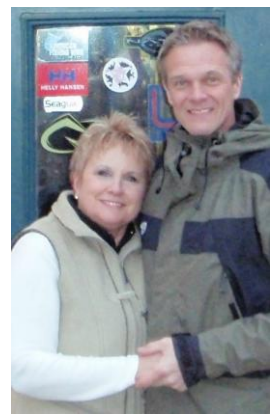


2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

FIREWORKS, AND... CHRISTMAS?

As a two year old, Kelly was fascinated with fireworks, and very impressed by powers she thought I had. I would trace the sparks of rising fireworks and point to where they would explode. When things went slower than she liked, she'd grab my arm, lift it high and say, "Do again Daddy! Do again!" She thought I made those powerful things happen. But **those explosions of beauty were designed and launched by someone else.** I was just fortunate to be near enough to look, point and say, "Wow!"



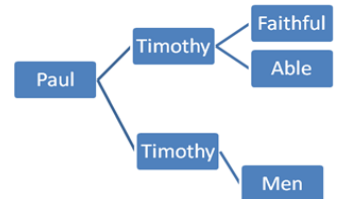
What does this have to do with Christmas, and the gospel?

The shepherds and wise men and others did not produce the miracle of our Savior. They were just ordinary, flawed people who were close enough to see, point and be amazed.

WHEN WE SAID, "WOW!, AND "DO IT AGAIN, GOD"

We didn't make these things happen, but we love to point to God's work:

1. Sept 16 I shared a message called, "Real Men, Dangerous..." with 120 guys in Ada Bible Church's Men's Ministry. In it I share **7 humbling examples** of how **God changed flaws in my life** through mentoring. Because people loved me enough to equip me with Biblical, personal, practical tools, I am a different man, husband, dad, missionary, adventurer...



Thirty guys expressed interest in mentoring. Two of them, **Terry and Brian**, attended "Maximizing Discipleship". Brian drove 75 miles each way to attend Tues. a.m. Within weeks **God arranged "divine appointments"** with guys who want to be mentored. [See our website, LifebuildersWM.com](http://www.lifebuildersWM.com) to hear this message.

2. Last week, **twelve guys** in "Maximizing Discipleship" made **commitments to be "Lifetime Laborers";** to **BE disciples**, and to **MAKE disciples**, by faith, according to **Jesus' power and blueprint.** They responded to **GOD's word**, not some fancy words from me. I still have much to learn about effective teaching. **God stirred other men to ask to be mentored** even before our study was complete. **Ken L** represents the kind of **transformation you have been praying for:**

(the scriptures about the Great Commission) worked so powerfully together to express God's command to make disciples. This message really struck home for me: Discipleship is not optional. Prior to this class I held the belief that only certain people had the gift for discipleship. Others should use their God-given gifts in other ways. I am now convinced this is not the case. We all are commanded to open ourselves up to the working of the Holy Spirit to equip us to obey His command to make disciples... I think the Destined series is an excellent tool for discipleship and am really enjoying the journey through these. I am much better able to articulate the foundations/truths of the Bible as a result of the studies I have done so far. Ken L

3. "Our son Christian was able to lead a schoolmate to Christ today. I realized two things: How important it is that his Daddy and I have been clear with Christian about salvation, and I have never led anyone to Christ yet. It motivates me to be in a Bible study with you and others, Kelly, so I can be more equipped." Kelly got this report from Patty, who works with her at Lowery Chiropractic. God still works through one generation to reach the next.



Christian and Patty Dad and Mom →son → friend

4. **God continues to stir people to help with our support**, despite their own challenges. Like many of you, we are hearing about, and experiencing, some deep challenges. The last two months I stopped getting medical treatments to make sure we had enough in our CCC account for a paycheck. (See Ministry Partner Info) **But God keeps stirring people.**

He has stirred them to catch up with support they missed, to **increase** their support, or **remain faithful** despite their own tough situations. He stirred others to **send "extra" support** when urgently needed. One person **explained our ministry to someone else** who helped significantly, **right on the day it was urgently needed.... How encouraging!** To have others be **advocates for us...** To be able to **stay actively "on the field"** instead of stopping to raise support... People can trust us, knowing we **are not ministering to them for financial gain**, because we are already supported ... This is so important in our skeptical culture.

How do these stories relate to Christmas?

God still works through flawed people to see, point, and be amazed. "Oh God, do it again!"



You've seen some of our flaws and struggles over the years. We're as surprised as you that God works through us "jars of clay." **He keeps changing us. We're not the same people we were in ←1974 when we joined CCC staff.** Your prayer and support help give us **freedom to be genuine** about our struggles and **pointing to our God.** Your loyalty encourages us to trust God's adequacy for everything.

*We appreciate you,
Kurt and Ginger*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- + That we'd be **more amazed by Jesus**, and obedient to His blueprint.
- + **Fruit and amazement** for those taking faith steps to **mentor others:** Rick, Nathan, Brian, Terry, Mark, Ginger, Sabrina, Kelly, others
- + **Fruitful outreach:** personal, seasonal, and events, like: Wild Game Dinner, Jan 22, **Dan Keating** speaking, Ada Bible Church, Other possibilities; Mar. 6 Rescued story?, Mar. 13 Men's Discipleship Conference?
- + Finalizing the "**Survival/Adventure**" tool for "test drives" this spring
- + **Overflowing support and resources**, \$9,600 = medical treatments \$4,400=ministry tools and training, \$950 more/month, due to lost jobs, etc.
- + Special treatments for Ginger, January. Kurt resuming his treatments.
- See "**Ministry Partner Information**" for details, attached, or our [website](http://www.lifebuildersWM.com),



Carrie, Kurt C, David, Kelly, Rosa, Kurt, Ginger Kurt, 30, David, 3, Rosa, 9, recent birthdays Sharing His love with the next generations

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