

city beautiful CHURCH

August 30, 2012

Throughout Scripture we see God renaming people as He calls them into new seasons of life. God assigns meaning and purpose through the names He gives. As Status grew beyond a “twenty-somethings” ministry within a local church, preparing to step out on our own in the city of Orlando, we realized He was asking us to consider a new name.

Orlando is affectionately known as “The City Beautiful”. We considered the things God is accomplishing in and through our church and knew we wanted to closely identify ourselves with the city that He has called us to serve. When we think about Orlando as the City Beautiful, we see God bringing true *Kingdom* beauty to this place. We see people’s lives being transformed by the power of the Good News as we, following the instructions of Jesus to the disciples, continue to go forth and tell people, “The Kingdom of God is near!” We see businesses flourishing, families strengthened, culture created and transformed, and we see many, many people encountering the person of Jesus and finding abundant, eternal life in Him.

City Beautiful Church embodies our hopes for the future of our church and city. Cole, our lead pastor, often says,

“55 million people come to Orlando every year to see Mickey Mouse. Our desire and dream is that the movement of God in this city will be its greatest attraction in the years to come!”

(No offense to Mickey Mouse! We love him, too.) We truly desire to be a city on a hill--a light in the darkness and a place where people see the Church (City Beautiful and the many wonderful churches of our city) united together to bring the Good News of the Kingdom to the people of Orlando and beyond. That is a dream that brings tears to my eyes and continues to flame the passion God has placed in my heart to make disciples.

In a few short weeks, we will move into a new location in the center of Orlando. God has certainly prepared us for this exciting moment through many things including our Go Forth series this summer. A friend of mine wrote this shortly after we ended that particular season of equipping:

“I wanted to share with you how much Go Forth impacted me... [I]t changed my perspective. Everything was deeply rooted in the idea that evangelism is born out of us encountering God first, and second bringing [the Good News of Christ] to his people [here].”

Being still new to the city, I rarely visited [it]. Which left me with this iconic city scape of metal and lifeless concrete buildings full of homeless people who only want money and tons of parties. As you would expect based on that viewpoint I didn't like the city. Yet Go Forth took this postcard idea of Orlando, and without me realizing it, turned it into a family scrapbook. A place of meaning, a place of expectation, a place of stories, a place of familiarity, a place of laughter and emotions. I will never look at Orlando the same.”

I love what he says about Orlando being “a place of expectation”-- I’m anticipating big things from the Lord in the days ahead. Thank you for your prayers and partnership! You truly make it possible for me to be present in ministry here. I’m so grateful for you!

Jessica

**musings
in
ministry**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We move into our new (and temporary) facility, “The Mezz” on September 30th. Pray for a smooth transition. Pray that we act as a blessing to those who own and work in the building!
- Wisdom and discernment for next steps in discipleship structure and implementation in our church.

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