

The Boston Project Staff Team

Spring has arrived - Boston style! This means we already have seen 60 degree weather, are waging war with seasonal allergies, and have had some “winter mix” (aka slush & cold) too. Ah....New England, we smile fondly at you.

God has been on the move in people’s lives. You will see below a theme about the “beauty” of God’s work this spring. **We appreciate your prayers and support as we prepare for our summer ministry.**



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director
Recently Paul and Megan (10) went to share about The Boston Project at a church. As Cady (8), Grace (5), and Glenna gathered on their bed to pray for them, Cady’s eyes welled up with tears. “What’s wrong Cady?” “Nothing mama. I just get it. It’s beautiful. Our family, the staff, how we live here and our neighbors. **What we are doing is really something beautiful for God.**” Thank you God for this heart-felt reminder amongst our hurting community.



David & Mindy Rameau - Neighborhood Youth Ministries
During our teen Bible study, we notice kids who have not previously taken initiative are starting to step “out of the boat.” (a biblical reference to Peter whom Jesus called to step out of a boat onto water). Youth are choosing to make good decisions over negative peer pressure. God is also calling Mindy and I to step “out of the boat.” My term with Ameri-corps is over in June and Mindy finishes nursing school in August. We ask you to join us in prayer as we look to our Lord Jesus Christ for revelation and guidance about what’s next.



Dana Chepulis - Neighborhood Youth Ministries & Communications
What a beautiful God we serve! The Lord has done incredible things in the six months I’ve been in Boston. I have learned the meaning of God’s faithfulness, not just by definition, but through my experience. I have witnessed deep hurt, great resurrection, and passionate love in both my life and others. I have seen the face of Jesus in the homeless, the wandering, the little children, and the brokenhearted. I am slowly learning what it is to die to myself and live as Christ.



Nyasha Smith - Neighborhood Youth Ministries
Several weeks ago one our Executive Director’s daughters, Megan, left a note on my desk requesting to start a Bible study for tween girls. As each of the girls arrived they were met with warm greetings, good conversation, music, and began by designing personal journals to write their own reflections and questions throughout our meetings. They then came up with the name *Pretty Girl Tween Bible study*. **I look forward to what these wonderful girls will soon discover about how beautiful they truly are in Christ!**



The Riddle Family - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality
This has been a season of contrasts for our family. It has been full of rest, with two full months with little activity and lots of family time; yet we then whizzed through some of the busiest times we can recently remember. So how are we doing? In short, we really identify with the verse in 2 Cor. 4:7-8 - we may be “hard pressed” and definitely “perplexed,” but we do not feel “crushed” or “in despair.” Instead, we are feeling patient, expectant, and even joyful.



Liz & Ben Cressy - Executive Assistant and Green Space Coordinator
We are so excited to share with you that on April 9, we were able to celebrate in the covenant of marriage. We were wed at First Baptist of Hampton Falls, NH, where Ben grew up. Dan, one of Ben’s former pastors, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the guidelines God gives for marriage. We were reminded that our lives together ultimately serve as a witness to the world around us of who the Lord is and what He does.



Recent Photos

More from the life of our staff



(top-to-bottom) 1. Staff and the Malkemes’ girls enjoying a dance at Liz and Ben’s wedding.
2. David and Nye playing games with youth.
3. Dana teaching kids about substance abuse.
4. Keith and son Joseph (5) working on a homemade sleeping bag for the homeless.
5. Liz and Ben enjoying their special day!

Financial Update for the General Fund

Raised to date:
\$4,988

Need to date:
\$15,000

We invite you to give a special gift or be a regular donor to The Boston Project. Will you consider investing \$25, \$50, or \$100 in 2011 towards God’s work in Boston?

11% Thanks!

(We have a pressing financial need here.)

Goal for 2011: \$45,000

The Malkemes Family Update

~ by Glenna

Contact us anytime:
617.265.1630 • paul@tbpm.org
g.malkemes@comcast.net



Spring has arrived – Boston style! This means we already have seen 60 degree weather, are waging war with seasonal allergies, and have had some “winter mix” (aka slush & cold) too. Ah....New England, we smile fondly at you.

On a recent Sunday, our family was scheduled to share about The Boston Project with Rock Village Church in southern MA. Cady, Grace and myself stayed at home due to allergy sickness, but Meg went with Paul for moral support and the free Dunkin’ Donuts breakfast along the way! That morning Cady, Grace and I gathered on our bed, so we could pray for Megan and Paul. Before prayer, Cady asked why they went to visit this church. I shared again how our family and The Boston Project staff live in our neighborhood to make a difference for God. I gave examples like how we spend time getting to know and care for our neighbors, how we organize fun activities at the park, build community gardens together, teach the Bible, and more. Cady’s eyes welled up with tears.

“Mommy, stop. Please stop. I’m going to cry.” Cady put one hand on her heart and fluttered the other one back and forth in front of her eyes.

“Cady, what’s wrong, why are you upset, why are you crying?” I couldn’t imagine what was stirring all this emotion so suddenly.

“Nothing, mama. I just get it. It’s beautiful; I never thought about it this way before. Our family, the staff, how we live here and our neighbors. **What we are doing is really something beautiful for God.**” Tears rolled down her cheeks, and mine too. Then Grace got emotional too. Cady continued with her 8 year-old-epiphany.

“And if Papa and Megan share at this church what we and our neighbors do, then maybe they will want to see if they can do the same things with their neighbors too. We can all live something beautiful for God.” My word, I wasn’t expecting that one.

Thank you God, for the reminder that amongst our fallen world and our hurting community, we are still a neighborhood making something beautiful for you.

Pray with us!

Prepaing for Homeschooling. We are excited to have made the decision to homeschool Megan, Cady, and Grace beginning in September. Pray for us as we attend a homeschool conference in late April to prepare for this new adventure.

Sabbath Season. Pray that we will continue to rest, listen to God, and connect as a family.

Have a wonderful Resurrection season celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ.

2011 Missionary Support = \$58,000

31% Raised to Date. Thanks!



Megan, Grace, and Cady on the dance floor at Liz and Ben’s Wedding.

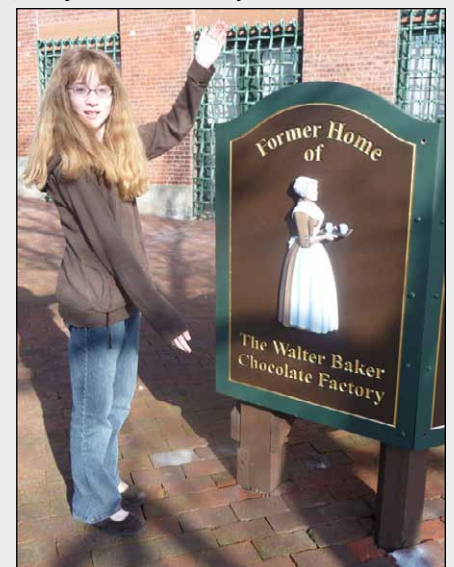


Cup of cocoa, Frog Pond, Boston Common

▼ Cady and Grace love science this year. Here they are dissecting owl poop.



Megan’s love for chocolate resulted in a school report on the Baker Chocolate Factory –the first in the country and in Dorchester.



The Riddle Family Update - by Keith

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair...
~ 2 Corinthians 4:7-8*

This has been a season of contradictions and contrasts for our family. In some ways, it has been full of rest, with two full months with very little activity and lots of family time; yet we then whizzed through some of the busiest times we can recently remember (see the wedding cake at right). We have joined in celebrations of great joy, such as fellow staff members Ben and Liz's wedding, and have mourned with family the loss of Pop-pop, Sarah's grandfather.

Ministry even feels contradictory this season. Sometimes it seems natural and well-focused, as I have enjoyed leading service days and mission trips this spring. Yet at other times we feel more lost than found, wondering what is next for our family (it makes me sigh a little to even mention looking for a house). And finally, even as we are finishing the hiring of a dynamic summer staff team, we are just beginning the search for a Mission Trip Director to oversee this team and beyond.

So how are we doing? In short, we really identify with the verse above right now - we may be "hard pressed" and definitely "perplexed," but we do not feel "crushed" or "in despair." Instead, we usually are feeling patient, expectant, and even joyful. I don't know if this comes with having a few years of ministry under our belts, but it seems more like a "God thing" than an "us thing." **We know that we owe you, our ministry support team, a great deal of gratitude for your prayers on our behalf.**

Family Happenings

Life with three boys never stands still. I'll start with the youngest cause he's always last. At 14 months, **Aaron** is a joyful, talkative, wobbly mess of a kid right now, who LOVES his big brothers and whatever they are doing. **Tim** was the bellringer at Liz and Ben's wedding, and loves being the center of attention. He's also growing ladybugs and butterflies from larvae (mommy loves this:). **Joseph** is becoming a fine young man, who loves school and sports, and would literally live in our backyard if we let him.

One of my greatest joys as a **dad** has been having Joseph and Tim beg to "go to work with Daddy" on service days with The Boston Project. They love to pitch in and get their hands dirty, and it's so cool to see them begin to love this ministry like I do. **Sarah's** life has been consumed with making a wedding cake (I never knew how much went into "just" a cake.) She began baking three weeks in advance, and spent a whole week just on fillings, icings, and decorations. Of course, she did this while being a full-time mom, so yeah, I think she's pretty amazing.

Pray with us!

Hiring a Mission Trip Director. Please pray for wisdom as we recruit, hire, and train this new staff person. Pray for God to direct us to the right person for the job, and for his or her transition into the ministry during the most busy time of the year - right before summer!

Next Steps. Continue to pray for patience and joy in this season of seeking God's next steps for our family, and for ministry that is already happening out of our current apartment.

Financial Need. This year, we increased our support-raising goal by \$8,000 in order to free up money to hire a Mission Trip Director as Keith transitions out of this role. **Right now, we are not on track with our new goal, and are in danger of falling far behind.** Please pray for God's provision. We also ask that you consider joining our financial support team - even \$25 a month can make a huge difference. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Raised to date: \$5,940 **Need to date: \$11,081**

16% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2011: \$38,000



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



Our three sons!



Sarah in the flurry
of baking and the
finished cake!



Tim,
the bell-
ringer



Aaron



Joseph and Keith work on a homemade
sleeping bag for the homeless on a recent
Boston Project service day.

Liz & Ben's Update

"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:7b-9

Announcing Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin and Elizabeth Cressy

We are so excited to share with you that on April 9, we were able to celebrate in the covenant of marriage. It was a beautiful day (almost perfect!) and we are thankful that so many aspects of our special day connected with the passions the Lord has instilled deep within us.

We were wed at First Baptist of Hampton Falls, where Ben grew up. Dan, one of Ben's former pastors, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the guidelines God gives for marriage. We were reminded that our lives together ultimately serve as a witness to the world around us of who the Lord is and what He does.

Our day would not have been possible without the support of the community that surrounds us. Close friends that we worship, work and play with on a daily basis handled all our cake, our music, and our decorations. Their support made the planning process all the more fun, all the less stressful, and all the more cost-effective! Friends and family – some of whom we have known for 20+ years – turned out not only to celebrate, but also to hold us accountable to our covenant relationship. Furthermore, we were amazed at the distances loved ones traveled to share in our special day: California, Texas, Oregon, North Carolina and Zambia, Africa.

Our reception site, Clay Hill Farm, sits far back in a wooded Maine town, and provides sanctuary to migratory birds that flock to the area. It also provided a quiet place for couples and friends to stroll the grounds and enjoy the world that God provides for us to play in and care for. We couldn't have picked a more fitting site to celebrate.

We had a wonderful honeymoon, spending a few days in the White Mountains, enjoying the vestiges of the Kancamagus Highway and some of New Hampshire's most protected wild lands. After three days in NH, we felt a tug to the city and made our way to Portland, Maine, where we enjoyed walking downtown and drifting in and out of local shops. In the midst of our celebration, we were reminded of whom God has made us to be as we read our "new" used books about food justice, and found ourselves shocked the large number of homeless men and women in Portland.

Now we're back in Dorchester. As we settle into our new home, we have already begun to see glimpses of ways we may be used in our community. We recognize that we love to be hospitable, and have already hosted friends in our new home. We ourselves have been blessed by this experience, and have been told by our guests how we have been a blessing as well. Furthermore, as we continue our work with The Boston Project, we pray that our roles as Executive Assistant and Greenspace Coordinator will continue to open up doors to life-changing relationships in our neighborhood. **We appreciate your prayers and support as we begin this journey!**



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Financial Update

To date, we have raised 20% of our needed financial support. Our combined need to be here is \$20,000. We are in need of additional monthly supporters to meet our goal. Would you pray about if the Lord is leading you to give? **We are so grateful for those of you who have already made special gifts or increased your monthly financial giving in light of our new circumstances.** We couldn't do it without you.

20% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2011: \$20,000



Liz@tbpm.org Ben@tbpm.org
Executive Assistant & Greenspace
Community Development Coordinator

New: 12 Elmhurst St., Dorchester, MA 02124

Our photographer (and matron of honor Deborah Parker) was able to capture some beautiful shots of our day. © Deborah Zoe Photo



Prayer Requests

- For adjustment to new rhythms and schedules as a married couple.
- For continued open doors to express hospitality to our neighbors and friends.
- An answer to prayer was the gift of a reliable used car to replace Liz's dying Ford Escort.

The Rameau Family Update

*“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
Matthew 14:29*

Ministry Happenings

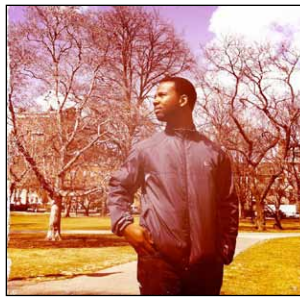
During our teen bible study (Real Life) we notice kids who have not previously taken initiative starting to step up to the plate or “step out the boat.” One teen, who I’ll call Darryl, really did a 180-degree turn. He told us how he has stopped hanging around the friends who were pressuring him to smoke. His heart breaks whenever he thinks about the pain he made his mother go through.

Now, Darryl is texting my phone and letting me know when he’s on his way to our teen Bible study. Our hope is that as Darryl continues to be the man of God that God has called him to be that he keeps his eyes fixed on Jesus, even in the midst of the storm.

We pray that God uses us here at The Boston Project to help keep youth like Darryl focused on Him and not the crashing waves or any other distraction that life brings.

Rameau Family Update

Is there such a thing as being comfortable with God? Mindy and I are realizing as soon as one begins to get comfortable in the place God has put them, that more than likely He is going to call you out of your comfort zone.



My brothers and sisters in Christ, God is calling Mindy and I out of the boat. We are still faithfully serving with The Boston Project Ministries, but we are mindful that God is preparing us for another chapter in our lives. Mindy will be done with nursing school in August and my 2nd Americorps term will be up in June.

All we know to do today, based on Peter’s example in the book of Matthew, is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus so we don’t sink. This is where you come in :). **We ask that you join us in prayer as Mindy and I look to our Lord Jesus Christ for revelation and guidance.** We will keep you posted with updates.

Please Join Us In Prayer

- Pray for Mindy and I on our upcoming life transition into the new things that await us!
- Pray for peace in the city of Boston this summer.
- Pray for President Barak Obama.
- Pray for the parents of our children and youth as they raise their children.
- Pray for more summer jobs for youth.

Financial Update

Thanks for those who have been able to help financially support us. Even though we anticipate a transition in the next few months, we continue to fundraise as missionaries. The Boston Project has covered our expenses even as we have fallen behind our fundraising goal. **Please consider a special gift this April-May to help us raise \$2,000 before May 31.**

Raised to date:
\$460

Need to date:
\$2,400

6% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2011: \$7,200



Neighborhood Youth Minister

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

Recent Photos



Playing games with the youth before going into the Word of God.



A couple of youth hanging out with us before Real Life Bible study.



Mindy and her friend Shiela having fun!

Nyeshia Smith's Update

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Several weeks ago one of our Executive Director's daughters, Megan, left a note on my desk requesting to start a Bible study for girls between the ages of being a young child and those transitioning into the teenage years. They are affectionately called "tween girls." In her formal request, she included qualifications that the leader must possess in order to effectively lead this Bible study. A few of those qualifications included being a great role model, loves the Bible, enjoys working with kids, being fun, and most importantly, the leader needs to be a girl. At first, the request may have seemed a little humorous, but what was undeniably clear was her thirst to know more about God and to fellowship with her peers.

So after much planning and discussion we had our first tween girls Bible study last week. Megan was so excited for the Bible study that she and I went out to rally up the girls to come. Fellow staff member Dana and I met with six neighborhood 'tween girls, along with one of our teenagers, who helped us lead the Bible study as well. As each of the girls arrived they were met with warm greetings, good conversation, and popular teen music in the background. We began by designing personal journals that each girl will use to write their own personal reflections and questions throughout our meetings.



The new "Pretty Girl" Tween Bible Study

After Dana and I explained the purpose, we then discussed community standards. Each girl shared a value and we agreed whether or not we should include it in our standards. As I was listening and observing the girls, I was excited to see how much love they had for each other. "Sisterhood" was one of the values they agreed upon. "Yea, we should always look out for each other and make sure she is doing okay," was one of the girl's responses. It was quite beautiful to see these girls most of whom may not know each other

yet, come together and talk about looking out for each other. God is definitely up to something with these girls. They then came up with the name *Pretty Girl Tween Bible study*. **What these wonderful girls will soon discover is just how beautiful they truly are in Christ!**

Please Join Me In Prayer

- Please pray for our girls and their hunger for God. Pray that God will protect their hearts, eyes, ears, and minds from the pressures and influences of the world.
- Pray that God will use Dana and I to speak life and love into their lives. Also, pray that we will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit continuing to guide us as role models in their lives.
- Pray for one of our teenagers who is helping us with the tween Bible study. Praise God that she is stepping up in this area, and pray that God will continue to use her to connect with our younger generation.

*If you would like to give a financial gift to support our tween girls Bible study and youth work, please use the enclosed reply card ("general fund"). **Thank you!***



Youth Outreach Worker

Stay in touch
nyeshia@tbpm.org
231 Fuller Street, #2
Dorchester, MA 02124



The girls having fun as we chat and design our journals.



We decided to create agreed upon standards that each girl must uphold individually and as a group.



Making crafts at our new "Kid's Spot" hang-out time.

Dana Chepulis' Update

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

What a beautiful God we serve! The Lord has done incredible things in the six months I've been in Boston. I have learned the meaning of God's faithfulness, not just by definition, but through my experience. I have witnessed deep hurt, great resurrection, and passionate love in both my life and others. I have seen the face of Jesus in the homeless, the wandering, the little children, and the brokenhearted. I am slowly learning what it is to die to myself and live as Christ.

Throughout my experiences, it is easy for me to focus my attention on the brokenness of this world. I recently met a homeless 18-year-old girl who was displaying her heroine track marks in return for a cigarette. An eighteen year-old was tragically shot in our neighborhood while standing up for his brother. Multiple public schools are being closed at the end of this school year creating hardship for thousands of families. It's easy to lose hope when witnessing daily situations such as these.

In John 16:33, God tells us that we will meet trouble in this world. He understands the struggles we go through as humans; he feels the brokenness within us. However, God is essentially telling us "I've already won the battle! This world is mine and nobody else's!"

When I read that passage, I begin to look at things differently. I get excited knowing that one of our struggling youth got straight A's on his most recent report card. I sense hope seeing parents on our street coming together to work as a team. I am proud to see teenagers rigorously protest the City and Legislature for summer jobs. I experience deep joy seeing people surrender their lives to Christ day after day.

I know the world isn't perfect, but God is. He is where our hope lies and where our victory resides. We can rest assured that even though times may seem dark, there is an ever-glowing light in our midst. Jesus conquered death on the cross and gave us a new life of hope and restoration. We can take heart, knowing that this world is in his hands.

Please Join Me In Prayer

- Praise God for the relationships I've been forming with the youth on the street! Pray that as time goes by, I can grow deeper with the girls that I mentor in the neighborhood.
- I'm still struggling to find a community in Boston. Pray that I will find a group of people my age that I can connect with spiritually, emotionally, and socially.
- I need to rest. Pray that I learn self-care and when to take time out for myself. I'm always on the go and have to learn how to slow it down!

Financial Update

I have a goal of raising \$7,200 in missionary support this year to help supplement my stipend while I am serving with The Boston Project. Would you consider supporting me in this amazing ministry God has placed me in? **Your monthly donations or special gifts would be a huge help.** Thank you!

Raised to date:
\$665

Need to date:
\$3,900

10% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2010-2011: \$7,200

March-April 2011



Neighborhood
Youth Ministries &
Communications

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

Recent Photos



Teaching the youth how to "Just Say No!" during our H.E.A.L.T.H. program.



A group photo of all the girls that came out to our very first Tween Bible Study!



At Boston Harbor with Calvin College during their spring break mission trip with BP.



Carol and I wait on the sidewalk with neighbors for President Obama.