

March 2009

It's Official!

Ken & Linda are moving to Maine!

Musings on Partings from Ken

I gave a devotion last year at Wellspring Christian Counseling, where I work in St. Louis, that has come back to mind recently in the form of encouragement. Romans 8:38-39 tells us that there is absolutely nothing that can separate believers from the love of God. As I meditated on this passage, it occurred to me that this is also true when we think of separating from one another.

As mere humans, we find many ways to separate from one another: moving away, personal conflict, selfishness and denominational differences are just a few. But the Romans passage reminds us that, although we find temporal ways to separate, if we cannot be eternally separated from God, then we cannot be eternally separated from each other. Wow! This is very encouraging to our hearts as we endeavor to say goodbye to cherished people here in St. Louis.

Not only does this passage ease our hearts as we say goodbye, it renews our passion for the people of Maine. As we meet and serve the people of Maine, we are privileged to create many more eternally inseparable relationships.

Saying goodbye is personal, difficult and fraught with ambivalence; saying hello is also difficult, yet exciting and filled with potential. We will soon be confronted with both tasks. What a blessing it is to know that goodbye is really "so long for now" as we seek to know ever more of God's people.

So, it's official! We're moving to Maine! See you there!

Sure, we announced our commitment to join Free Grace two years ago, so maybe this announcement will meet with a collective yawn. For us, however, this is big news. Our St. Louis home has sold, our support stands at more than 85% and we purchased a house in Lewiston just this week. It's one thing to announce our commitment; it's another thing to buy and sell houses, reserve moving vans and say goodbye to friends, family and the city we've called home for most of our marriage.

Saying goodbye is emotionally difficult and draining work, but there is hope in the gospel.

\$550/mo

The amount left for Ken & Linda to have their full support.

April 13

The date they close on the sale of their house in St. Louis.

April 17

The date they close on the their home in Maine.

\$175/mo

The amount to move to Maine.

MNA

1700 N. Brown Rd
Suite 101
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Where to send
gifts and pledges.

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

a CONTACT INFO

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PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✍️ God works wonderfully! It is easy to see in the offer for Ken & Linda's house in St. Louis. Praise for this, but also that we see this in every circumstance and not just those that go how we want them.

✍️ Pray that God would work through some of the new things we are working on - a monthly praise and prayer time, a story time at a local business, etc. That God would use these to introduce us to some he is calling to be a part of Free Grace.

✍️ Thanks for God's work as he continues to work in us as we wrestle with the gospel and its implications for our lives.

✍️ Pray for Ken & Linda as they sell their home in St. Louis, purchase a home in Maine, say goodbye, and say hello.

✍️ Pray for God to raise up the partners to bring Ken & Linda to their goal for support. That we would continue to look to God alone for provision in all things.

✍️ Pray for the people of Free Grace as we think of specific people that we know and how God might be preparing to work in their lives through us. Pray that we would have wisdom as we seek to invite them to explore a relationship with Christ and Free Grace.



Image by Mary R. Vogt

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.FREEGRACE.US

As you read through the rest of the newsletter, we hope that you share our amazement to discover that God is at work here. Despite the snow, despite our mistakes, and despite us sometimes, God is at work. What do we see that leads us to that conclusion?



In these things God reminds us that this is his work and we are but his instruments. He reminds us that even when things are not going the way we want them to, he is still active and faithful to bring glory to his name.

1. A trip to the ER, someone from Texas, a trip to California by Ken and Linda - all have been used by God to open conversations with folks about what God is doing here in Maine.

2. After just five days on the market, Ken and Linda received an offer for the full asking price on their house in St. Louis.

3. Per and Beth continue to enjoy deepening friendships with several families outside the church. This has led to opportunities to talk about many topics both personal and communal.

4. A place to wash clothes and a bathroom that flushes while a home was without power and water, watching a child to allow a doctor's appointment, and a place for families to hangout while waiting - so went Beth's recent winter break from school. Though little of the long list of tasks around the house got done, all are recent evidences of being invited deeper into people's lives.

5. We see growth in the gospel as we see the people of Free Grace bearing each other's burdens and thinking about how to take the next step to share Christ with people they meet.

However, these are not all that we see God doing. We are in the midst of a time of preparation when God is laying the groundwork for some additional ways he is going to use us. We are working towards:

1. A praise and prayer service once a month. This would be a regular time of worship in a venue outside of our home that we believe will be more comfortable for some to visit with us and to develop a larger group that are active in the church.

2. A men's group that will provide a safe, masculine place for the men of Free Grace to disciple each other and strengthen friendships with men who might not be interested in Bible study currently.

3. A women's group for largely the same function with the women of Free Grace.

4. Since we have the local story lady active in the church, a story time at a local coffee shop. Our hope is that one Saturday a month we can host a story time at a local coffee shop to expose many in the community to Free Grace and to build relationships with local families by regularly being where they already were going.