



Paul and Kaelin



Prayer Requests:

- Vision for the coming Church plant
- Momentum for our ministry
- Focusing on the main thing

February 2010

Momentum. That's been the word this month. I felt that we needed to get a ball of momentum rolling to launch us into what God is calling us to. Through a few books and wise counsel, God has renewed our vision to see as many people as possible come to know Jesus. And now, it seems momentum has started! We have found a number of other passionate people and are beginning a small group this month focused on living out the mission of Jesus. A couple other groups are considering going through the same material - called the "Tangible Kingdom Primer". There seems to be a lot of interest to start "living out" - bringing the hope of Jesus to those in our lives - rather than "living in". We'll see where God takes this!

The Main Thing

Ben: "I'm a Christian. But like, I don't believe in that stuff like you need to make Jesus your 'Lord and Savior'. I believe if you're a good person you'll go to heaven... But I am a Christian... and I've accepted... (murmuring and trails off)"

As you probably know, I love sharing the gospel. Lately I've been going to the University of Minnesota to build relationships and share the good news with college students. It is quite a lot of fun! The quote above is from one of those conversations. I thought it was interesting, because Ben said quite defiantly that others did not need Jesus, however his voice trailed off when he started to say that he did accept Jesus. I think he realized the contradiction.

This highlights how the message of the gospel is so easily overlooked. Often, the message about Jesus becomes a message about self-improvement, being a good person, social-justice, or simply going to church. While those are good things, they are not the main thing. And when the main thing is not emphasized, the gospel is lost.

What is the main thing? The Apostle Paul tells us:

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

That's the main thing. We have all sinned, separating ourselves from our God. The penalty for that sin is death. We need a savior to paid that death for us. That savior is Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised from the dead, conquering sin and death.

That is the message that transforms lives! That's the message I seek to proclaim. It is not a message about us and what we need to do. It is good news about our God and Savior Jesus Christ and what He has done for us and what He will do through those of us who trust in Him. That is what is of "first importance" for all of us!

We Love you all! Please let us know how we can pray for you. Or feel free to call or e-mail us to hear how we are doing. And please visit our website: <http://www.paulandkaelin.com/>

Paul and Kaelin Ireland (and Luke and Baby!)