

INTERCESSORY PRAYER SHEET May-June 2011

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LIFE REPORT:

You want to hear something cool? Last month, the very day I emailed my prayer sheet—you remember it, yes, the one where my first request was GRACE and PEACE?—in the afternoon, just sitting in a meeting with Carol and Sean, a settled feeling of peace came upon me totally apart from anything I was thinking at the time. The peace was strong, delightful, notable, and SUCH a gift. I don't think it was a coincidence that it came the day I asked for prayer. I wish I could say I had lived in/basked in this same peace since then, I haven't. It faded over the course of that next week, and my anxiety has been typical/lowgrade with spikes since. But I'm telling you, it was so good to have a taste, to feel "normal"; it was encouraging and refreshing and I will keep seeking the "perfect peace that comes from the mind steadfast on You..." Thank you. And in related matters, God does keep speaking to me, that has been a blessing. Through Scripture, through recurrent themes, I hear him and am seeking to receive/believe. He's especially been talking to me about GRATITUDE and WORSHIP – how they need to grow in my life.

Other things: **Semester ended well**, and busy busy—sprinting to the finish.☺ I have seen some notable purity related to the issue of internet junk in a couple men who struggle—may God build on these gains. We had a very good meeting with **Ogden** leaders during finals week—seeing new leaders (Nicki and Cierra) rise up, praying for men (and we have an idea that looks promising), and just celebrating together this mission God is so obviously working in. Still haven't connected further with the couple I mentioned last time to see if they might be part of the puzzle. **Seeing my children, my wife, students/people with God's eyes?** Some. Better. I forget, God calls it to mind, I recalibrate, I press forward. Thank you for laboring with/for me, and us, in prayer.

REQUESTS:

- **Continued grace and peace, particularly that I would choose to trust (a key phrase for me) God's love and favor for me as a beloved son.** "There is no fear in love ... perfect love casts out fear ... fear has to do with punishment ... whoever fears is not yet perfected in love." God spoke that to me yesterday from 1 John 4 and I heard it ... I do fear punishment (probably mostly just his disappointment/disapproval) from God; I know that's wack, I "know" God's character as a good Father, I reflect it to others but the truth to myself is not through and through me. Oh God, your face shines. Drive away this nagging guilt and shame. *(Oh, and p.s., if you don't deal with this in your life, give thanks right now, because it's a real pain in the keister. ☺)*
- **SUMMER/Oodles of Strategic Wisdom**—I've been calling this the most key summer in KSU Ichthus' history. Maybe that's overstated, but you get the point. Sean (Richards, apprenticing through MAP), Carol, and I – along with Ben Stout, another Ichthus elder – are taking time to pray and give crazily needed thought to Ichthus on the broad level. A strength of Ichthus over these last years under my leadership is its genuine and organic nature – but a weakness is its lack of structure/coherent strategy. We lack a good bone structure, and good luck at us playing our full role advancing the Kingdom of God in the Manhattan area as a spiritual invertebrate. I haven't had this sort of team (there have been forms/portions, it's not been TOTALLY absent) to think and dream and strategize with for years – like about ten. It is hard work, but oh dear ones, I've been feeling very alone in this sort of way, and it has left some wounds. God didn't make us to fight alone. "Two are better than one."
- **Joy and Rest in our Family.** Getting ready for the new baby – due in mid-July. (Still laughing about that, oh we're so excited.) Kids' last week of school is next week. Have a Branson trip with Jeanette's parents in early June. LOTS of trips to KC for weddings, seminar teaching, support-related stuff, etc. For the kids, camps, activities, and lots of time around home playing, reading, sleeping. Good stuff, but it also can mean more demands (and a messier house), so especially pray for strength for Jeanette. Just pray we'd enjoy each other, and that the Holy Spirit of love would pervade our house (or wherever we are in KC also)—**particularly in how my children view and treat one another!** Nothing saps me more quickly than sibling conflict – and with four kids 13 and under, there can be quite a bit of it at times!