



DECEMBER 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,

I'm sure that many of you were drastically alarmed and unsettled at not receiving a November newsletter from [Eternity](#) so I wanted to calm the waters and make sure you received one in December. It has been a busy and exciting couple of months and I wanted to share the highlights with you:

- † We've completed our fall series for the core group and over an eight week period, we looked at the Gospel, Conversion, Scripture, Evangelism, The Church, Church Membership and Discipline, Church Leadership, and a few other related issues. It was a challenging series but one that really helped us understand what it means to "plant a church" and what a church truly is. I'm grateful to Mark Dever for his book "[9 Marks Of A Healthy Church](#)" as it helped serve as a roadmap for this series. If you're interested in listening to any of our sessions, [you can find all the content here](#).
- † We were blessed with the opportunity to establish a partnership with [East Elementary School](#) and to help meet some of the needs they have as a school. East School is the most economically challenged in Jefferson City and is also only a block or so from the [Stained Glass Theatre](#) where Eternity has been meeting. God has opened the door not only for this one time partnership, but for an ongoing partnership as well. Over the last few weeks, we were able to provide gloves, mittens, sweatpants, pencils, other clothing items for their students, and airbeds. If you're like me, you're wondering "Why Airbeds?" Turns out, that some of the students are in very transient or unstable housing situations and in a lot of cases are having to sleep on the floor. By providing airbeds, blankets, pillows, and such we were able to help give a few kids a bed to sleep on that they could take with them if they had to move. It's sobering to realize the depth of need here in Jeff City. And [I'm grateful that God allowed us to help](#).
- † The fall also provided a variety of opportunities for us to get together as a church and spend some time getting to know one another. Whether it was a bonfire, movie night, ladies night, or just couples getting together for dinner, the last couple months have been good for the fellowship of our church.

As great as the last couple of months have been, I know that our most exciting times are still to come. We are now going to begin meeting as a committed core group to plan for the public launch of Eternity and what that will look like. Over the coming weeks, we'll examine our governing documents, the calendar for 2009, the budget, and also make some decisions regarding the concrete expression of the vision and mission of the church.

I have no doubt that this will be a great time together but it will also stretch us in ways we can't imagine. The folks God has brought to be a part of the core group are amazing and it is going to be a fun group of people to go on this journey with. I would ask for your prayers during this time. Please pray that God:

- Would guide us and give us His wisdom as we make some important decisions in the coming weeks
- Would protect us from human wisdom that goes against His revealed will in Scripture
- Would encourage our group as we move forward and give us daily encouragement to keep pressing on.
- Would continue to draw people who don't follow Jesus to the folks in our core group and that we would be faithful to both build a friendship with them and proclaim the Gospel to them.
- Would move in the hearts of individuals and churches to partner with us financially as a church plant. Our core group has been extremely generous and we're praying that others will join us in that generosity.

December is a time where we celebrate God become man. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and the fact that God humbled himself and came in human flesh to dwell among us. We celebrate Jesus coming not only to live the life we should have lived, but to die the death we should have died. We celebrate the amazing grace and love of God as displayed in His Son. I pray that this Christmas season be a special one for you.

2008 has been a year that's hard to describe with words. Challenging, rewarding, and exciting are just a few words that still don't do it justice. But one thing is for sure, God continues to advance His kingdom and to see how He has worked to make Eternity a reality has been truly amazing. I'm hopeful for how it will finish out. And I'm anxious to see what He has in store for 2009. God Bless And Merry Christmas.

In Christ,

Marc

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