



## *An update from the McClure family*

Partnering with God in His mission of making, maturing, and multiplying disciples at Bowling Green State University.

*Hello from Bowling Green! Summer is in full swing and we are busy preparing for a new school year. In fact, most weekdays our staff team is on campus giving away popsicles, snow cones, and info about our church to the incoming freshmen who come to campus for a day of orientation. We've been able to make a lot of great connections already! It's a joy to move at a slower pace over these months, freeing up our team to think, plan, and pray for our busiest season in August. The summer allows us to not only recover from the previous year but it serves to build our anticipation and hunger for a new year of ministry!*

### *Training new missionaries*

*I love the work of building a team of ministry partners (that's you!) to do the work of the gospel. I remember meeting with some of you as far back as 2005 when I started this journey and some of you would ask the question we all were wondering... "So you really believe God is going to raise your salary and benefits to do this full-time?" Truthfully, I was not convinced it would happen. But I also didn't think it would completely fail. I had some faith, but definitely not an abundance of it. So now as I look back on what has been 17 years of support-based ministry, I stand in awe of the provision of God and the kindness of men and women like you. I am moved to tears, honestly.*

*When I was asked almost 10 years ago to help lead training events for new groups of Collegiate Network missionaries, I jumped at the opportunity. I was, of course, enamored by the fact that somehow, against some serious odds, I successfully raised my full support goal. And so I was eager to tell that story far and wide to faith-filled but nervous new missionaries. But there was- and still is- so much more to it than that! I look back on that yearlong season of my life as one of special depth with God. I learned to be quiet and to listen before Him. I learned to pray. I learned to trust His character with my life.*

*I say this line to the new missionaries I train: "This process of fundraising can make you the kind of person worth following as a leader." What I mean is this... the dependence on God, the living by faith and not by sight, the being driven by strong passion that the work requires... these are the very things that make a person qualified to lead God's people. They are more valuable than any special talent to "do" ministry.*

*My own faith is built by seeing these young people step out in faith to answer God's calling on their lives. These new missionaries will be serving on campuses in Ohio, New York, Iowa, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, and Texas. It was my pleasure to run the event,*

equipping the missionaries as well as the younger trainers who served alongside me.

Spending a week with this group reminded me of the hope we have in Jesus. Though the world is so very broken and trust in the church among young people seems to be on a sharp decline, God will always raise up a new generation of leaders to serve His Church. And I can attest that these men and women are called and gifted by God and I am eager to see how they grow and develop in the years ahead. Please join me in praying for these new missionaries who are raising support now to be sent out to serve existing churches and even a couple of brand new ones on college campuses across our nation!



## *Prayer requests & updates*

- Mason and I fly out to Colorado at the end of this month. I'll be speaking at worship sessions, doing some equipping with the staff team, and spending time with our BG students in the Leadership Training program out there. I'm sure we'll squeeze in a few hikes over the week we're out there, too!
- The Youngstown State University church plant has been officially sent out by the Kent State H2O Church! The two pastors that were commissioned in May to lead that new church are men I met and mentored as college freshmen. Such a deep joy to my soul to see them step into this new mission!
- Tiffany is leading two groups of women through a Bible study centered on embracing their identity in Christ. God is tending to deep wounds and bringing the women to a new experience of truth about who they are in Him.
- As we "look under the hood" of our ministry over the summer, would you pray God gives us fresh vision and wise discernment for the fall?
- One of favorite family activities this summer is riding our bikes around the mostly dead BGSU campus. Here's a recent picture of us there!



Thank you for standing with us in this mission, *Matthew & Tiffany & kids*