

United by Grace...Led by Spirit...Together by Promise...Trusting His Purpose

Joy in the Journey

Sharing Chronicles of Growth and Ministry with Frank and Melissa Joy King

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Still Will We TRUST!!!

"But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise You more and more"

Psalms 71:14

Dear Family, Friends,

& Prayer Partners...

A week from now, and we will have been in the Windy City for **2 months**. In this time, Melissa and I have seen good progress in my education (*hanging onto A's and B's*), as well as tremendous growth in our faith. God has blessed us with moments of ministry, and is connecting us with other couples, also committed to their personal growth in Christ.

Along the way, we've enjoyed some times of *fun*, and God has given us some moments to laugh about, as well. Neither of us regrets our decision to move down here, and we are continuing to trust in God's provision to continue attending Moody, and the ministries He's blessed us to be a part of.

In late January, Melissa joined the *"Student Wives"* group, which meets weekly for dinner. It is a time of corporate teaching, worship, prayer, and support; led by student wives of Moody, for student wives (we husbands most certainly enjoy the special times we've been invited to share *dessert*).

Recently, wives and husbands have met together to hear a 3-part, marriage-building seminar by a member of Moody's theology faculty, Dr. Sauer. He has led us from the fundamental principals God laid down for marriage, found in Genesis, to Paul's clarifications for healthy, daily priorities for both husbands and wives

(above all, we guys have learned the importance of being *"gentlemen"* to our wives). We're gaining new insights, while building upon foundational truths we already know, and are looking forward to our next week with Dr. Sauer.

Here is an update concerning my progress in classes this semester...

As part of my "*Spiritual Life & Community*" class, I meet Friday afternoons with an accountability partner, a young student from California, named Jake. From our first meeting together in January, Jake and I have continued to discuss issues important to our walk, and to our calling, as well as ask the questions each needs to stay on track in our spiritual walk with Christ. I have also appreciated much our times of prayer together.

In class, Jake and I are part of a small group, and right now we are exploring an assigned curriculum called True Discipleship, by Dr. John Koessler. Topics we've discussed have ranged from "Effects of Grace," "The Mark of Obedience," "The Cross and The Flesh," and "Jesus, Our Example," to name a few. Upon returning from our Spring Break (**March 7 thru March 21**), we will begin examining themes found in the Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God, by Larry Osborne.

Although it has involved some very challenging reports and quizzes, both I and Melissa have enjoyed the engaging, thorough, and quirky-funny teaching of Dr. William Marty, and his "*New Testament Survey*" class.

Right now, we are completing our surveys of each of the 4 Gospels. Next week, we will examine Acts, and then begin the "journey epistles" of Paul. My first reading report, concerning the "Intertestamental Period," chronological "Life of Christ," summaries of each of the 4 Gospels, and a subjective "5 Spiritual Truths" response section (**21** pages total), returned **100%** satisfactory!

Praise God for His guidance--Melissa and I are very excited about that!

An audio report project I submitted for my "*Introduction to Mass Communications*" class, the first of a 2-part series entitled "**Moody Radio: Turned On For Life!**" returned an **A+** (50 out of 50 points). It chronicles the early days of **WMBI**, the voice of Moody Bible Institute, from its inception, through today, and examines some interesting "evolutions" in its aspects of programming, personnel, and philosophy.

I am presently working on part-2, which will consist mainly of interview sound bytes from Moody faculty, Moody Radio personnel, and feedback responses from some Moody students.

Next week, I hand in my first of two papers for "*Research Writing*." The Lord has favored me with my professor, Dr. Maria Mocuta, and she tells me she could easily see my essay included in a scholar's journal--**WOW!** I am so much in awe as to the blessings God has brought, and how these are confirmations that we made the right decision in coming to Moody!

As to my weekly visits with my Ministry Team to *Pacific Garden Mission*, I couldn't be more overjoyed! Since beginning our time of worship and Word, we've seen a very noticeable turnaround in responses from the 300+ men gathered there.

Just last week, I and my partners, Jake and Chad, met afterward with **10** men who are hungry to learn more about Jesus' love for them. I had the privilege to pray with 3 of them: **Demitri** (*suffering from paranoid schizophrenia*), **Andre** (*trying to break his addictive strongholds*), and **Aaron** (*taking his next steps toward independence from addiction--job-searching, and moving into a new apartment of his own*). I also spoke with **Tom** and **Hector**.

Hector, a fellow with a very distinct Hispanic accent, requested a Spanish Bible, because he has found it difficult to understand English translations. I have since obtained one, and I can't **wait** to surprise him with it this next week.

Melissa and I think it is so exciting and satisfying to be engaged in projects with talents and passions God has gifted me. Please take a moment, and pray for these men I've mentioned, and for the others who attend each week.

Prayer **does** change things!

Speaking of prayer, two weeks ago, Melissa and I began visiting another church, Park **Community Church**, begun by Moody students, and has two locations. We attend at the original location, meeting where the Church began, in an elementary school, located in the **Lincoln Park** community, north of the Moody campus (the other, main campus, is located in the heart of the Cabrini Green community, west of Moody).

We have enjoyed the connections we've made here, as well as the scripturally-based teaching and worship, reminding us of our time together with our home church family back at Immanuel Baptist Church, in Wausau. Information on Park is available at their website: www.parkcommunitychurch.org/.

We found it neat that, 2 Sundays out of every month, after morning service, the Church members migrate from the School, across the street to a local sandwich and coffee shop called "Cosi". Melissa and I look forward sometime to being financially able to join them once or twice.

Right now, though, things are quite tight.

Despite numerous rejections and put-offs by companies and employment agencies, Melissa perseveres, continuing to send out resumes, and fill out job applications. She's even driven 3 times nearly 1 hour away from home for an interview, only to be told "*we'll call you.*"

Our temporary discouragement is met with inspiration, as we pray together, and from our individual times together with Christ each morning:

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name" Psalm 86:11

In the midst of all this, God has blessed us with some times of laughter, fun and recreation...

In January, we hosted an intimate **SUPERBOWL** party for some Moody students, complete with chips, dip, sweets, and Melissa's tasty **Mexican** treats. While here, we've also made some quality connections with additional students on campus. Rena, a young Moody student, met together today with Melissa for coffee, and they have decided to continue meeting regularly, for fellowship and accountability. Pray for Rena, and for her family.

Frank offered to produce--*get this*--a **"rap"** artist, named Micah. We both enjoyed him, when his group performed some "urban praise," during a Moody Chapel service, a week ago.

We found his work Christ-focused, and professionally presented; we felt moved to offer to minister to him, free of charge. Perhaps, in this way, we feel we would be partnering to help him use his **HIP-HOP** expressions to reach the unchurched communities of the inner city.

An unexpected mattress malfunction caused what we believed was a well-made, Amish-style, thick pine bed to **COLLAPSE**, forcing us to dismantle it. We're now "Japan-ning" it, our box and mattress on the floor, our headboard free-standing against our bedroom wall.

Although disappointed (me, mostly; it was my anniversary gift last year to Melissa), we've just seen it as yet another example that we can't depend on our own understanding of things, no matter how **"STURDY"** we think they are!

Next time, we'll try a good, ol' fashioned **Hollywood** frame (maybe I can drill our pine headboard to it). But, hey, who can sleep, when there are so many things to see, and places in the City to go?

We've introduced ourselves to **Portillos Hotdogs** (Melissa chose their yummy Philly steak sandwich). They're located down LaSalle Blvd., across from the big McDonald's.

When you walk in, you're treated to Cajun-style music, and an atmosphere that reminds me of a hometown marketplace; the Italian food vendor in the right-hand corner, Portillos on the left.

All over the walls, and on the ceiling is memorabilia from the Chicago area, and there is even seating in a mezzanine area, upstairs.

We found **IKEA** (now our favorite place to look for household items and furniture), then LOST **IKEA**...turns out what we thought was the store, must've been a regional warehouse. We found ourselves **40 minutes** from home, and smack in the middle of a commercial business park. Well, not a total loss--we did FIND the Wal-Mart (*and Burger King*).

We've enjoyed our walks downtown, sightseeing amongst the crowds along Michigan Ave. (...and can you believe they want to charge you **\$15** dollars just to ride the elevator to the top of the **Hancock Center**?!!!--no, of *course* we didn't go!) I've made note of where we found the Cheesecake Factory, and the **Hershey's Chocolate** Store (*priorities, you know*).

We also enjoyed our trip last weekend to the **Lincoln Park Zoo**. We rode the "EL" to Fullerton, then walked the remainder of the way. The Zoo is free, and in light of the cold, all the animals were inside, making it easy to view them. On our return trip, the softly falling **snow** made for an excitingly-romantic walk back to the train.

So many thanks to our **Immanuel Baptist Church** family for your recent blessing of financial gifts--you may think it's a small thing, but it has made such a big difference!

We are praying for you, and for all of you, our family and friends.

Please pass along your prayer requests and praises to us. You may either email us, or if you like, post us a quick note, some photos, etc. to our **"Sharing Center,"** located on our brand new website. The address is below...

Thank you all for your continued prayers!

...still...we're trusting.

Always In His Love,

Frank & Melissa Joy King

Please visit our **new website**:

<http://joyinthejourney.synthasite.com/>