

Jericho Valley Church

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Student Ministries, Inc.

- The monthly newsletter of Todd & Melanie Hiestand -
September / October 2001

Isaiah 26:8 – Indeed, while walking in the way of truth, we have waited eagerly for you, for your name and your renown are the desires of our souls.

Melanie and I have one desire, and I believe this verse spells it out perfectly. We don't know all that God has in store for us in the future, but we know that we desire to be used, by His grace, for the Glory and Fame of the name of Christ! We wait eagerly for God as He directs this desire in our hearts and works it out in our lives.

While we don't know the far off future, we do know that God has us in an exciting place at Jericho Valley Church. Just last week I sat in with the elders as we discussed our dreams for the church. I was extremely encouraged as I sat and listened to their visions and passions. Almost each person in the room emphasized four main ideas:

- That we would have passionate worship that is overflowing in response to God's Grace and Truth.
- That we would unapologetically proclaim the truth of God's word.
- That JVC would be a community of God-centered servants passionate for the Glory of God
- That we would have a passion for the lost.

It seems the reoccurring theme in these "reoccurring themes" was the idea of "Passion." It was exciting to hear that the leadership was not just looking for passion for the sake of passion, but passion, which is founded in the Grace of God and the Greatness of God.

I believe I can truly say that God's "name and renown are desires of our souls" at Jericho Valley Church. I believe there are some exciting times ahead for our small congregation. Whether this means we grow in numbers, or we grow in other ways we cannot say. We are committed however, to eagerly seeking God's desires while trusting Him to do something great.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OUR TIME?

Good question. Thanks for asking! **Melanie** has been working at a day care in the area while serving as the Assistant Coach of the volleyball team at Philadelphia Biblical University. She is keeping quite busy with work, games and practices! Please pray for her as she seeks God before all this.

I (Todd) began Seminary a few weeks ago. On Tuesday's, I am taking 6 credits (two classes) and greatly enjoying them. They are: (1) The Christian Faith: (A study of theology and culture) and (2) Genesis: Foundations of Biblical History. I am also working about 20 hours in a part time job during the mornings and then putting time in for the church in the afternoons.

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT THE CHURCH?

Another great question! Because we are still looking for more support, I have not taken on my full job description.

However, I am excited about the responsibilities I do have. The three things I focus my time on:

- Working on a study guide based on Sunday's sermon geared towards encouraging families to talk about God's Word "while sitting in the house, while walking down the road, when lying down and rising up" (Deut. 11:19)
- Working on developing a written philosophy of family ministry at JVC.
- Working on establishing a monthly family activity. These activities will be geared toward fellowship, outreach and service.

HOW CAN YOU PRAY?

Once again, another great question!

- Todd and his studies
- Melanie as she juggles volleyball coaching and work.
- Both Todd & Melanie for opportunities to share the gospel with those they work with.
- Jericho Valley Church as we seek God's desires for our church.
- That we would continue to build strong relationships with the families and members of JVC.
- Our financial support would continue to come in.

SUPPORT UPDATE:

Support Goal: \$1500/month
Current committed Monthly Support:
\$735/month

We are looking toward a goal of \$900/month committed support by the end of October!
That is only \$165 or ten families at \$16.50 a month!

*Our Newsletter will go out at the end of each month along with any support receipts we receive from the previous month. We will send new envelopes for support at that time.

***Let us know if you can receive this newsletter via e-mail as a Microsoft word or Corel Word Perfect Document.**

*Send support to: Student Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 22212
Milwaukee, OR 97269

*Be sure to write our SMI ID # (54012) on the Check.

***You may also give online at www.studentministriesinc.org**

***Support received after the 26th of the month will count toward the following month support.**

Todd & Melanie Hiestand

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