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Precious Friends and Family,

We want to thank you for your love, prayers, and friendship over these past years as we have been in Portland during Jeff's studies at Multnomah University. In December, Jeff graduated from Multnomah University with honors, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology, and a minor in Koine Greek. It is our delight to share with you in this letter the next step we believe God is leading us to take, and also to provide you with an opportunity to be further invested in our commitment to this next step.

There has been a growing desire in our hearts for the health of the local church. We see the church as central to the mission of Jesus Christ, and it is our earnest desire to give our lives to *His* mission. The larger church community that we have been a part of has consistently confirmed our call to the ministry, in recognition of both gifting, and genuine united desire in our hearts as a couple.

After much prayer and counsel, we believe that the Lord is leading Jeff to further pursue theological training at the Seminary level. However, we also see theological training as only one of the many necessary components for holistic and biblical ministry preparation. Mentorship, character development in the household, and hands on ministry in the local church are also key elements that are often left out in the midst of theological studies. That is why we are especially excited about a particular opportunity that has opened up for us.

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota is starting a four year, cohort based, apprenticeship model, Master of Divinity program, to be launched in the Fall of 2009 (www.bethlehemcollegeandseminary.org). John Piper has resided as *Pastor for Preaching and Vision* of Bethlehem Baptist for almost thirty years, during which time he has authored many books (including *Desiring God*), and has been a prominent voice for God glorifying, Christ centered, Spirit impassioned preaching and pastoral leadership in the modern day evangelical church (www.desiringgod.org). For over a decade Bethlehem Baptist Church has had a two year apprenticeship program which has been widely received for academic credit in Seminaries around the country. However, now they are launching into a *new* era of academically rigorous, theologically rich, practically focused, leadership development within the local church.

Because of the nature of the program, only 12-15 students are chosen per academic year, and Jeff's application was among those selected for the inaugural year. This is where we firmly believe the Lord is leading us and it is our plan to begin our move to Minneapolis the first week of July. We covet your prayers and support.

In many ways it will be very difficult for us to move. It has been a blessing to have Chelsi's family nearby in McMinnville, and we will miss them and our other friends in the McMinnville/Sheridan area immensely. Hopefully, this will give them more reason to travel to the Midwest! In addition to this, the fellowship here in Portland at Household of Faith Community Church has been rich beyond measure. It is because God has chosen to use them in our lives that our family has the courage to take this next step. It is our hope that we will be united with them again, even before the Lord brings us home. We cannot express in words how grateful we are for all of our Oregon friends and family.

As you can imagine, a lot is involved in dedicating the next four years of our lives to more training in this way. We do not say this lightly. To be a part of this program will take financial, time, and energy commitments. The Bethlehem staff has made it clear that it would be best for students with families to be able to study with little or no obligations to any outside gainful employment. Moving in this direction is a step of faith, and it is our earnest belief that God will continue to provide for our every need as we seek first the Kingdom of God. If you would like to help us financially in this endeavor, we would be very grateful. If you have any questions at all concerning this, please do not hesitate to ask.

More importantly, please pray for us. Pray that God continues to financially provide for us at all times. Pray for our children, that as they grow they will become co-laborers along with us, with affections for God, His word, and His people. Pray for our marriage, that it would grow stronger each day so that we may mature to be a true reflection of Christ and His Bride, the Church. And most of all, pray that our hearts would become more and more tender towards God, that we might flee from sin and glorify Christ in all that we do!

By His Grace For His Glory,

Jeff, Chelsi, Hosanna, and Hope Lacine



P.S. We plan to be active on our blogs (2mites.com and uxormatristheologus.com), and we will continue to update our family website (lacinefamily.com) with pictures and news.