

# Paul and Kaelin

## Prayer Requests:

- God's favor for our team, building, plans, and vision
- Health and energy
- Jesus to be our all in every situation

March 2010

**MOVEMENT!** Last month I talked about feeling the need to build momentum. Well, this month, it looks like movement is happening! We attended a church planting training in Chicago called "first steps" that has given us steps to take. I have a new mentor who is coming alongside us to help build a team and to design a plan around a "Neighborhood Transformation" strategy to be in the community and transform it by empowering the people who are there. We also have a group studying how to live lives together for Jesus, being a "missional" community together (see "What is Mission?" below).

Plus, this week, two different people said they are willing to work full-time on our efforts while raising their own support (so free co-laborers). These are random people I had not met until this week. Totally from God! We'll see how those relationships play out, but it is of great encouragement because it shows God is at work!

We also are making progress on the building we've been praying for. We'll see what God does with that! So please continue to pray for our vision, our team, and our location. Pray for continued momentum and for God's extraordinary favor.



*Above: Us shoveling through a foot of snow.*

*Right: At the Jelly Belly factory on our visit to Chicago for a church-planting training. It was a great trip!*



## What is Mission?

The mission of the Church is to glorify God by making as many people as possible become disciples of Jesus Christ (see the 'Great Commission', Matt. 28:19-21). Typically we think of overseas missionaries who go to a foreign land, learn a new language and culture, and spend their time building relationships, finding culturally appropriate ways to share the Gospel and show God's love, and then train up local leaders to continue that movement.

ALL Christians are called to be missionaries in some way. We call this being "missional". It means orienting our lifestyle in such a way to point those around us to Jesus. This includes a posture of our life of forgiveness of sinners and acceptance of those different than us. This means living to 'give ourselves away' to God and others.

This sounds daunting. It is hard. It is hard to go outside our comfort zone to talk to new people. It is hard to share the hard-truth of the Gospel to a friend. It is hard to love the not so lovable. But this is not supposed to be done alone; the church is a "sent" people, meaning we are supposed to do it together. But in our individualistic America, we most often do not work together. We often do not live "missionally", not because of lack of heart or effort but because we have not been part of a community that is intentionally working together to use our gifts and to redeem the relationships in our lives.

This is what our church plant is trying to do. We want to build these intentional "missional" communities so we can figure this thing out together and make disciples of Jesus!

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!)