

INTERCESSORY PRAYER SHEET August-September 2010

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LIFE REPORT:

I said I'd write these a little more often (as well as newsletters, which I hope to do within the first couple weeks of school), here's my first try! The summer is nearly over, students start classes in 11 days, with leaders' retreats, the cookout, and lots of coaching etc. coming quickly upon us. I am **so thankful for this summer**; it has been full, yet not frantic. Quite a bit of time to think, reflect, pray, and as I wrote last time, to battle for (believing) truth in my life. The **Ichthus-as-a-more-full-Church** is moving forward in an exciting way: I have hired a new staff person (whom I can't officially announce yet, but I can't wait to, God's fingerprints are all over it/him/his wife and kids); some close friends of Jeanette's and mine have sensed the call to join us/the husband be an elder; and we have moved our Thursday night Ichthus meetings up to 7pm to allow families to come. This semester will be a transition/preparation as we wait for our elders (the new staff) to all get in place and resourced. It's neat. The students are very excited to do what we've/they've been doing these years in the context of mentors, families, modeling, kids, etc. **Personally**, I had been facing some acute temptations to fear this summer about the new work. God, in a very fun way (wish I had the space to tell the story), has given me/us Luke 12:32 and Romans 8:15 for this upcoming season. Demon killers. Love it. **Missionally**, Ogden keeps having doors open – we've got the green light to do tutoring and ministry in the grade school/with the kids, and we're pressing into new and existing 2:42 Lifegroup missions again—architecture, areas around student's housing, etc. May this year be a year of breakthrough in seeing evangelistic and Jesus-following fruit.

- **Walking in Faith.** “Do not be afraid, little flock...”; “You have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but a spirit of adoption as sons...” God is clearly arming me/us against fear. Pray we shoot (or stab, if we take the word as a sword) straight.
- **Walking into What God Made Me For.** “Our infirmity can become our identity.” That's what has tried to happen with me and anxiety, it just gets so ingrained, lately even subtly making me link tentativeness with humility, and confidence with arrogance. What the heck is that? I renounce that lie. Jesus wasn't tentative. I'm a sheep, yes, but also a prince, the King's child, and he has called me to trust him and step into my identity in the kingdom work of Manhattan.
- **Boldness in speaking and living.** These first three are all related – I long to proclaim God's goodness, his truth, and live it fully without self-consciousness and second-guessing. ‘Pray that I may speak the word boldly, as I should...’
- **Thursday nights (ccokout and worship 8/26, first regular mtg 9/2).** New time, presence of families (who knows how many?), reteaching my fall 2006 series on how biological life images forth spiritual life ... first time I've repeated, the favorite (and best received) series I've taught so far. We're trying to focus on making our Thursday nights powerful celebrations and equippers of our Lifegroups. Pray for my teaching, Matt Patton and our worship team, Ariel Anib as our upfront person/MC, and Brian Moore as a student who's undertaking to help facilitate this spiritual impact on the human/organization/structural side.
- **2:42 (from Acts 2:42 and its “three devotions”) Lifegroups.** Ogden, new freshmen, architecture, a “wilderness” Lifegroup, a group of Ichthus guys living on Kearney, perhaps a food-making group for a ministry to women in need, and then eventually adult/family Lifegroups as well as we fully launch ... Wisdom for leaders, wisdom for me coaching them, and that we would actively walk in the way/mission of Jesus.
- **Mission!** A repeat from last time, just please keep praying that God would use the Ichthus body to be a vessel of life to those around us—that God would send out laborers into the harvest, open hearts of students and community members (particularly in Ogden), and that lots of people would come into discipleship to (become followers of) Jesus Christ.