joins staff. I have been here for three and a half years, and have found my niche. Pray that Ben would find his footing and thrive in our neighborhood, too.
- My car is on its last leg of life. If you know of a reliable used car, please email me - thanks!



Executive Assistant & Community Development

Stay in touch
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Dorchester, MA 02124



Visiting Nashoba Valley Winery with Ben and my dad the day we were engaged!



Hanging out at the Starlight Banquet for the Homeless - a large event I help plan.



Joy Lee, a long time friend of Boston Project, and I are ready to volunteer!



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The Rameau Family Update

*We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.
– Hebrews 6:12*

For the longest time my image of being patient was waiting calmly for the results that I wanted to see. Whenever someone told me to be patient it really irritated me. I felt like they were telling me to do nothing or just watch what happens. I couldn't do that - I just had to be doing something. 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 lives. The only thing is that we don't know what that next chapter will be. In our Spirit we feel God saying, "Be patient."

During our Real Life Bible Study, I was very impressed when one of the youth opened up and was vulnerable with us. This did not happen over night, and was made possible by us always being real with him even when he was closed off to us. Here we had to wait to see the results, and during that time we were called to take action by always being real.

God's lesson to Mindy and I about patience is not only true for our personal lives, but for my work here at The Boston Project as well. Being patient isn't about our desires; rather it's about being faithful in using the gifts we have while waiting for God's purposes to unfold.

See, God reveals to us what we need to be doing. We need to be careful not to think we have to reach a certain point in life before we can take action towards God's calling on our lives. That is a lie from the enemy. We are not called to be lazy; we are called through faith and patience to inherit what He has promised to us (Heb. 6: 12).

As Mindy and I patiently wait for that next gift to fully blossom, we will use our gifts faithfully at work, at home, and within our family because **we know that patience is really an action.**

*Our missionary support need in 2011 is \$500 per month.
Enclosed is a 2011 Pledge Card for your convenience. Thanks!*

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports:

- Praise God! Mindy and I are official members of Bethel A.M.E. Church.
- What we thought was a major car problem turned out to be minor in comparison.
- The youth are connecting past devotional discussions to current Bible studies!

Prayer Requests:

- That Mindy and I remain patient.
- For the spiritual warfare in the lives of the youth.
- For God to give us His peace that transcends all understanding.

January-February 2011



Neighborhood Youth Minister

Stay in touch
david@tbpm.org
15 Elmhurst St., #1
Dorchester, MA 02124



My nieces and nephews showing off their gingerbread house.



Mindy and I enjoying time with our loving sister Jina.



Dana, Nye and I after our epic snow-battle!



My beloved brother and I trying to be cool :)



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Nyeshia Smith's Update

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.
~ Galatians 5:16-17

Every Thursday, we meet with about 10 of the neighborhood youth for our weekly Bible study called Real Life where we focus on topics that appeal to high school students. Youth are able to share their challenges in trying to follow Christ without the fear of ridicule. **As we pour into our teens, we begin to realize that many of our youth feel alone in their walk with God.** This was most evident during last week's meeting.

As we looked at Galatians 5:16-17 which speaks about living by the Spirit versus living by our flesh, one of the teens shared his personal struggle of remaining consistent in his walk with God. He said that sometimes it's difficult to follow Christ when he doesn't feel like God is real. He couldn't see the point of being a true Christ follower if he knew he would always fail and do the very things he wished he wouldn't. We asked him about how he handles life's temptations and challenges and he responded; "I believe in myself." He further explained that tapping into his inner strength keeps him strong when he feels like God can't help him.

I couldn't help but to feel his frustration and see his confusion. We all go through periods of loneliness and possibly question the very presence of God in our lives. The more this young man spoke the more I began to realize 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.** Indeed, this youth may be going through things that I could never imagine, but that night I was able to share with him my own journey since this is something God has seen me through.

Many of the youth come to us because we help to carry their burdens, but to be honest we need to be doing more. As a ministry we are recognizing that we need to become even more intentional about discipling our young people. How do we make God alive in the lives of our youth? How can we be the living Word to this teen?

I could sense God telling me, **"I'm stirring up the lives of youth and I am preparing you to walk alongside me with them so they don't feel alone."** And in the process I'm not alone.

Prayer Requests

- Please be in prayer with us about reaching our youth: What does it mean to truly disciple and walk with them? What will I need from God to pour into them?
- Pray for wisdom and knowledge as a staff. Also, pray for the seeds that have been planted and spiritual growth in the lives of our youth.
- Pray for us to have the wisdom to know how to use what God pours into us.
- Pray for the boldness to go forth in those things He puts in our heart.



Youth Outreach Worker

Stay in touch
nyeshia@tbpm.org
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David and I helping one of the teens during our Homework Center



Playing Uno with the teens during Real Life Bible Study



Studying the Word during Real Life Bible Study



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Dana Chepulis' Update

*If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- 1 Corinthians 13:3*

As the months roll by at The Boston Project, I recognize how easy it is to mindlessly go through the motions of the day rather than living each day with extraordinary love. I sometimes catch myself thinking, "I've done my good deeds. I've served the community, played with some children on the street, and led a Bible study. Now I can sit back and relax!" What I tend to forget, however, is that God tells us in his Word that actions without love are in vain.

God has consistently reminded me that, although I have had the pleasure of working in ministry, I cannot allow the every day tasks of work go without love. I sometimes allow myself to slip into the grind of the workday and I can forget how precious moments can be if you remember to act with love.

I see the difference love can make when I interact with a child in Homework Center. An example: There is a particular twelve-year-old boy who often acts up and refuses to do homework. If I say to him, "You have to do your homework or else you can leave," the boy usually gets mad at me and doesn't want to come back to Homework Center.

However, if I take the time to ask him what is wrong using a patient and kind voice, he might take the time to tell me what is going on at home that is bothering him or why he is frustrated with his schoolwork. The latter helps the child know that I am here for him and want to help him, rather than annoyed at his misbehavior.

I have learned a lot of things while working at The Boston Project, but this lesson has probably been one of the biggest so far. God continuously shows me His grace as He teaches me how to grow more into the woman He has created me to be. He has taught me that to live like Christ is to love with everything in my being.

Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things. Only small things with great love." If I live with actions filled with great love, I can accomplish small but extraordinary things!

*My missionary support need in 2011 is \$600 per month.
Enclosed is a 2011 Pledge Card for your convenience. Thanks!*

Prayer Requests

- I recently started attending a new church called Reunion Christian Church! Pray for an easy transition and a connection to a small group.
- Praise God for all the awesome things the teenagers are learning at our bible study, Real Life! Pray that they continue to grow in their walks with Christ.
- Please continue praying for the development of leadership skills in my life and the courage to be bold in my faith.
- Please pray for the preparation that is starting for the summer programs at the Boston Project and my role in the Park Patrol leadership team.



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January-February 2011



Youth Outreach
Worker &
Communications

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dana@tbpm.org
231 Fuller Street, #2
Dorchester, MA 02124



My friends from AmeriCorps and I sharing a few laughs on our weekend off.



Shaulita and I know how to 'whip my hair back and forth'



David, Nye and I after an epic snow-battle!



Spending time with my family on Christmas vacation



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Ben Cressy's Update

Dear Friends,

The last time I wrote to you, Thanksgiving was upon us. I reflected on Ecclesiastes 3, in which the writer states, **"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."** I'm in a new season now. I want to tell you a little bit about it, let you know about some exciting changes, and ask you to prayerfully consider renewing your financial support in 2011.

This is a time to laugh and to dance. A month ago, Liz Boyd and I were engaged! We are excited to start 2011 as partners in ministry with The Boston Project. This past weekend, I moved to 12 Elmhurst Street – the same house Liz used to live in, directly across the street from our offices and the 15-year home of our founding family, the Malkemes'. God has provided a way for this to be financially sustainable through a longstanding relationship with the landlords. When Liz and I are married in April, she will also move to 12 Elmhurst. We are so excited to be living, working and pursuing the Lord in the same neighborhood.

This is a time to plant and a time to build. My formal time in the neighborhood will be spent as the Green Space Coordinator. I'm particularly excited to develop a summer program curriculum that will engage youth with God's good plan for environmental stewardship and healthy eating habits. I'm also taking the lead role in coordinating the placement of a rooftop garden on one of The Boston Project's properties. The food grown here will help feed our summer staff, and allow some of our past food expenditures to be put to work in other areas of ministry.

Financial Update

Up to now, Liz and I have pursued fundraising independently to support our respective full- and part-time employment with The Boston Project. As we move forward as a couple, we have set a combined fundraising goal of \$20,000 for 2011.

Please prayerfully consider if The Lord is calling you to be a regular financial supporter in 2011. We are also seeking to facilitate relationships with new supporting churches in New England. Please consider if the Lord can use you to connect us with your home church in this way.

Our 2011 Pledge Card is enclosed for your convenience.

Prayer Requests

- **Please pray for Liz and I as we plan our upcoming wedding.** The process is exciting but also reveals areas of growth in our relationships with others.
- **Please pray for a smooth transition to a new home.** God has provided community and an encouraging living environment. Continue to pray for growing relationships with our neighbors.
- **I am transitioning at a tenuous time.** Some of our families are in the midst of their children's schools closing. Pray for our staff to know how to support them as they make difficult decisions regarding the education and raising of their children.
- **Transportation needs.** Liz's car is soon to breathe its last. If you know of an available, reliable used car, please call me at 603-370-7830 or e-mail ben@tbpm.org



Green Space Coordinator

Stay in touch
bcressy@gmail.com
12 Elmhurst Street
Dorchester, MA
02124



We're getting married!



Shoveling out some of the properties we manage. It never stops snowing.

Building The Boston Project Ministries' new

Rooftop Garden

Helping build a garden on top of The Boston Project garage will be one of my major projects for the coming year - FUN!



Boston Project General Financial Update

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