

February 5, 2018

Dear Friends,

It was in 1992 that I moved to New England. In the 26 years since then, the spiritual climate has changed. While our culture may have moved away from biblical morals and nominal Christianity, God has been building His kingdom here. A lot of intercessory prayer has brought a warming of the atmosphere. New England is no longer a cemetery for pastors and other full-time Christian workers. Church plants by many different denominations are taking root. There is a great cooperation, respect, cross fertilization among believers across denominational lines.

Earlier today, I attended a New England Evangelism Strategy Meeting. We were from different churches and ministries from at least 4 of the 6 New England States. The purpose was to seek God about what He wants to do and will do through His people.

Last week I met with Mollie; she works with Inter-varsity (IV) on the north shore of Boston. I also talked with Andy, the New England Collegiate Director with the Baptist Convention of New England. Philip, with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in New Hampshire, and I talked today. We all want the same thing: every campus to have a witnessing gospel community so that each student has a chance to know of Jesus' redeeming love. In actuality, I think IV, FCA, Cru and others have always wanted that. What is different is the level of intentionality of having a coordinated effort among these groups.

There is work to be done in assessing the campuses around New England. What is already happening? Where can we help? How can we help? Please pray for me and Mike (my New England Local Missions Co-Director) as we seek the Lord, build relationships with pastors and ministry leaders, and make plans.

At this morning's meeting one of the men told us about Sam Shoemaker in Pittsburg who encouraged the believers to make Jesus more famous than steel. He went on to say, "Let's make Jesus more famous in New England than Bill Belichick or Tom Brady."

God, glorify Your name in New England!



These are a couple of pictures from my trip to Maine last month. At one point in the conversation Jeff, one of the students, told us his freshmen year he came to a Bible Study. "I didn't even know that was a thing." Blaire, a sophomore, asked, "Let's say I want to start a Bible Study - what if someone asks a questions I don't know?" These two students give you a great picture into students reaching students. I can't help but smile thinking about them.

We are a part of God's amazing work. Thank you.

Smiling,

