

Proverbs 16:9 (NASB) The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

I have often found myself quoting this verse above over the years. I must admit that planning is not one of my strong points. I am much more comfortable with spontaneity. Still, I understand that planning is a necessary evil that must be embraced on occasion if we are to succeed in life. I suspect that many of you are cringing at the thought of living life without planning everything. If you were to look at my friend Dan's daily calendar you might find that he actually schedules "spontaneous" time. I, on the other hand, will sometimes spontaneously put something on the calendar. I probably won't look at it after that but I did put it on the calendar.

I get some extra credit for effort right? All kidding aside, I have learned over the years to plan and organize, though it is not my favorite thing to do. For example, I had planned to be sitting in an office in Englewood, Colorado, by now as the acting Associate Director of Military Children's Ministries (MCM). However, our plans are often dependent on things outside of our control. The economy taking a downturn combined with my working 60-70 hours a week with Frito Lay has led to our partnership development progressing slowly. This led to frustration and our motivation dwindled.

Thankfully the Lord is sovereign and is not caught off guard by any of our circumstances. Recently, my home church had a position open in student ministries. The elders of the church, knowing my situation and that I had previous experience in youth ministry, made me an offer. Would I consider taking the position of high school director for one year? This would give them time to search for a replacement without the position being unstaffed during the process. It would allow me more time in the week to focus on partnership development, as the youth position would be fifteen to twenty hours less a week than Frito Lay. It seemed like a plan made in heaven. So, for the next year it appears that the Lord has directed my steps back into ministry with high school students.

What does this mean for you? Many of you have already been faithfully supporting us both financially and in prayer. Thank you for both. Please continue to pray for us that we would be diligent in identifying new partners in ministry so that we can begin our work with the children of our armed forces. As far as financial support, the Lord is meeting our current needs which are limited to travel and sending newsletters. Funds that accrue during this phase of our ministry will accelerate our launch to full-time ministry with MCM.



What do we need to begin our work with MCM? We need monthly pledged support. All of the costs associated with the startup and transition into ministry are already covered. We need to increase the amount of pledges that will meet the continued expenses of ministry. We have identified over forty percent of these pledges. Our hope is that with this new opportunity in youth ministry, we will be able to raise the remaining needed support within the next

year. Please pray that, with the Lord's blessing, this would come to pass.

Here is a quick update on the ministry of MCM.

When we accepted the call to come on board with MCM there were only seven military installations with full-time MCM children's workers. There has been tremendous growth during this time and there are now sixteen locations, with many more in the works. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is being shared

with the children of our brave men and women around the world. MCM has also created a new video that shares the testimonies and impact of some of our ministries within the military communities. It will soon be available at www.cadence.org. You can also view a video of Stacey and me sharing our heart for this ministry with MCM at

www.vimeo.com/8617783

or at

www.cadence.org/brand.

If you are not currently on our team of financial partners, would you prayerfully consider joining us? We need a team of people who will commit to joining us by pledging, as the Lord provides, to send \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 a month or however the Lord leads you to give. The key is that we cannot be released into ministry until the total pledged amount reaches the minimum set by Cadence International. I already have an office and desk at Cadence headquarters with work to do when I arrive. Please pray that the Lord would provide by completing our team of prayer and financial supporters so that we can jump into this incredible ministry to the families of our servicemen and women. Thank you again for all of the prayers and support you have sent our way.

God Bless you and your families.

Billy

Billy Brand, for Stacey, Lily, and Esther



Sharing the gospel and our lives with the military community

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