

January 4, 2006

Dear friends at Peace,

Here we go. This is our first prayer letter. We feel privileged to send it to you. Thank you for praying.

We'll send you some quotes that can encourage you to pray. Here's one: *I pray on the principle that wine knocks the cork out of a bottle. There is an inward fermentation, and there must be a vent* (Henry Ward Beecher). Such is the "expulsive" power of the gospel for us!

January requests:

1. Pray for the Lord's will to be done. He asked we pray that laborers be sent out to harvest. Is it His will that the Bostroms be sent? Pray that He will make His will clear.
2. Pray for church planters in general (like Eddie and Doug).
3. Pray for the church planters in Rocky Mountain Presbytery in particular.
 - a. They face significant challenges. They are often stretched. The average church plant in the SE is viable after three years. In the West, that average is five years.
 - b. Pray that they will give weight to the positive evaluation Ginny and I received from the church planting assessment seminar in Philadelphia during early November.
 - c. Pray that I can communicate well with them. Early in December, I sent them a record of significant correspondence I have had with them.
 - d. 1/3/06 I sent them the strategy paper they requested. If you want to read it, please let me know. Pray:
 - i. They will read it (some are away at a conference in Breckenridge, one is on vacation; one, the chairman, had a significant family tragedy after Christmas).
 - ii. Pray that they will receive it and approve it in time so that we can attend the presbytery meeting late in January.
 - iii. Pray that they will "coach" us through this endeavor.
 - e. Please pray for the presbytery meeting in Cheyenne, WY, 1/25-27.
4. Pray for the development of our prayer team.
 - a. Pray that others from Peace will join the team. Over 80 have committed so far.
 - b. This week I received approval from RMP to enlarge the prayer team beyond Peace. I will be sending out a request to many e-mail addresses of friends – old and new - today (1/4) to join the Bostrom prayer team.
5. Pray for our trip to Orlando for the "big" church planting seminar 1/30 – 2/3. This is a "don't miss" event. Pray that we will learn much – make new friends – and renew old friendships. We will be driving. Pray for traveling mercies. Noah, Jesse, and Isaac will stay with Ginny's brother, Terry, who lives near Orlando.
6. Pray for Helena. Last year construction permits nearly doubled (from @ \$30M in 04 to \$58M in 05). Pray for the leadership of Helena (many of them gather for breakfast and a televised meeting each Thursday) that they will manage the growth well. Pray that healthy churches and church plants will impact the community with the gospel. Pray for the nearly 50% of Helenans who are disconnected with any religious group. Some of these are our friends.
7. Pray for Peace. We thank God for the prayers, support, encouragement and patience you have generously given us during this time of exploration. May gospel movement continue to grow at Peace. Pray for the 58% of our neighbors in Wake County who have no religious affiliation. May we love them and may God draw them to Christ.
8. Pray for the Bostroms. We need God's grace. We have received much. We thank God for a rich Christmas together – one that included a week or more with Jared, Rebekah and Jackson – as well as Claire, Jordan's girl friend. This month Jordan plans to move to Chattanooga. Pray for his cars to sell on E-bay. Pray for work for him. Pray for Micah as he begins Wake Tech. Pray for grace in many transitions.

Brotherly,

Steve

Attachments