

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As you all know we moved from our lifelong home in Alabama a little over a year and a half ago. We believed and still believe with all our hearts this is God's will. We wanted to give you all a report of what we have been up to and encourage you with all that God has been doing in and through us. Danielé and I initially moved to O'Fallon, MO to join the Crossings Church in Wentzville. The goal was to put together a team and train together with them as we prepare to launch a brand new church in Columbia, MO. The process was started by handing out a card to all Crossings members that asked everyone to check the box that applied to them. The options were as follows:

1. I believe God is calling me to be a part of the church plant in Columbia, MO
2. I believe God is calling me to continue serving as a part of the Crossings in Wentzville.
3. I am willing to submit to the direction of the Crossings' leadership as to whether I stay or go.

After a period of prayer and fasting, we collected all of the cards and began an interview process. It was amazing to see God's hand in the selection process and to know that there was unity and peace throughout. We now have a team of 25 committed disciples that have been training and growing together. As a team we have all been involved in various ministries throughout the church. Danielé and I have both been involved in an array of ministries and specialty training. I have gone through "*Preaching For Life Change*", a video and workbook series by Rick Warren. All of our Crossings Staff from the various church plants went through this together. This is material I would recommend highly to anyone that desires to be effective from the pulpit. Though we do not agree with all of Rick Warren's doctrine, this material is very solid and extremely practical. I feel blessed having gone through it and I learned a lot. Danielé has gone through "*Healing Is A Choice*" and "*Wounded Heart*" classes. These are two of the many healing ministries that we will offer as a church in Columbia. They are designed to help those that have gone through childhood sexual abuse and those that struggle with hurts and unforgiveness that come as a result of life in a fallen world. Many on our team have gone through the other various healing ministry classes and are prepared to lead where needed. We have read and been tested on many books that have been proven training materials for all of the Crossings Church plants. Each book has been challenging, informative, and practical and we have discussed in our weekly small groups. The books Danielé and I have read and been tested on include the following: "*The Master Plan Of Evangelism*" by Robert Coleman, "*The Ways Of The Alongsider*" by Bill Mowry, "*The Power Of Together*" by Jim Putman, "*That We May Share In His Holiness*" by Tommy South, "*The Proudful Soul's Guide To Humility*" by Thomas Jones & Michael Fontenot, "*Making Small*

*Groups Work*” by Henry Cloud & John Townsend, *“First Impressions”* by Mark Waltz, *“30 Days With Jesus”* by F. LeGard Smith, and *“I Declare War”* by Levi Lusko.

Danielé and I have tried to dive into any and everything that we could that is related to ministry at the Crossings Church. We wanted to build relationships with as many as possible and soak up everything we could so that we could duplicate much of what we saw when we launch in Columbia. Danielé and I have both been active in many leadership meetings including our weekly staff meetings, zone leadership meetings, and our weekly Columbia leadership core meetings. This is in addition to our cell groups and small group discipleship men’s and women’s group we each lead. We have done both marriage counseling with couples in distress and are currently doing pre-marriage counseling with two of our fellow church planters. We have both attended teen and college ministry camps where we served in various capacities. We regularly participate in and help facilitate teen and college cross chats alongside our teen and campus ministers. We have participated in many outreach events such as Rootbeer Keggers, Block Parties, and Spooktaculars to name a few. We have attended marriage retreats and several disciple making conferences. Each time we purposefully take time to debrief as a team and discuss lessons learned and how we can implement what we are doing here in the Midwest. I have spoken at several disciple making conferences in Florida, Tennessee, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Missouri. We have built some great friendships with disciples in many of these places and believe God is really awakening His people to His mission in ways that are much needed. Our continued prayer is that we allow God to use us in a way that we can be an example and model to other churches. We long to see our American churches come alive and make disciple making a real priority.

I have tried to give you all an idea of some of our training and work, but please know there is no way for me to encapsulate everything in an adequate fashion in this report. I have left so many things out no doubt. We are constantly involved in ministry on a daily basis and are extremely busy with Kingdom work. We regularly fast and pray and hold each other accountable as we strive to glorify our Father in Heaven. We wish you all could be flies on the wall to see what we see as God does His amazing work here in the Midwest!

Our kids are doing fantastic. They are better evangelists in many ways than we are, and by the way, I’m ok with that. They have grown so much through our time here and have out baptized me for the first time ever. My son and daughter, Nathan and Kayla, have both studied with and baptized several new disciples into Christ. Danielé studied with and baptized her first person ever this past year. My mother, who lives with us, has even led her first ever small group bible study and has learned to be evangelistic. I’m so proud of all of them! They are all in bible studies with seekers currently and we should see

even more fruit from those studies very soon. Even through the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have been able to study with and baptize new disciples. In some of our ministries the baptism numbers have even gone up during quarantine. We have been adjusting to the differences and challenges that the virus brought, but God has not slowed down, and His Kingdom is still advancing. We have decided to live by faith and not by fear, and God is really blessing us.

My son Nathan, along with one of the disciples he studied with and baptized, is entering college as a freshman in the Spring and will be an integral part of our campus ministry in Columbia. My daughter, Kayla, just started High School and is already doing an amazing job making friends and inviting them to church activities. She started as the setter for Varsity volleyball team as a freshman a couple weeks ago and has quickly gained a very positive reputation among students and coaches. She is the only teen on this church plant, but not for long. She is doing a great job reaching out as a teen evangelist. Also, my mom sends her thanks and love for her birthday gift basket!

Many of our teammates have moved to Columbia already and have found jobs. Our core leadership consists of a lead evangelist/preacher (me and my wife Danielé), a campus minister (Brett Maessen and his wife Ashlin) and a youth minister (D'Mitri Lewis). We are currently exploring the city of Columbia and looking for a place our church can meet. We are not sure if we will pursue a rental/lease or if we will be able to purchase a place. Please be in prayer that God makes His will for us clear. Please also pray for us as we juggle the many things that go into planting a new church. We are busy, tired, and stressed at times, but it is good stress. I think we share, at least in part, the sentiment of the apostle Paul when he referred to himself as being poured out like a drink offering. It is a good thing and we rejoice that God has counted us worthy of this work. We are as excited as ever and hopeful for the future. We plan to officially launch in December. We have been praying for the Pleasant Valley Church family and we long to be with all of you someday soon in person. We are still really looking forward to coming and getting to know more of our family there. Our goal is to stay in touch more frequently. We plan to give reports and pictures of the things God is doing in and through us on a regular basis. If you all have any questions about anything we shared or anything at all, please don't hesitate to write, email, call, or even visit. We love you all and cannot thank you enough for your continued support, Kingdom mindedness, and partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

All For Jesus,

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