

The Hiestand Family News!

February/March 2002

The Ministry Newsletter of Todd & Melanie Hiestand

Serving Jericho Valley Church: A Community of God Centered Servants Passionately Striving for God's Glory



GREETINGS! Thank you again for your interest in our ministry with Jericho Valley Church. **WE TRULY BELIEVE WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS THAT GOD IS DOING SOME AWESOME THINGS IN OUR CONGREGATION.** Just last week we saw a new Christian lead his girlfriend to a relationship with the Lord! (Last summer he had become a Christian as a result of our softball league.) He also brought his whole family to Church, including his mother who has cancer and has been given one month to live — and is not (yet) a Christian). God is working in the hearts of a number of individuals giving them a passion to reach our community in new and innovative ways, and he is doing the same for us! We are expecting more great things from God and thank the Lord that your support makes it possible to be a part of His work there.

**The following article is one Todd wrote for the JVC Monthly Newsletter called The Journey. It has been almost 7 months since we began our ministry with Jericho Valley Church. Some of you may have not heard the story of how we got here and all that we are doing.*

What in the world is Todd Doing?

While Renald Shower's book, What in the world is God Doing? sought to answer the age-old questions of what God is doing in this world, this article will seek to answer the question: "What exactly are Todd and Melanie doing at Jericho Valley Church?"

Close your eyes and **imagine** for a minute (okay, so you can't close your eyes while you read, but you know what I mean), that you are a law student and you are heading into law school for your first few years. To make it through, you will obviously have to find a job to pay your bills. Your struggle is that you will need a job that will allow you time to study. **After much searching, you find yourself having to drive a delivery truck for a local grocery store.** The pay is good and you are able to make ends meet financially. The hours are also reasonable so you are able to get studying done. All is great! Right?

Before you answer, **imagine** again you are that same law student looking for a job. But, instead of driving that delivery truck, you find an internship at a small, but growing law office, which gives you the same income. You are working under two or three successful lawyers who are able to mentor you and teach you what real-life law is all about. They are able to show you how what you are learning in the classroom transfers to the actual job. Instead of being distracted with a job that does not directly apply to your education, **you are working hands-on in your field** all the way through your training. This is obviously a more desirable situation to learn than in the first scenario.

While I am certainly not studying law (we would all be in trouble if that were the case!), I am working on my Master of Divinity degree at Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, PA. Up until last summer (2001) I had been working full time at Philadelphia Biblical University in the Security Department (Quite the high profile job eh?). However, holding a full-time job while attempting to attend seminary full-time **did not allow much time for ministry opportunities.** Our prayer was that God would provide a way for us to be involved in ministry while attending seminary. In comes Student Ministries, Inc. and Jericho Valley Church. SMI is a mission organization located in the Portland, OR area which provides seminary students an opportunity to be involved in ministry while attending seminary. They do this by "contracting" with the students

Please Read on! ✍

To do ministry projects for local churches, mission organizations, campus ministries, etc. They help students raise support for their ministry projects. **In its most basic sense then, we are missionaries to the people of Jericho Valley Church.**

When we first heard of SMI we were struggling with *where* we would be able to be involved in ministry. The church we were attending didn't have the opportunities for which we were looking at the moment so we searched everywhere for other opportunities. In God's awesome timing, we met Brad and Stacy in the Fall of 2000 (the year Stacy started PBU) because Melanie was Stacy's volleyball coach at PBU. We began to get to know JVC and its people, mission, vision and direction. **We immediately fell in love with the people and the church.** After much prayer, we approached Brad and Jason about the possibility of my acting as an intern at JVC. They surprisingly ☞ accepted us and here we are! We have been raising our support for a number of months now and are still on our way to full support.

So, what are our responsibilities? While our roles are subject to change with the needs of the church, these are our current responsibilities:

- ☞ Todd will develop and lead one family activity per month, which include both fun and service emphasis. (Purpose: Develop church and family relationships and provide an opportunity for community evangelism - please use these times for this exact purpose, BRING FRIENDS!)
- ☞ Todd will develop a weekly family devotional based on Sunday's sermon, which will help encourage individual and family Bible study. The devotional will be distributed to the families each Sunday in the bulletin.
- ☞ Todd will co-lead (teach) a Community Group with Jason, which is focused on evangelism, and community. (At this moment Todd is teaching through the How to become a Contagious Christian series).
- ☞ Todd will supervise and direct the children's Sunday school program and summer VBS.
- ☞ Todd and Melanie will be available to take part in other ministry opportunities as they arise (i.e. teaching, preaching, special events, etc.)
- ☞ Todd will take part in the elders meetings and ministry team meetings.
- ☞ Melanie will be part of a regular rotation teaching Children's Sunday School

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ☞ Melanie has begun working as a Tupperware consultant. Please pray for us as she learns the job and looks for opportunities to grow in the business.
- ☞ Todd is looking to be promoted into management at UPS where he is working Part-Time. This will give us health benefits right away as well as a little more tuition reimbursement each semester. Please pray for the Lord's direction.
- ☞ Todd is preaching on March 3rd while our senior pastor is out of town.
- ☞ God has been working on our hearts in developing a passion for evangelism and outreach at JVC. Because of the nature of Todd's position it may be possible to give some direct effort to that cause. Please pray as God directs us in that role.
- ☞ Both Melanie and Todd have been able to build some great friendships with people outside of our church. Please pray that we can simply be great friends with them as we seek to share with them the Hope that we have in Christ.
- ☞ Please continue to pray for Our Ministry Responsibilities listed to the left, Todd's studies, Melanie's job(s), our relationship with each other, our relationship with Christ and our relationships with those in our church.

SUPPORT UPDATE:

PRAYER SUPPORT: We currently have a goal of putting together a list of **50 people** who will commit to consistently pray for our ministry, our church and us. Would you commit to pray for us? Would you like your name on that list? IF SO, please respond with the enclosed card, e-mail us at TMHiestand@aol.com, or go to <http://www.geocities.com/hiestand24/Contact> and fill out our "Survey" section.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We still are seeking to meet our goal of \$1500/month. We are currently @ about \$1000/month. If you desire to support our ministry financially please respond with the enclosed card or e-mail us at TMHIESTAND@AOL.COM or visit our web site.