

Alumni Updates

Marriages

Congrats to Joel and Kelli Cates! Married April 12, 2014.

Congrats to Christi Jennings and Brandon Burke! Married May 17, 2014.

Babies

Congrats to Mike and Sarah Kerrick on the birth of their third child, Rebecca Avalyn, born April 3, 2014.

Congrats to Jeff and Jen Coleman on the birth of their fifth daughter, Ivy Josephine, born June 6, 2014.

Please facebook or email Jac at feloship@gmail.com if you have a life update you would like to share. We like to know what you're up to!

Also, if you want to be part of the Alumni Relations Committee, please contact Jac.

Congratulations to our May '14 Graduates!

Brandon Burke, Matt Boling,
Mary Langford, Clay Goodman, and
Shelby Stevens

Purposes, Plans, and Promises in Everyday Life By Jaclyn Tompkins '00

When I came to Murray State in 1998, I was a new Christian. But I was wise enough to pray specifically that God would help me find great friends. I had a few wonderful people I was moving away from and I asked God to give me some friends like them in Murray. Not surprisingly, God gave me many when I became part of MCF. He didn't just give me great friends; He gave me brothers and sisters, lifelong friends that share the good and bad, real life!

I was reminded of this in a very real way a few weeks ago. I ran into Kroger to get a couple things with my three-year-old and stopped for a moment when I saw my MCF brother Will that recently moved into my neighborhood. We chatted a moment and it didn't take two minutes before we were talking about real life. My eyes welled up with tears, and he put an arm around me and started praying right there in Kroger. He understood my pain and was praying for healing and strength.

I can't get over the fact that God blessed me with so many brothers and sisters, and that when we see each other our kids play like they've known each other forever because they sense the genuine love and friendship their parents share. Our ties to one another are real, and when we see one another, we just pick up where we left off last time. Even if last time was a decade ago, this is evidence of God's amazing purposes, plans, and promises being worked out in the lives of many who are Murray Christian Fellowship.

In Memory of JK Henshaw

May 26, 1950-March 8, 2014

JK was a graduate of Union County High School and Murray State University ('72). While at MSU, he helped found Murray Christian Fellowship. After graduation, he returned to the family farm operation.

His legacy has long lived on at MCF as his niece, Lissa Braddock (now Gibson), attended in 1998-2002.

We praise God for such a great member of our MCF family!

A Word from the Mission Field

By Amber Phillips ('16)

I recently had an amazing opportunity to visit Piedras Negras, Mexico for our Spring mission trip! Our team consisted of seven people from our ministry and another campus ministry here at MSU.

Our journey began with some fun and anxiety as we traveled through airports, seeing the Alamo in San Antonio and then driving through rush hour traffic and hours on south Texan highways. When we reached the border most of us were nervously holding our breath being our first time out of the United States. We passed into Mexico with no problems. In fact, they didn't even stop us to see our passports (that didn't happen until we crossed back into the US). After a very long day we had finally arrived at the neighborhood we would call home for the next 9 days!

While there, we were able to visit a children's library and two Children's home where handed out dolls and toy cars to them; one home, Casa Bethesda, is for the physically and mentally handicapped. We went there to do some landscaping work for them, but afterward we simply spent time playing with them, which was a blast! I was able to make a special connection with one of the girls in the home. She was in a wheelchair and she couldn't speak, but she and I played a game clapping our hands together. It was an amazing feeling to see her face light up with joy!

There were many more experiences, like digging footers and pouring concrete (all by hand!) for a 8X15 room for a family of five. This room will give them a second bedroom to their 3 room house (that's 3 rooms **total** - kitchen, bedroom dining/living room - for 5 people). When there was nothing left to do the first day of this project, Kody and I decided to play with the kids. They were playing with tops. We began playing with them and they loved it! After we had played for a while it was time to leave for the day. As we were leaving one of the boys handed us each a top. We thought he wanted to play more so we said we were sorry but we had to leave. We tried to hand him back the toys and he said NO! He then put the tops in our hands and pushed our hands to our chests and he said "FOR YOU!" This was one of the most touching moments of the trip for me. They didn't have much but he wanted to share with us so that we could remember him!

Overall, the trip was amazing! We were able to touch people's lives while working hard and having lots of fun! Thank you to everyone who helped financially and through prayer!! It was amazing to see God's purposes, plans and promises come to life in Mexico!



Praises of the Fellowship

- We had a great **mission experience** in Piedras Negras Mexico with Crossroads Missions

Prayers of the Fellowship

- Again, there are several students in **Financial difficulties for schooling**
- the ministry **search** for an Associate Minister to Women
- for **relationships** within and outside of MCF > may grace rule in all of them!

What's all the noise about at the campus house?

A big thanks goes out to the Baptist Campus Ministry and their Acts 1:8 Mission team! For the second summer now, several students from the BCM have come to MCF for a service project to other collegiate ministries as a way to do team building for their international mission experience. Last year, the 1:8 Team cleaned out the basement and renovated the main floor bathroom of the Girls' House. This year, they did some major yard work and some painting in the Campus House. What a great example of being neighbors.

House Projects

Taking donations for ...

- **Girls' House roof replacement**
- **Repairing/Replacing some Gutters**
- **Renovations to both basements (to stop the flooding and deterioration)**

Please seriously consider giving to these projects; we can't do it without your help. Thank you!!!



Alumni: the Future of MCF.

It might seem ironic that the students of the past are the future of MCF, but this is reality (not a dream). As the financial landscape of the world continues to change, campus ministries are reliant more and more on alumni. The era of individual giving is continually on the rise while the local congregational support appears to be becoming more streamlined, that is more congregations are putting more of their support in fewer places based on relationship with those receiving their support. The days of 'giving a little to a lot' are fading away; now churches are 'going deep with a few'. This is a good thing, even though it may create difficulties for some. But with change comes growing pains, difficulties to go through in order to bring about growth and maturity. People are supporting relationships and cooperation is replacing **just** financial sponsorship.

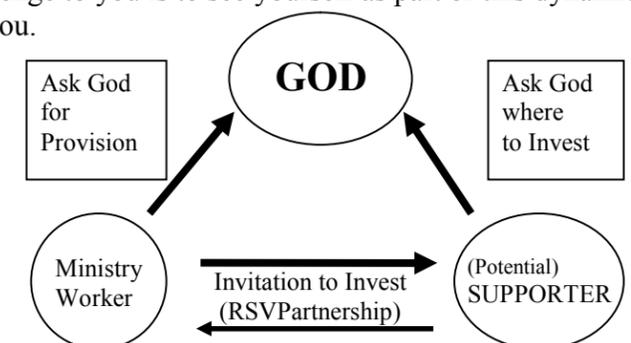
My challenge to all alumni of MCF is partnership and involvement. Partner with MCF in being stewards of God's resources. But don't just stop there, take the next step and get involved so the ministry to the students of MSU will continue in a *healthy balanced way*. The Alumni Relations Committee is just now, after three years, beginning to gain some momentum. Join in on alumni work days, sponsor retreat scholarships, participate in Homecoming, and many more dreams that the committee is having. Check out the Facebook page for MCF Alumni and get (re-)connected and up to date on what is happening. Even more, get involved with planning and participating in events. God is using you in moving this ministry into the future.

Associate Minister(s)

When talking with various campus ministry planting organizations, I have found that it takes a minimum of three people on staff to maintain a *healthy balanced campus ministry*. In fact, some of these organizations will not start a campus ministry without having these three people in place: one to be the lead servant administrator (with a teaching & discipleship focus), while the other two ('associate positions') would focus on worship & spiritual formation, and one to be devoted to evangelism & small groups (often specific – women, men, international students). The three interact and overlap, weaving together a strong ministry servant team. All along, these ministers take students in and mentor them in the fellowship in their gifted areas of service, preparing them to be the future leading servants in God's fellowship.

The challenge for MCF over the years has been stability and consistency in these 'associate' positions. We have relied on 'student staff' for these associate positions. This is like Peter walking on water, it can be done with a lot of faith and the joy of a great miracle to experience, but too many times the waves of class schedules and academic responsibilities crash around and things begin to sink.

The MCF Board has begun taking steps of faith toward this *healthy balanced* approach to campus ministry. We have crafted and publicized an associate position for women's discipleship. One wave that consistently comes crashing at us is financial support. Where will the money come from for this person in this position? That is not just a good question, it is a God question. I recommend Steve Shadrach's book, *The God Ask* to help answer this question. The following diagram gives a picture of the dynamic we are called to practice. The key perspective is this, the resources invested/provisions given are all God's to begin with; our role in this dynamic of divine redistribution is being a steward – a willing obedient servant, ready to give where, when and how much to what God is calling us to do. My challenge to you is to see yourself as part of this dynamic and ask God where to invest His resources entrusted to you.



Peace,
Mike Kerrick



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www.mcfhouse.org