

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER SHEET June-July 2010

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## LIFE REPORT:

Summer is here in Manhattan. It's glorious—well, everything in Manhattan is glorious, in my mind! But the opportunity to slow down, focus on the students here, and work on things for the fall has been good. Last sheet I asked you to pray for **Haiti**. Thank you. It was a great trip. Sobering to see Port-au-Prince and the poverty of Haiti, delightful to see the work of the missionaries there and what God is doing in Fond-des-blancs, exciting to think of taking students there hopefully this next school year, and a blessing to spend time with Craig McElvain. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with him, getting to know him better, benefiting from his wisdom and leadership. **The school year** ended well. Finals week was FULL, but full-good. Good meetings with students. Jeanette and I and our kids got to go to **Chicago** over Memorial Day weekend; I did a vow renewal ceremony for a dear couple who've faced a major health ordeal over this last year, and we vacationized. **Personally**, I am hoping and sensing that I am walking out of the personal spiritual wilderness of the last 4+ years. I see lots of good signs in my mind, heart, ability to focus, motivation for God, love for others. And I got off my anxiety medication, so I know it's unassisted.☺ This is exciting and God is showing me lots of things to work on right now (see below).

- **Truth.** Would you pray that I would soak in, believe, battle for truth in my own mind and heart? Through lots of events, time with God, and most recently a book *The Lies We Believe*, I have seen that I think I believe a lot of lies. Lies about God's love for me, lies related to performance/grace, lies lies lies lies—they're gonna getcha. Sorry, just lapsed into some 80s music there. But a good sentiment. :)
- **Church.** Most of you—all of you?—I've written about it a good bit—know that for the last 4 years, Jeanette and I have been pursuing Ichthus morphing into a more full expression of church to maximize our current mission/focus toward college students. Same heart, but doing it more fully in the context of a wider body. I have seen that Ichthus functions like a church and we'd love to just move more fully and biblically into that, where these amazing students and this ministry that I love is maximized by interaction in a body of adults, children, led by elders, etc. It hasn't developed as we had thought, hoped, prayed, expected but the dream and call are the same. There are some new factors at work (coaching and connection from Craig M., clarity and learning from these past 4 years, my pursuing a new staff person to help share the load/allow for growth and development, etc.) that have us moving toward a Sunday morning addition for the fall, seeking to appoint elders, etc.—basically same song, different (and hopefully smarter) verse! It's exciting, and needs prayer. Please pray for God's timing, assembling His team for this development, and courage for Jeanette and me. One of my dreams is that a few of you old Ichthusians out there would be led to move back to Manhattan and help plant this new venture, that, Lord willing, will allow us to better fulfill our mission of making disciples of college students who will love Christ and His Church for a lifetime.
- **Wisdom, Peace, Joy—basically, just lots of the Holy Spirit's work.** We need wisdom; God promises it. We need peace; having Jesus as the ever-capable Lord means that is sane and right. We need joy; in His presence (which is always, always with us) is fullness of joy. Basically, I—we—want more of God's work, more of His power, to hear His voice better, to cooperate with His will, to have His heart. Just to be His, to be lost in Him, to walk with Him and be His hands and feet and mouth of love and truth and blessing and the good news of salvation and the kingdom. We desperately need Him. I feel it. Do you?
- **Mission!** There are some very fun things we are pursuing on the student level (a nearby community called Ogden, some strategic areas in Manhattan) and dreaming about on the wider level of what it could look like to be a church without walls—living and telling the love of Jesus wherever we all are and go. Pray that this body would be used by God to be a vessel of life to those around us—pray that God would send out laborers into the harvest, AND that lots of people would come into discipleship to (become followers of) Jesus Christ.