

God With Us

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel' – which means, "God with us."
 Matthew 1:23



The excitement grew in the room as twenty-plus neighborhood parents and grandparents gathered to plan their first neighborhood Christmas party. It was a unique mix of young and old, including two young moms about to give birth, single parents, married couples, several of whom spoke only Spanish, and a dozen kids playing in the background.

"It's important that we have a theme of 'giving back' to teach our children that it's not just about getting," said one mom.

"Why don't we go caroling at people's homes?" suggested a dad.

"We need to make sure we tell the Christmas story – **the real Christmas story** – with the shepherds and Jesus," said another mom. To this comment, there was a chorus of affirmation from those in the living room.

My heart leapt as the conversation progressed. **It reminded me of all the different ways Christ is already here.** Our neighborhood isn't absent of the Light, as can sometimes be assumed. Yes - we do have a number of social and spiritual challenges often compounded by the fact that so many people live within such a small area. But *Immanuel* is here.

Christmas energizes us around one of the foundational principles of the Christian Community Development (CCDA): **Relocation.** Jesus chose to relocate from heaven to earth and to live amongst us as fully human and fully God. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory." (John 1:14) It is in this spirit that we try our best to follow Jesus' example by living out the hope we have in Him with our neighbors daily.



Our newest mom, Anays, with son Daviel. We thank God for a safe and healthy delivery.

At the 2011 CCDA national conference, we were pushed by Pastor John Teter to remember that relocation is about more than just living in a neighborhood. If it's only about being present, he shocked us by saying, "the Devil can be a relocater too!" Rather, true relocation must embrace Jesus' lifestyle and mission to share the good news of salvation through word and deed.

Pray for us and our neighbors as we share the Good News; through the neighborhood Christmas party, during our youth Bible studies (Real Life and Pretty Tween Girls), or as we spend time with neighbors in our homes and along the sidewalk. *We'll pray for you too!*



13 Days of a *Boston Project Christmas*

only on facebook and email

In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, we are sending out an email a day to share reflections on 2011 from a Boston Project perspective! As the song goes, "on the __ day of Christmas, my true love gave to me..." Our true love is Jesus Christ, and we want to share with you all of the great gifts He has given our ministry and neighborhood this year. *If you do not receive BP emails and would like to, including volunteer opportunities and staff prayer updates, send us your email at info@tbpm.org.*

2011 Christmas Banquet for the Homeless with Starlight Ministries



Merry Christmas!

The Riddle Family Update

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. - Isaiah 25:1

“God is faithful!” seems to be a great phrase to sum up this year for our family. Though there have been some difficult times of stress, uncertainty, and family loss, God has shown us his goodness and guidance as we continue to seek Him.

These last few weeks have been full of holiday festivities but also precious family time. Recently both Keith and I have had a chance to be still and just marvel at the amazing gift we have in our boys. God has given us many opportunities to enjoy them and the amazingly beautiful and complicated treasures that they are. Now that they are older, we have been reading chapter books together and this fall have truly enjoyed sharing our favorites - *The BFG*, *Inkheart* and *The Hobbit* to name a few.

We have also had the joy of **exploring God and concepts of spirituality** with them recently, which is so much fun because their view of God is so uncomplicated. I was informed last week that if you take Jesus’ last name and put “mas” after it you get the word Christmas! **Joseph** just finished his first term of first grade and is doing great - he excels in math, just like his dad (and gets distracted by things in his desk just like his mom). **Tim** performed in a holiday concert this weekend with Boston Children’s Chorus. It was beautiful and he did a great job, but (in his own words) he would rather go home and take a nap than listen to everyone else sing. **Aaron** has discovered his voice and talks about EVERYTHING he sees. Our car rides are full of exclamations from the back seat as he yells out the names of all the things he sees. His favorite is the pizza sign we pass on the way to Joseph’s school.

We look forward to 2012 and the many more adventures that await us. Thank you all so much for your continued support and prayers, and from our family to yours, have a blessed Christmas!!

Prayer Requests

- **Continued Direction.** God is providing clarity for our next steps, but some large decisions still lie ahead. Pray for continued wisdom and specific direction for our family and the ministry.
- **Season of Many Celebrations!** In just 9 weeks from late November to early February, our family celebrates four birthdays, plus Thanksgiving and Christmas! Pray for time to *fully appreciate* and celebrate each person and holiday.

Year-End Financial Update

In early October, our family was far behind our financial goal, and we asked for your help. Since then, ***we have seen God’s hand provide in an amazing way!*** A special thanks to all those who gave for the first time and for those who committed to becoming regular supporters of our ministry in 2012. **Please consider how you might help us to meet our remaining year-end need of \$4,240.** Thank you!

\$4,240 to go by Dec. 31st

89% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2011: \$38,000



Thank You! Our ministry is possible in part because of you - your prayers, service, and financial support. We depend on individual and church donations for over half of our operating budget.

Please consider a gift this Christmas season. Our 2011 unmet need is \$18,630 (which includes missionaries and our operating fund).

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



617-825-3290 (home) • keith@tbpm.org
theriddlefamily@hotmail.com



Aaron helps with the Christmas tree lights! ▶



◀ Tim proudly shows his soccer medal.
Joseph and Grace at his “knights & princesses” birthday party - he’s 7!



Boston Project guys at the Christmas tree lighting on the Boston Common.



The Boston Project
ministries

15 Elmhurst Street • Dorchester, MA 02124
Phone: (617) 929-0925 • Fax: (617) 929-0927
Website: www.tbpm.org • Email: info@tbpm.org