



McGinnis Mayhem...

Here it is the inaugural issue of the "McGinnis Mayhem". Joni and I thought this would be a good time to get a newsletter out to keep everyone informed of what's going on in the life of our family. So please take a few minutes, grab a good cup of coffee (Costa Rican would be preferred), and enjoy.



The Change of the Seasons

"Big Changes for the McGinnis Family"

On November 15th, Joni and I gave a ministry report at Berean about our [October Costa Rican trip with T.A.C.T.I.C.A. Ministries](#). At the conclusion of that report, I announced that we would be entering into a new phase of life. We felt God redirecting us into missions. That announcement surprised some, others saw it coming a mile away. One man's response was... "What took you so long?" Regardless, here we are entering a new season of life.

One great part about living in Michigan (and, yes, fellow Ohio State fans, it is great to live in Michigan) is the change of seasons. In the fall, the grapes are being harvested and everything smells like grape juice. The leaves are changing, and the world around us puts on a brown blanket. That blanket is soon shed for a white one which consequently sticks around for about 5 1/2 months. But just about the time you're tired of the snow... Spring hits. The white is replaced with green. Then Summer.

Change happens all around us, all the time. Some parts of change are welcomed (the smell of grape juice in the fall), some...not so much (120+ inches of snowfall). Regardless, it is a part of life. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time for everything. Through the reading of God's Word, the affirmation of His church, and the distinct direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Joni and I follow the Lord on this change of season for our family.

Seasons come, and seasons go. Some are better in our opinions than others, but all are necessary stages of life to bring new life to where you are. So don't be afraid if God is changing your season of life. It is through those changes that we grow.

Please Pray..

1. That Jon will finish strong at Berean over the course of the next few months.
2. That Joni will be able to balance the home-front during this time of transition.
3. That we will be able to set up the meetings necessary with churches.

Our Calendar

January 3rd & 31st

Jon Preaches (PM Service) at Berean Baptist Church (Men's Meeting)

January 8th

Dinner with a missions pastor and wife in Grand Rapids.

January 11th

Breakfast with a Kalamazoo missions pastor

January 15th

Breakfast meeting with several pastors @ Pentwater Baptist Church.

January 24, 2010

Jon Preaches (AM Service) at Berean Baptist Church

January 24, 2010

Joni speaks to the Ladies at Berean Baptist Church in the evening

July 10th-18th 2010

Candidate Seminar at ABWE



THE PLAN...

Many have asked us, "So what is the plan now?" That's a great question. Fortunately for us, there IS a plan. God has graciously given Joni and I a very loving and supportive church family during this time of change.

The leadership of [Berean Baptist Church](#) has asked me to stay on staff full time until the end of March. At that time we will begin a "step down" process over the next several months. The idea will be that Joni and I will be setting up appointments A.S.A.P. to be in churches beginning in April 2010. Berean would like for me to stay on staff and help out with some of the Christian Education duties that I have overseen as well as help out with hospital calls and other general pastoral duties. As you can see by our prayer requests, I will be preaching once in December and 3 times in January.

We are very grateful to Berean for loving us and wanting what is best for us during this time in our life. Though we are dedicated to raising our support

and getting onto the field as soon as physically possible, we want to be certain we are putting the time and energy that is needed at Berean to perform our duties well. Please be in prayer as we strive to strike that balance. We love our church...but do so desire to be in the country to which God is moving us.



THE MISSION...

(WHAT ARE WE GOING TO BE DOING?)



The mission of [T.A.C.T.I.C.A.](#) is to fulfill the Great Commission by investing into the lives of Central American authorities and their families through high quality police training, evangelism and discipleship.

What is the McGinnis' specific mission? What are we going to be doing? Joni and I do not bring much tactical experience to the team. The Army did not require much

"speciality" training. What we do bring is over 10 years of pastoral ministry experience. We will be using those gifts and life experiences that God has allowed us to face to help the team in Costa Rica. Joni will be using her gifts in helping and hospitality as we host teams on missions trips and as we have Costa Rican officers into our home on a weekly basis. She will be discipling the wives of officers as they come to Christ as well. I will focus on the oversight of church teams that come down as well as the follow up discipleship of officers that come to Christ as a result of our training times.

These are a few of the areas we will be focusing on. Like all ministries, these are only a few.

There will be many tasks we will preform as team members of T.A.C.T.I.C.A. (i.e. couples counseling, website development, training instructor...)

Finally, our children will be a wonderful resource to our ministry as they reach out to our neighbors and the children of the officers in which we come in contact.

Joni and I are excited about the opportunity to work with Ryan and Gretchen Rought. They are good friends. We have invested into their lives and they have invested into ours. God has begun to develop Team T.A.C.T.I.C.A. in a strategic way. We are excited to see what He has in store for our future and for the future of the ministry.



THE FAMILY...



When a family makes a decision to move toward missions, how the kids are feeling about the decision is often wondered. How do our kids feel about Costa Rica, moving, leaving Michigan, making new friends, and so on. I am glad to report that our big girls are excited about ministering with us in Costa Rica. Our two little ones still go with the flow with little resistance. They have all had some exposure to the country through Jon and my trips and stories and are eager to experience all that we tell them. We are all very excited about what God has in store for us now as we anticipate and prepare for the field and in the future as we take our family to Costa Rica.

The biggest question that we have to answer now from our bigger girls, Katie and Meghan, is "Mommy, why do we have to wait for so long before we can actually leave for Costa Rica?" Explaining the process of mission expectation, support raising, and church visiting has been the topic of many discussions in our home. Although our desire is to prepare our kids for as much of the process as we can, we also want them to have their eyes open to be prepared to see God doing incredible things on the journey. God has many lessons in store for each one of us personally, and we do not want to miss what

He wants to show us. Our desire is to allow our kids to see God at work in real and tangible ways.

We have especially enjoyed this season with family. We were able to see all family on both sides this year. Our time was busy, but we enjoyed making memories.



Shearer Family Christmas



McGinnis Family Christmas

SUPPORT THE MCGINNIS'



If you wish to support Jon and Joni and this adventure, please make your checks out to ABWE Donor Services, with "Account #0134721" in the Memo line and mail it to ABWE P.O. Box 8585 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585. You can also give online at www.abwe.org (Please be sure to include the account number on any online gifts).

It is our desire to honor the support given by local churches to missionaries. Please be certain your gift does not replace your regular giving to your local church.