



River Road Church

A Woodland Park Baptist Campus

Randy Ray—Campus Pastor

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

It almost still feels like a dream, but we have officially begun our services at the new River Road Church. Christmas Day was our official launch service. Thanks to quite a number of “guests” from the JW Davis campus, we had a total of 128 in attendance that day, and the following week, New Years Day, we had a total of 67 present. Then came the Sunday when all should be “normal” meaning that those who were planning to attend the JW Davis campus long-term would be back to their normal schedule. Therefore, we were expecting a much lower count. However, to our surprise, we had a total of 49 in the worship service and 8 in the nursery for a grand total of 57. Praise the Lord! That was considerably more than I had expected. We also have a number of folks attending who have not been attending church regularly which is the most encouraging fact of all the above mentioned.



We also are experiencing a very “sweet” fellowship and Spirit in the meetings. People are standing around for an hour or more afterwards (literally) getting to know one another and talking about ideas to implement. Most everyone is stepping up and willing to help in any way needed. And as a pastor, that is very encouraging.

We also have 2 community mission projects that we are already involved in. One is for a lady near our building who is bedridden due to complications with a pregnancy. Therefore, we are bringing meals to her family on a regular basis. Also, we have connected with a family with a huge need of having to complete the interior of a house. After borrowing the money to renovate the interior of an older house they were living in, the dad became crippled with a disease that took away his ability to work. During this time, the mom lost her job as well. Therefore, they spent the money they had borrowed for the remodeling on everyday living expenses. Our group, along with a few other friends, has taken on this project and is supplying the materials and labor to complete the house. (It was stripped of everything including kitchen cabinets.) This couple and their 2 precious children are attending our services now. What a blessing!

On the real estate front, I have been blessed with a great number of leads, have listed (or am in the process of listing) about 10 properties, have several active buyer clients, am learning a great deal, and have a closing pending which should take place about the end of January. Up to this point, I have spent a great deal of both money and time, but I have not “made a nickel.” However, everyone who I talk to in the business says that I am really ahead of schedule and all should start coming together soon.



Here are a few areas to pray for as we try to move forward: clear direction on space for children’s breakout sessions, the startup of our small groups by the end of January, the equipping of our folks in our “One-to-One Discipling” material, continued involvement in our community missions efforts, a storage building, connection with non-believers in our community, campus-wide fellowship on Jan. 22, Lori as she plans worship services (of which she is doing a great job), continued adjustment for the family, and financial provision for our family.

Your prayers and words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. God has us on a new journey with Him in this process. And although there are those times of doubt and questioning, it is truly a privilege and a joy to be walking a path that requires a much greater faith than we have ever experienced. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we do know the One who does. And we trust Him to provide in every way needed.



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