

In the summer of '07 Stephanie and I decided to pursue the call that God has placed on our lives to be used by Christ to make disciples. We would be joining the team of Discipleship International on a full time basis. This means that I would leave my current job as a carpenter to fulfill God's calling.

In the same way that we came to Christ, this was a stepping of faith. Faith that this is what God has called us to do, faith that He would use us despite our shortcomings, faith that He would provide for our daily needs. Even though there were many unknowns we could not deny this call that God placed in our hearts. We have sought and continue to seek out God's plan as we grow in ministry opportunities.

With this step of faith we have been encouraged by the amount of expressed support from fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Also it is exciting to see our financial support start to come in. We have seen the hand of God at work in changing the lives of people. We have seen others on the team bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus. At our Christmas banquet this year we had three men who had just asked Christ to be Lord of their lives the night before. How exciting it is to see the fruit of faithful men and women.

Members in our group are pursuing a deeper relationship with our Lord and being challenged in their faith to share their hope with others. One young lady in particular shared of an opportunity that she had to present the gospel to two other girls in a restaurant. She exclaimed, "I was very nervous but I knew what God wanted me to do." What a blessing to see people stepping out in faith and service for Christ.

We also got to experience the love and support that there is amongst the body of Christ. In November we had the passing of a lovely man named Paul. He had such a deep desire for a knowledge of Christ and was a great contribution to our group. Throughout this time of mourning and remembrance God's love was displayed through the support that was given to Gail his wife. Many people from our group extended a hand of love to Gail, as she was welcomed and encouraged in this difficult time.

In as much as we are a part of the work of making disciples, we are disciples as well. God has been using this work to ever challenge us and help us grow to maturity in Christ. God is faithfully calling us into a deeper level of faith, love and devotion. The ongoing pressures of the world are a battle that we face daily. We have experienced the blatant rejection of the gospel and the infiltration of doubt "if this really is of God." But through this all, God is calling us to endure hardships and press on toward the goal. We find our strength daily in His word as He transforms our minds for His glory. One verse that blesses my heart deeply is Deut 5:29 the Lord says,

"Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it may go well with them and their children forever"

In this verse I see a summary of all the reasons that the Lord gives us commands. Not to burden us down or hold us back "so that it may go well for us." He keeps us from things that will harm and encourages us to do that which builds Christlike character.

The new year holds many exciting opportunities and open doors. We will be starting a new discipleship-training group at Ross Road Community Church in January. Also I have been in contact with the pastor of a church in Maple Ridge and it looks like God is opening the door there for this type of ministry. There are also plans for overseas missions trips possibly to Mexico and Africa. These are a few of the things that we look forward to, separate from the day-to-day opportunities that God gives us.

We would appreciate if you would keep us in your prayers. Prayer for our marriage that we may be united in all the decisions that we make. Pray that we would be faithful to God in whatever we do. Pray that the Lord would give us courage to speak the truth clearly. We are currently at ¼ of our full support, for this we thank God and continue to trust Him for the rest. Thank you for your prayers.

God Bless,
Jason and Stephanie Shellborn.

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