

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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From faith To Faith

"The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace" Psalm 29:11

Dear Family, Friends,
& Prayer Partners...

Quite some time has passed, since our last newsletter. As some of you may have already guessed, much of this has been due to our increased workload, as will soon be explained.

By the way, your prayers for us continue to be our "bread and butter" during these early days of our faith journey, here in Chicago, and we wish to return the favor. When you get a moment, we invite you to visit our new website:

www.joyinthejourney.synthasite.com

Once there, click on the **"Sharing"** tab. There you will find a link we've created for you. It can sometimes get a bit lonely out here, away from our loved ones, so please let us engage with you in your prayers and praises. We so wish to feel we are still a part of your lives, and are doing our part in lifting you and your concerns up to our Lord.

Thank you for allowing us the honor of doing so!

In March, we attended the **St. Patrick's Day parade** (and got quite "stuck" in a skin-tight crowd), down South Columbus Dr.

Just prior to leaving campus for spring break, one of my professors blessed us with an **EXTREMELY** generous financial donation!

Thanks to her generosity, we were able to make our housing deposit for the fall semester...God is **SO** good!

Over spring break, we enjoyed our much **needed** time off, visiting family and friends back home in Wausau. All in all, it was a wonderful break of rest for us, and we thank you, **Mom and Dad Leitzke** for such kindness in giving us the fuel and lunch money necessary for the trip!

While in Wausau, we met with the owner of the store which sold us our bed that collapsed (the one we mentioned in our last newsletter). He has agreed to exchange the **faulty** parts, provided we bring them to Wausau. Therefore, we are interested in anyone, perhaps someone living in Chicago, who might lend us their truck (or be willing to drive it for us) for a day, in order to do the exchange. We have no leads at the moment.

Driving to numerous job fairs, filling out what felt like hundreds of job applications, enduring many "put offs," Melissa finally received a "**YES**," with a job position at Moody!

She is now managing within the **Donor Resource Center**, which sorts donations and other mail items into and within the Institute. The work is only part-time, and comes without any health benefits (we have been forced to purchase a policy from an outside source), but it is a job, nonetheless, and we are so grateful for it!

God has now moved us financially from "**short**" to "**tight**". Praise be to God! The end of March, in order to earn a little money for living expenses, we decided to spend part of our anniversary weekend counting inventory together for the **LifeWay** Christian bookstore located here on the Moody campus. Although it wasn't exactly the ideal "date" either of us would've first considered, we were so grateful God gave us this opportunity to get ahead, financially.

We did later enjoy an evening together at a local Thai restaurant (thank you so much, **Mom and Pop Llorca**, for the generous gift card), and woofed down some yummy gourmet cupcakes from a local bakery. We topped off our celebration with a free showing of "*Juliet*," a Romanian play about a pastor's wife's struggle to understand and trust God, while held in a Russian gulag, during the Communist take-over of Romania in 1946. Romance both about us, and above us...**perfect!**

Easter weekend, we enjoyed a visit from Mom and Dad Leitzke, taking time Saturday to ride the **EL** into the heart of downtown Chicago.

Our original intention was for a free trolley ride to the **Navy Pier**, but unfortunately, either our directions were incorrect, or the trolley we were looking for wasn't running that day. We did, however, make the most of the walk, by visiting the big *fountain* at Grant Park, introducing Mom and Dad to the big "**Bean**," viewing work from local artists at the Chicago Cultural Center.

On Sunday, we all attended a grand **resurrection** celebration service at **Moody Church**, complete with choirs and full orchestra. We took a walk to the **Hancock Tower**, and avoided the outrageous **\$15** per person fee to the **observation tower** by riding the elevator to the **Signature Lounge**, located on the **95th** floor (for only **\$5** per person--the price of a soda...*thanks so much, Pastor Dan, for the suggestion!*). Later that day, forced to complete an upcoming paper, Mom and Dad ventured out to Target with Melissa, taking in more sights of the City, before wrapping up their visit the following Monday morning.

Also in April, Frank teamed up with 4 very talented and committed young Moody students to create a radio drama for his *Introduction to Mass Communications* class, in the style of those of the past, but with a contemporary twist...

We were blessed to have a well-balanced group: 2 writers, 1 director/writer, 1 experienced actor, and me, facilitator and audio engineer. Coming up with a name for our "production company" (using the first letters of our first names), we set out to brainstorm on our intended focus group, then on a script, which would then revolve around a particular scripture verse or passage.

Using an online "worksite," we held discussions at each step of the process, examining music beds, revising scripts, auditioning parts, etc. A page for "prayer" was used to confidentially share current, individual concerns and/or struggles (this page was password protected).

With the exception that the weekend of Easter kind of caught me by surprise, forcing us to adjust our completion timeline, we all kept very much on schedule.

Each voice was recorded, then edited along a program timeline, while later music, and background effects were added, and an introduction and ending were produced for the presentation.

Finally complete, we held a private screening of our work, and our group celebrated with a hamburger and shake, down the street at Portillos. Our presentation the following day was a big hit, and we now have a tool God may use in any future ministry endeavors we undertake. To God be the glory!

You're invited to see our worksite, and download our radio project, entitled "*BONDAGE!*" at...www.jtmbf.synthasite.com.

Over the past--nearly 6--months, Melissa, while working full-time hours, has been faithfully serving our home, cleaning counters and clothes, baking and cooking (for us, for some young students we've befriended, and for the Moody Student Wives fellowship), as well as running errands to and from the grocery store. She's done all this with such a heart of a servant, without complaint, in an effort to allow me time to prepare papers, and to study for tests.

She is so *beautiful*, and God made her perfect **for** me. This isn't to say we don't disagree. But I'm thankful God saw fit to bless me with a bride who truly desires His best for us, and who loves me unconditionally, "*warts* 'n all"! When she sees an area of work within me, or in us both, she gently and lovingly calls attention to it, helping me to stretch out even more in my faith toward God, encouraging me to steer us back on course through His word.

Speaking of which, as a result of my interest while using it for my New Testament Survey papers this semester, I am taking us, chapter-by-chapter through David Stern's

Jewish New Testament. It's interesting to read all the names and places we've known all our lives, now made new through seeing and hearing them in their true, Jewish tradition. Some Jewish concepts have also come with fresh meaning, too. Such as the Jewish tradition of the "evil eye," which illustrates a stingy heart.

This semester saw Frank through three very *Tough* exams, 8 papers, and 3 audio project to complete, all of which God blessed him with wisdom and very good grades! God's ministry through Frank to the men at **Pacific Garden Mission** has resulted in a formal request by its leaders that he return there next fall semester. All of this is confirmation to us we made the right decision in coming to Moody--God did it!

God has also challenged us both with opportunities to learn outside the walls of Moody, bearing witness to the hope we possess in Him. While traveling on the **METRA** commuter train Easter weekend to meet Mom and Dad Leitzke, we were questioned by a man *deceived* into believing the Bible, God's word to us, is *incomplete*.

During an evening of donor calling, Frank was blessed with the opportunity to share the **GOSPEL** with a man, resulting in his profession of faith in **Christ!** And we may have entertained an **angel**, named "Stevie," who asked for money, and with whom we shared both our meal, and **Christ!**

We've experienced the protection of the Holy Spirit, both in a turn for Melissa down a wrong street, and a ride on the **EL** into the wrong side of town.

We've had some fun, too... having recently added **Skype** to our computer, we've enjoyed speaking with, and seeing Mom and Pop Llorca. Even Mom and Dad Leitzke had the opportunity to say, "Hello!" while visiting with us. So, if any of you has SKYPE, and would like to give us a VIDEO call, please feel free to add our email to your contacts list. For everyone else, the service is **FREE**, as long as you connect to another SKYPE user (either with or without a webcam). Give us a SKYPE call sometime!

Finally, summer's just around the corner, and as this semester comes to a close, Frank is busy looking for a full or part-time job (my current position at the Moody Donor Call Center will be ending this month, as the department is being dismantled). He has interviewed for a newly-created position for **Moody Radio**, which links its interests with that of Moody Publishing, in promoting the latest work by Dr. Gary Chapman (Five Love Languages); no word back yet from the recruiter.

He's also been contacted by the man at Moody Radio that he approached back in January, offering him a few hours each weekend. That man, after hearing our need for more hours, then spoke with some of the executives within Moody Radio, and Frank may interview this week as an **audio production Assistant** to the morning news anchor at Moody!

All is happening as God blesses, and we are so grateful for your prayers! As we approach summer, we continue to trust God will provide the funds for us to be able to build our savings back up (we were forced to live on it, while Melissa searched for a job), and prepare for the fall semester costs which will hit us, come July. Our goal is to remain debt-free, living according to our means, and as God fulfills those needs.

Do not be **anxious** for anything, but in
everything, by prayer and petition with
thanksgiving, present your requests to
God. And the **peace** of God, which
transcends all understanding, will
GUARD your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus

Philippians 4:6-7

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

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

Always In His Love,
Frank & Melissa Joy King

Please remember to visit our **new website**:

<http://joyinthejourney.synthasite.com>