

# SIMPLICITY MINISTRIES®

Volume 10, Issue 8  
December 10, 2009

Dear Friend,

After Mike's return from Rwanda, our other ministry events in October centered around students and the Men of Simplicity. At each of the events involving students, Mike focused on sharing a message entitled, "Step Out!" Based on Joshua 1-3, this is a study of Israel's journey to cross the Jordan river. Students learn key principles about courage, being prepared, obedience, and waiting upon the Lord when His activity cannot be seen. The application of these truths lay a foundation for **each student to live simply and purely devoted to Christ.**

On October 14-16, our family traveled to Camp Gormley in Washington, where Mike preached a middle school retreat for Liberty Christian Academy of Richland, WA. Over the two days of services, **there were three students saved and almost two dozen who sought the Lord in repentance and renewal.** The following week, Mike traveled to Salem to preach to the students of Corban College.

The third weekend of October, the new *Simplicity* men's group (Men of Simplicity, formed this summer) went into the high country of central Washington for a weekend camping retreat. Nine of the twelve regular members were able to go, and the campout was a huge success. Mike related, **"Those men met with God during our three days on the mountain and were deeply impacted by that time."** Ministry to men has become a joy and a passion for Mike as he has witnessed this band of brothers growing and meeting the challenges placed before them from God's Word. Each week, there is evidence of deeper faith in the lives of the men involved.

So it was with a great deal of interest that Mike responded to the invitation to preach at the Pastors Conference of the Northwest Baptist Convention on Monday, November 9th. As God has been shaping the vision for ministry to men in Mike's heart, he felt the Lord's leadership to challenge pastors and laymen about the "Strategic Priority of Ministry to Men." Citing both biblical and statistical evidence, Mike spoke to the lack of men's ministry in our churches today and the resulting critical need for such ministry. One particularly striking statistic Mike shared was this:

"If a mother is reached for Christ, 17% of the time her family will also come to Christ; however, if a father is reached for Christ, 93% of the time his family will follow him in submitting their lives to the Lord!"



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As Mike presented the strong challenge to make reaching men a strategic priority of each church, **pastors and other men responded overwhelmingly, with 57 (nearly all the men present) coming forward to pray at the altar and ask God to renew the lives of men** in their congregations and communities.



professed faith in Christ, 46 in the U.S. and 108 in Rwanda, with 900 Rwandan believers also publicly responding to the call to biblical forgiveness. In addition, there were over 477 public decisions of personal renewal in U.S. (Additional figures from the India mission trip are not currently available.)

As we examine the vision that God has given us, both to continue in the work that we have been doing and to expand our ministry in new ways, we are mindful that there are challenges and needs to be met. Not the least of these is the very real need for even more financial partners to join us in this work. The graphs below show figures based on what we experienced in 2009. Like many in this difficult economy, we are not meeting expenses on a monthly basis; we are falling short \$1,043 per month. This has resulted in the very near depletion of our emergency fund, and this is after freezing all possible expenditures outside of those necessary to keep the ministry operational. Currently, unless year end giving comes in miraculous abundance, we will end the year with a \$12,509 loss for the year.

In addition, on the first three Wednesday evenings of November, Mike had the opportunity to preach the message series, "Beyond the Limits: Loving and Forgiving Just Like Jesus," at a local church and partner of Simplicity Ministries, Open Door Baptist Church in Troutdale, OR. The messages focus on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and call believers to re-examine the love Christ demonstrated for us on the cross and to offer that kind of sacrificial love to others. Mike also preached a chapel service for the Open Door Academy on November 13th, sharing with these students the first part of the challenge to "Step Out!"



On November 14, Mike was invited to preach for a True Love Waits commitment service in Sandy, OR, close to home. **Eleven students made a commitment to sexual purity that evening.**

**We closed the year with an evening of celebration.** Simplicity Ministries hosted a banquet and fundraising event on December 8th at Greater Gresham Baptist Church. It was a night to celebrate the fruit of the ministry God has given us over the past ten years, as well as look to the future of what God has for us to do. We were blessed to hear testimonies from individuals who have partnered with us, as well as see new partners step forward to stand with us for months and years to come. We are thankful, so thankful, for all that God has done. In 2009 alone, Mike has preached to 2,461 people in the United States and 4,411 in the nation of Rwanda. At least 154 people have

One thing that was common to the testimonies shared at the banquet by those who partner financially with *Simplicity* was the fact that God clearly impressed upon them His desire for them to join our ministry and financial team. We ask that if you are not currently giving to *Simplicity Ministries* that you simply ask the Lord to show you if He would have you partner with us. We trust Him to know and call out those He would have come alongside us in this Kingdom work.

**"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."** May His name be glorified in this Christmas season — in your home and in ours. Simply Devoted, Debbie and Mike

