



MUSINGS IN MINISTRY

BIG NEWS!!!

January 30, 2012

I pray that you are well and enjoying the beginning of this New Year. January has flown by and I have so much to tell you! Without further ado, my **Big News**: Last summer God employed my time at Cru's Biennial US Staff Conference in Colorado to speak to me about the ways He has equipped me, in close to 12 years of ministry, to invest well in building His Kingdom. He reminded me of my passion for evangelism and discipleship (the mission of Cru); more so, He gave me insight into the way He has been leading my heart for some time to contribute on a larger scale to equip believers in these areas.

In those moments with Him, I knew He was asking me to invest more deeply in my Orlando church community. I contacted our teaching pastor, Cole NeSmith, and told him of the ways God was leading me. I assumed I'd simply engage more intentionally when I returned home, but the Lord started to direct me down a different path. At the time, I had no idea what this would mean.

"Status," my church community, was launched eight years ago as a 20-somethings ministry by Discovery Church in Orlando. Two years ago (around the time the Lord led me to remain in Orlando and when I began connecting at Status), the Lord moved both Discovery and Status to understand that He desired for us to become an intergenerational community of believers—no longer focused on only 20-somethings. In this process, both groups understood that God was inviting Status to leave "adolescence" and joyously announced last August that Status would become its own church apart from Discovery. It was incredible to see how both leadership teams openly embraced what God was doing in this process!

I remember considering our church mission statement during that time: *Together, we encourage, challenge and equip one another to recognize and continually live in God's presence—abiding in Christ—further revealing God's love to the world for His glory.* I realized that because our demographic is so young, it is evident that we have a great opportunity to grow in spiritual maturity. I specifically saw a need for someone to give attention to evangelism and discipleship. And, as I talked with the Leadership Team of Status, we agreed that not only had God prepared me for this role, but He was also clearly opening the door for me to come and serve in this way.

Over the next few months, God spoke to me through my time with Him, the wisdom of many people and the Status Leadership Team. It became increasingly clear that He was welcoming me into a new adventure. What that looks like is planting a church, but with a small twist as Status is already made up of around 500 committed men and women, and of those, 120 are active in leadership roles. I'm inspired by the passion of this young group of believers. I love their heart to walk well with Jesus. I'm encouraged by the way they want to know how to make Jesus known in Orlando and beyond. **I'm excited to begin my ministry with Status, to help equip them in their walks with God and to invest in them by building His Kingdom in this city together.**

My prayer is that you will continue to partner with me through prayer and finances in this new season of ministry.

I can't help but be grateful for the way God has led me to a role where I get to live out my passion for ministering to young people, equipping them in evangelism and discipleship, and reaching cities—it's a dream come true! I'm so thankful for the way God has used all of these years with Cru to prepare me for this next step.

My transition will happen gradually over the next few months as I further develop my team of financial ministry partners for this new church-planting focus. Cru will continue to process financial gifts for my ministry for a period. I will update you with new giving information when the time comes.

I am so grateful for you! It's a joy to serve Him together and I look forward to all He will do in and through us in this new season of ministry!!

So thankful that we're in this together,

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