



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

***"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." - Habakkuk 1:5***

### **To Friends Of Eternity,**

This week in January is a special one for me because it is a week of anniversaries. My wife Jenni and I are celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary today. In that span of time we have had 10 different jobs, lived in five different cities, bought six houses, had two kids, moved 4,500 miles, been members of seven different churches, and are now planting a church.

And that's where the second anniversary comes in because it was two years ago this week that God used some very challenging and tragic events in my life to prepare my heart and life for His calling to plant [Eternity](#). I firmly believe God uses suffering, difficult circumstances, and challenges as a means of preparing His people for the calling He has upon their life. We see this in the life of Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus, Paul, and a host of others in Scripture. It is in the midst of challenges that we come to know God in far deeper ways than we can in our blessings. Everywhere you look, the challenges we face are looming larger and becoming more complex. Eternity is no different and I am praying that God would move in your hearts and work through you to help us meet a couple challenges we are currently facing:

- † First - By God's providence, we have recently been presented with the opportunity to lease 7,300+ sq ft of space in the same building where Eternity met this fall. The opportunity to move into this part of the building presents us with enormous benefits and allows us to stay in a very strategic locale in Jefferson City just blocks away from Lincoln University, in the heart of the most economically challenged neighborhoods, and also in the hub of the East Side Redevelopment going on in Jeff City. This space would also allow us to provide more secure children's areas, have a dedicated worship room and foyer which would keep us from having to set up and tear down every week, and would also provide us very strategic opportunities to use our space for missional endeavors in advancing the Gospel. [For a pictorial tour of the building, you can click here to check out the images on Flickr!](#) I've also attached a building map that will give you an idea of how the space will be used.

- Here's the challenge: In order to meet the difference between our operational budget for 2009 and the cost of the lease, we are attempting to raise **\$18,000** dollars total which represents a **\$1,500 per month** need. We need you to help us meet this need! Will you join us? Whether it's a one-time or monthly gift, small or large gift, ANY amount will help us be able to call this space home and establish a base of missional operations in proclaiming the name of Jesus. If you would like to give now, you can do so online or send your gift to our mailing address below. If you aren't able to give right now but know you will have funds available later (tax returns, bonuses, etc) and would like to pledge an amount to us, would you let us know that by emailing us at [info@eternityjc.com](mailto:info@eternityjc.com). We are starting our Sunday gatherings on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> and would like to sign the lease on the space by February 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't need all \$18,000 by March 1<sup>st</sup> but knowing how much of that need is being met will greatly help in our decision making process. Please know that your gift will make a HUGE difference!
  
- † Second - we are currently in the process of searching for someone to come and lead our worship for us at our Sunday gatherings. We have gotten the word out on Craigslist and Facebook as well as sharing the need via word-of-mouth networks. If you know of someone who is looking to join a church plant here in the Jefferson City area and use their musical gifts and talents in leading worship, would you please let us know by emailing me at [marc@eternityjc.com](mailto:marc@eternityjc.com)

I'm extremely excited about the challenges, opportunities, and demonstrations of God's grace that awaits our church plant in 2009. This is the most challenging endeavor I have ever undertaken but I can honestly say I can't imagine doing anything else. We need your help and I am praying that God move in your heart to join us in the work that He has called us to do here in the Jefferson City area.

May 2009 be a grace-filled year for you as well. God Bless You and Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Marc

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Also, you can keep up on my personal journey at:  
[www.marcbackes.com](http://www.marcbackes.com)