

Dear Friend,

And so it begins! The Lord has blessed us with a new year of life and ministry, and we are filled with gratitude. We are also thankful that you have chosen to partner with us and share in this journey. **Your prayers and financial support are so needed and such a blessing to us.** Thank you! We look forward to sharing with you the wonderful stories of God's work through *Simplicity Ministries®* in this new year.

The ministry year was quickly off and running as Mike's first ministry opportunity took place on January 2nd! Mike preached at a local area church, Orient Drive Baptist, Sandy, OR. The Sunday service was planned to help pastor Rick Threadgill cast vision in his church for men's ministry. Mike preached on "The Strategic Priority of Ministry to Men" and *Simplicity Ministries®* Board Chairman, Charles Warren, shared about his own experience in the Men of Simplicity, the weekly men's group that Mike leads. Charles shared with the men of the church how his participation in the group has impacted his life and helped him become a better leader. After the service, **men of Orient Drive were invited to participate in the Men of Simplicity to develop a partnership that will help direct and expand ministry to men in their church.** A dozen men indicated their interest in joining the group. This year *Simplicity Ministries®* hopes to partner with additional area churches to equip men.

On Jan. 7-9 Mike was invited by Pastor Aaren Gushwa to present a challenge to the men of Faith Community Church in Redding, CA, as they begin the second part of the study, "Men's Fraternity" by Robert Lewis. **Mike challenged about 15 men through the weekend** regarding four key areas: a man's ambition, motivation, purpose, and ministry. In addition, Mike followed up on training he had done with this church almost a year ago on *Simple Evangelism*, providing additional coaching and training for a Sunday School class of about 20 adults that will begin *S.E.A.D.S.* (Simple Evangelism and Discipleship Strategy) in upcoming weeks.

Jan. 11, Mike flew to Spokane, WA, **to speak to a "Youth Pastor Cluster" on the topic of the church engaging culture.** Their day of discussion and study was centered on examining the priority of demonstrating the culture of the kingdom of Christ when engaging the culture of the world. Many of those attending were ministers with whom Mike had worked on the *Quake* project in the Tri-Cities and Spokane, and he enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and interact with them.

Our prayer is that we will continue to represent our King Jesus well as His ambassadors to the Northwest — and that you will do the very same in the world of influence in which He has placed you.

Simply Devoted, Debbie & Mike



Men's Group - Faith Community Church, Redding, CA



Faith Community Church; (above) members of Sunday School class pray for the lost

Up Coming Ministry Events

- Jan. 14 Chapel - Open Door Christian Academy, Troutdale, OR
- Jan. 15 Men of Simplicity - Race Day Portland, OR
- Jan. 21-22 Simplicity Ministry's Annual Board Meeting
- Jan. 26 Open Door Baptist Church Troutdale, OR - Bible Study
- Jan. 28-29 First Baptist Church Monroe, WA - Youth Lock-in

Every Monday Night: Men of Simplicity

For a complete schedule go to www.simplicityministries.org