

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

On October 21, 100 friends attended a service at my home church to celebrate the discipleship ministry and to commission me and Joy into full-time ministry. I testified of my call into this ministry, three boys from the Boys Home of the South came to stand as trophies of God's grace alongside me as their chaplain, and five friends testified of how the ministry of discipleship has impacted their lives.

Note from a friend following the ministry celebration

The celebration was a day of commemoration for the ministry of Journey in Christ. I am reminded of the parting and crossing of the Jordan River by Joshua and the Israelites, who paused in their journey to honor and to give thanks to God. Taking 12 stones from the river, they built a memorial to God. Gregg, thank you for pausing in your journey to build a memorial to God...not with lifeless stones, but with living people touched by grace and changed by the message of the cross that you proclaim.

Following are excerpts of living testimonies during the service including Bobby Richardson, former 2nd baseman for the NY Yankees:

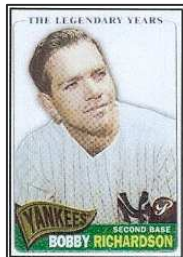
Leannah M: "For the first 30 years of my Christian life, I did not know the truths of what happened to me in Christ. Through discipleship, I came to know the glorious truth of my identity in Christ and His unfathomable love and grace."

Mike N: "I was born into a dysfunctional family...I was re-born into a functional family -- the family of God. It took me a while through discipleship to begin to discern the voice of God who loves and accepts me."

Joye B: "In the book of Judges, Gideon and others were hiding in caves from enemies. Likewise, we hide in our shame and fear from an enemy who wants to steal our identity and our peace. God coaxes us out of hiding through being disciplined in truths through His Word and the light of Christ in our broken lives."

David B: "As a business owner, I want to share with you that where God has you is your ministry. Discipleship supports us in ministry in the marketplace...to be a witness to others in this bad economy...all to the glory of God."

Bobby Richardson: "I preached Mickey's (Mantle) funeral. I wish Mickey would have lived longer to share with others the change Christ made in his life, and to have someone come along side him in discipleship. My prayer is that you, Gregg and Joy, might have the wonderful opportunity of serving in this ministry."



Journey in CHRIST

It's been over 7 months since Joy and I stepped out to serve as full-time missionaries with Journey in Christ. There is a great joy undergirding our journey, and because it is such a new journey with unfamiliar steps, it's been so helpful for us to share with you and others along the way.

Enclosed are excerpts from a weekly email devotion I started in August to further share my journey and to encourage others in their journeys. So far, 121 people from 5 countries have subscribed to *Gregg's Weekly Rest Stop*.

On the back is a brief description of my ministry commissioning service. It was a most meaningful affirmation for me! I look forward to ministering to you and many others through CDs and DVDs of this service for years to come.

Financial support for me and Joy continues to grow and is currently around 50% of our monthly family budget. I'm seeking to visit everyone I have been corresponding with during this journey to further grow in sharing my heart. In my visits, I want to minister encouragement and to describe opportunities to partner in ministry with me and Joy financially and in other special ways.

So thankful for your fellowship in the gospel (Philippians 1:3-5),



*Gregg & Joy
with Bobby Richardson
at the Ministry Celebration
service for my commissioning
October 21, 2010*

GREGG'S REST STOP EXCERPTS

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The starting point of prayer is God's sovereignty -- God is in control. For this truth to get from my head to my heart, I need to not only know that God is in control *for* me, He is in love *with* me. **[August 2]**

My wealth is not in earthly things, but in being God's son! I have a growing awareness that as a son, God my Father is responsible for meeting all of my needs to fulfill the assignment He has given me. **[August 9]**

I yearn to understand "be diligent to enter His rest" (Hebrews 4:11). Does this mean I have to work at resting? Yes and no. No, in regards to my working as self-effort. Yes, in regards to my working as believing. Believing is the work! The people did not enter the Promised Land not because of lack of effort, but because of lack of belief (Hebrews 3:19). **[August 16]**

My boyhood dream was to grow up to play second base for the New York Yankees just like Bobby Richardson. My dream was transformed into a deep prayer that has been answered much greater than I could ever dream! I became just like Bobby because, through Christ, God re-created us to be His sons. **[August 23]**

The world tries to define me by what I do. However, it is "by the grace of God, I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10a). I am not what I am *by achieving*...I am who I am *by receiving* the grace of the Son of God! Grace also empowers me to live out of my true identity. "I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10b). **[August 30]**

I am accepted by God *and* I have been made acceptable to God in Christ. I am free to grow as a child in the presence of the most Holy God...free to live and play in His presence exclaiming without fear, "Look Daddy, look Daddy!" My Father's eyes are always fixed on me with glee! **[September 7]**

Some say, "God can change your life." The deeper truth is that God has *exchanged* your life for the Life of His Son! God has not patched up your old life, He has given you a new life – the life of His Son! **[September 13]**

Christ gave His life *for* us...in order to give His life *to* us...in order to live His life *with* us...in order to give His life *through* us to others and for God's glory! The underlined words are powerful prepositions to share with others. **[September 20]**

GREGG'S REST STOP EXCERPTS

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I fall for the temptation to panic when my focus is on the outcome and not on the journey. However, I am free to appear to be in a panic at times as I persevere in all that I am in Christ (physically, mentally, emotionally)...confident I am forever secure in Him all the way. **[September 27]**

Ephesians 4 says "put off the old man" (spiritual grave clothes) and "put on the new man" (spiritual grace clothes). We no longer have to strive to put on hope, joy, etc from the world. Those clothes no longer fit. We now can receive all of Christ's hope, joy, etc from Christ inside us all of the time! **[October 4]**

True prayer is our response to God's grace initiation to have communion with us. Worry is a response to my attempt to initiate a solution to a life issue. Worry is not communion...worry is a very lonely place. **[October 11]**



The presence of Christ in our lives *is* the victory, not the absence of struggles. The light of Christ is manifested through us to others mostly in the darkness of our battles with temptations. This is when people witness that we are real (not religious) and that we have a real hope they can have, too! **[October 18]**

Quote by Bobby Richardson: "The person who struggles in his human best to act like a Christian suffers a pride of partial success or the despair of failure if he does not drift along a dismal plateau of mediocrity. Christian growth is a matter of learning the necessity of dependence of Christ within." **[October 25]**

Some say, "I feel like my prayers don't make it past the ceiling." This frustration is the result of striving to pray with self-effort. The truth is that our true prayers never even start below the ceiling! We are seated in heavenly places in Christ! We are united with Christ and have all of His authority to be the conduit for praying God's will from heaven down to earth! **[November 1]**

The term *prayer life* describes prayer as an activity among many other activities in life. In contrast, the term *praying life* testifies that prayer is an on-going relationship with God. A person with a *prayer life* seeks to do his duty. A *praying life* reads the Bible as living words to learn how to discern the voice of God. And when God speaks to us, the light of the face of Christ shines in our lives! **[November 8]**