



September 2008

The end is near!

No, we are not turning into some cult proclaiming the impending end of the world. But we do see an end in sight - the finish of Ken and Linda's support raising!

We are excited that Ken and Linda only need about \$1000 a month to finish out their support. That is just over 25% of their goal left to go. We are eager to see God provide the rest of their need and release them to serve him in Maine.



This is an exciting time for us all. Linda will be finishing work at her current job in mid-October and turning her attention to the final push for the remainder of their support. As we see God provide, Ken and Linda will be able to start the process at selling their house in St. Louis and begin looking for a home in central Maine.

In the midst of the excitement it is a time of challenges as well. We need your prayers that we do not run ahead of God's timeline but continue to wait upon

his provision. We need prayer that we continue to rest on him for the remaining financial support, for the sale of the Morris' home, and for God to continue to prepare the way for their arrival in Maine - a home, relationships, clients for Jordan's Bridge, a space for the church and Jordan's Bridge, and everything else.

So, the end is near! Will you join us in seeing it come? With only \$1000 a month to go, even a small monthly gift over five years makes a significant difference (and it will be matched by the

grant we announced earlier in the summer). Please consider giving a gift, pledging a monthly gift, or increasing your gift.

God has kept us waiting longer than we wanted. Yet, we rejoice that he is in control and is allowing us to see him working to build his church through this process. Pray that he would continue to work and that we would wait upon him - even as we frantically scramble towards the end. 🙏

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Q PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- ☞ Praise God for all who served here this summer.
- ☞ Pray that God will continue to use their work to build his church.
- ☞ Pray for all the children as they begin school. Pray especially for Monica, Makur, Teresa, Toma, Abraham, Gai, and their mother Achoui as they each begin classes here for the first time.
- ☞ Pray for God to direct us towards the facility he has prepared for us.

Ken & Linda

- ☞ For our hearts to follow God's leading in relationships we have right now with some spiritually young Christians.
- ☞ For spiritual protection as we continue to work at telling others about Maine.
- ☞ A profitable and fast selling of our house.
- ☞ For God to protect us financially as we prepare to move.



Summer of Fun

The Most Common Problem

"When working with couples, what is the one problem you encounter most often?" That's a question periodically posed to me in social settings, and it's an easy question to answer.

With almost every couple I see, "thinking and speaking" on one another's behalf nearly always arises. You know what that's like, just when you're ready to answer a question someone, usually your spouse, answers for you. Or, worse yet, someone tells you directly what "you think." You know this is happening when someone begins saying to you, "You think..." How does that person know what you think if you haven't told them? This behavior is not only disrespectful, but it's a serious detriment to good communication in any relationship.

The Bible encourages us to prioritize listening while noting the dangers of our unbridled tongues. Yet, we are so bent on speaking we often miss out on hearing the beauty within the hearts of those we love.

It's strangely simple, yet maddeningly difficult, this principle of listening first and speaking later. But if we learn to "die" to our own desire to be heard in order to serve others through listening, I guarantee relationships will improve and less time will be spent in counseling offices.

Ken



It has been quite a summer! During July and August we had three missions teams and two interns come through, working to see God glorified and his church built. This involved a lot of painting (both the outside of our home and almost 13,000 square feet of new walls in the Root Cellar), a lot of cooking (both for the teams and to give away), a lot of mud (mostly in one day reaching out to a local farmer), a lot of giving (of stuff, ourselves, and God's word), and a lot of fun.

Though we were tired by the time the last team left, we miss the friends and how much fun it was seeing so much happening. The primary goal for every team was to get the church out and visibly active in the community. We painted, weeded, picked up trash, walked, prayed, fed people, and gave away gift boxes - all while wearing our stylish shirts so

people began to see Free Grace in the community - both as a church and as God's free grace to sinners.

Immediately after the last group left, we flew off to St. Louis to visit Memorial Presbyterian Church, our home church for eight years prior to Maine. While there we had the opportunity to visit with friends, supporters, and Ken and Linda.

It is times like these that always remind us of how amazing God is to work through his people. The number of people who are actively being used by God through prayer, financial support, and in person reminds us that he is faithful and is working far beyond what we can ask or imagine. He even uses these times to remind us that we too are broken in sin and that in our weakness his glory and grace shine forth.

per

GIVING

make checks out to:
Free Grace
PO Box 602
Lewiston, ME 04243-0602

FOR KEN & LINDA make checks out to:
MNA
1700 N. Brown Rd
Suite 101
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

*Contact us for information on
electronic or credit card gifts*

*Please make sure to include
on the check that it is for
Ken & Linda Morris*

ministry |ˈmɪnəstrē|

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The view from our interns

When I finally arrived in Lewiston, ME after three long days of driving, I had no idea what to expect from the next month. But I did know



without a doubt that God was going to use this internship for good and for his glory. It would take a little more than a short article to explain all the many ways in which God worked during that jammed packed month. So I thought instead I would share just one significant thing that I learned as an intern. Although I'm still seeking God's will for life after school, I've always felt my heart being drawn towards some type of ministry. Little did I know that living with the Almquists and partnering with them in their vision for Lewiston would challenge and transform my previous thoughts about ministry as a whole. As I watched Per and Beth love on their home group and their community through both words and deeds, I realized that ministry should not just be a compartmentalized part of our lives that we

separate from everything else we do. Nor is ministry always composed of large, glamorous events with lots of publicity and people. In fact, ministry is much more pervasive. It is an entire lifestyle. It involves intentionally living in a way that reflects Christ's amazing grace and love, whether that be encouraging a person at Wal-mart or having a neighborhood BBQ. Most of ministry is really just a series of small, everyday occurrences as we seek to get involved and dig deeply with the people that God has brought into our lives. That's what Jesus did. And that's exactly what the Almquists are doing today. Obviously, the Lord has called all of us to engage in this lifestyle regardless of our profession or status in life, and it should be motivated by the overwhelming and transforming beauty of the Gospel. Though God is all-sufficient, He delights to use his broken children to do his work. What a humbling privilege! My time with the Almquists has certainly left a lasting impact on my life and on my thoughts about ministry. I am so excited to watch as God continues to use them in reaching the people of Lewiston, ME.



As I look back on the five weeks I spent in Lewiston as an intern, I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity. God taught me so much in a short period of time—about Himself, about myself—and He also changed my view of ministry forever.

Before this summer, my working definition of "ministry" was "fixing things—physically, emotionally, or spiritually." I would never have told you this in words, but if you could have seen into my heart, you would have seen how this view shaped me.

Because of this view, I often became frustrated, stressed, or discouraged when I couldn't "fix" someone's problems immediately, or when someone seemed to have so many problems, or such serious problems that I had no idea how to even *start* to "fix" them.

This summer, as I came to know and love many people here in Lewiston dealing with some of the most serious physical, emotional, and/or spiritual problems I have encountered, I had to come to the end of myself, and to realize how powerless I am on my own. I learned (and am still learning!) that I am not called, nor am I able, to fix the world's problems. That is God's job, and He is more than capable to do it. Rather, I am extravagantly blessed to participate in what He is doing in the world; to be used by Him to accomplish His purposes, whatever those purposes might be; to accept with joy the opportunities He gives me to love people with His love, to walk along with them, and to point them to Him. Because of this new perspective, I can do these things without

frustration, stress, or discouragement, but with *joy*, trusting that God will use my tiny efforts in His extraordinary plan for His glory and for the good of His people. This, I have learned, is the true definition of "ministry."

I thank God for the opportunity I've had this summer, not only to *learn* the true definition of "ministry," but also to put it *into practice*—participating in the great work that God is doing in Lewiston!

"...The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy..."
Psalm 126:3

Lizzy Benedict
Clemson, SC

Jessie Udall
Clemson, SC