



December 2009

Nathan McConnaughay

THE UPDATE

STUFF I'M LEARNING

So this is a special issue all around, I think. Not only will you get a special treat if you check out my video intro on the blog, but you get to hear about TWO things I'm learning right now! God's welling up much in me as I have come to my 6th month out in the Carolinas. I feel as though I'm in one of those turning point times that periodically face us.

1) Lately, I have been reminded just how amazing everything is that God's created. It's kind of funny because this thought partly got sparked by watching the new movie Avatar. I know, weird, huh? It just struck me how amazing our own bodies really are. In the sci-fi movie, a humans' brainwaves were transferred to a genetically engineered alien body so the human could control it. THIS just got me thinking how ridiculous it is that our brains control our OWN bodies without us giving it much thought. I mean, there's all the little sciency things to explain it, but does that make it any

less crazy that I don't have to look at my hand, think any verbal command or anything and it will move at my will? All this to say, just because we get used to something because it's just the way things are, does not mean it is any less extraordinary if we take the time to stop and think about it. It's reminded me to slow down and look at the world a little more. I get brought into worship more readily because I remember how ridiculously amazing God is.

2) Blake and I have lots of talks about our goals. And we talk about ministry goals, personal goals, immediate goals and long term, but there's another set that we get to talking about sometimes. I could describe them as life purposes and passions we feel forming in our guts. This is more us keeping a pulse on what God might want to do with us beyond just our local ministries; wondering if God may want to let our impact reach beyond just followers at Lifepointe Christian Church. For Instance, Blake would love to see an organization that helps High school students learn more about worship leading and music/arts ministries and find out if it might be a path God would want to lead them down. It's ministry, but it's not necessarily wrapped up in his "church title."

So these conversations lead me to ask, "where are my passions? Where is a need that I am passionate about and could potentially help find/produce a solution?" These are good questions to ask because sooner or later you start thinking what the answer could be. And, for me, this has put new motivation into some of my work. One passion I would love to pursue is creating media that doesn't just stop with our church community, but is excellent enough to be passed on and used again and again to aid churches around the world. Now, the thing about a passion like this, if taken seriously, it motivates me to see what steps I'm actually taking (or *not taking*, as it were) towards this goal. Long story slightly shorter, that has motivated me to try some projects and push myself into places I could potentially fail. But this is what it's about; we push ourselves, we constantly take those steps out in faith because that's when, if its God's pleasure, he swoops you up into something you could have never dreamed of. That's what Blake and I hope and pray for ourselves and our community.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"

Col 3:23



leadin with the student band this month. These guys rock!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

1. **Kid's Christmas Program:**

Christmas is a time for kids to sing about elves, wise men, dashing through the snow, and, of course, Jesus. We had our children's christmas program these past two weeks and there was a great turn out. Lots of family and friends coming out to support their little ones and hear "praises from the lips of children." Many a mom must admit that there is something special about hearing ones so young sing about the love of God.

2. Lots of Parties!: It's also a season for parties, yay! Below you'll find a picture from my small group's Christmas party. you'll notice 80's blazers, tacky sweaters and... a giant red onesy; this was because it is tradition (I've been told) for my small group to have the anticipated "Ugly Xmas Sweater" contest. And it was a great success. I love my small group and it just gets better the closer we become. Plus we have several AMAZING cooks in our group, so there's always amazing snacks to be had.

3. **Generosity abounds:**

Something I have said often since I've come to Charlotte, is that the less you have, the more you have to rely on God, and the more you get to see him show up in simply incredible ways. Don't get me wrong, like many churches in the US right now, finances

at LP are pretty tight with about 10 of our families without work and still having the growing pains of a newly formed multi-campus church, but in this time, God has motivated many to unbelievable generosity. One such instance was a gift given specifically for the Lifepointe staff to be able to have a special night together for Christmas without having to worry about the budget of it all. There are such blessings at every turn.

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. **The End... dun dun dun.**

"It's the beginning of the end" was the tag line from the recent apocalypse movie "2012." We figured this made the month of January, the start of new beginnings, a great time to talk about the end. So we'll kick off our end times series looking at what Jesus says about "these times" in Matthew 24 and 25 and what it means for our lives today.

2. **Original Worship:**

Blake and I have set a date in January to start putting our own original worship music into our song rotation. One goal we have is to begin worshipping with songs that come up through our own lives and community. The psalms often say to "sing a new song to the Lord" and we aim to do just that. So along with writing songs ourselves, we have started recruiting a team who have a passion for worship and songwriting in hopes that we will come together and God will inspire us with these songs from our community. Pretty exciting (and pretty nerve-racking for showing my very first worship song to the world).

Well, I love you all. Merry Christmas. Thank you, again and again, for all your prayers and support!!!

or send checks to:
Att: Nate Mac
LifePointe Christian Church
PO Box 38750
Charlotte, NC 28278



Thanks for ur Support!!!

I have been so blessed to have the support I have so far, and I know God will continue to do more than I ask for and often could imagine.

PRAY...

for safety in my holiday travels

that God would continue to open the doors for us to explore our "gut passions"

that God might speak to our people in worship and through these songs coming out of our community

for God to continue to put in me a drive for excellence and a heart for those I lead

Make sure to check out the Blog:
natemac lifepointe.wordpress.com



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