

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*

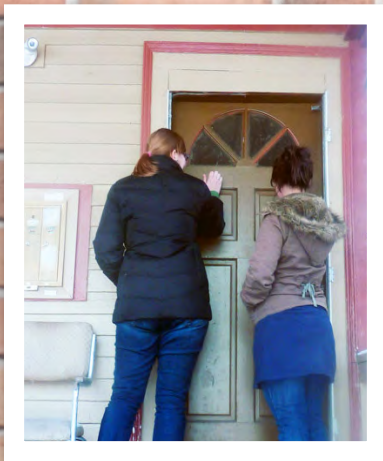


photo by Lorna Stell



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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 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.

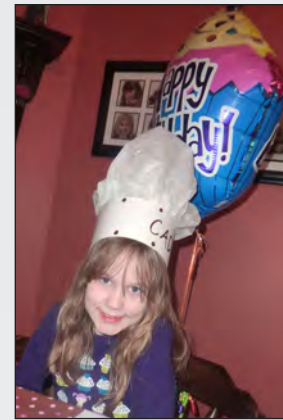
One thing we believe God is stirring in us, as Paul would say, “is to consider a realignment of our lives to His purposes.” There are some godly values such as simplicity, family, and rest, which we have stepped away from over time.

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!

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? These regular gifts provide financial consistency and opportunity for growth. Thank you!



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