

The MCCARTY Ministry Minute

A MINISTRY REPORT FROM THE MCCARTYS AND STRATEGIC IMPACT

✧ Family Update ✧

God is good. In so many ways, I could stop right there... but I won't - especially since it has been so long since I sent out an update. Frankly, I got busy with ministry and failed to keep you all in the loop as to how the Lord is using your prayers and your financial support for His kingdom through our family and through Strategic Impact. Please forgive me.



First off, a little family update for those of you whom we have not seen in some time. I'll leave my (Dustin) ministry stuff to the ministry update.

Tracy is such a blessing of a wife. Since we last wrote, she has been co-leading a parenting Bible Study for the women of DCC. It has been a great time for them as they look at the Biblical principles of raising Godly children. And this on top of all the mom stuff and wife stuff and school stuff.



Sierra is ONE! Already a year old. She is quite the pistol. She is quick with a cheesy grin and loves to make her sisters laugh.

Remington is now 4 and is still joyfully ornery. You can generally tell when she is up to

something because it will be preceded by her "evil" laugh. :-). We had a minor ordeal recently while I was in Africa. She fell at gymnastics and broke her left arm to the point where it required pins and surgery. She has now recovered and is back to her normal level of activity. It was another one of those times we are so grateful to have a loving church family that surrounds the girls while I am overseas.



Trinity is STILL (and will most likely always be) the princess. She is 8 now and is just about to finish 2nd grade at Denton Calvary. She had a HUGE day when she turned 8. Not only was there a birthday party, but she also won the Scholar of the Month - and got to be the line leader for class. She was at least on cloud 8.5 if not cloud 9!



Dakota is just about finished with her Freshman year of high school. You heard me right...



HIGH SCHOOL. She is playing softball for DCA now and is really liking it. This year has been a tough one for her - balancing church and school and sports and life, but she has learned many important life lessons.

Our local ministry at Denton Community Church continues to be a source of joy and encouragement. It has also been a time of sadness recently as Trey Sims, one of the members of the worship team I lead, unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord a few weeks ago at the young age of 45. He was a quiet and faithful man and we miss him dearly. I was blessed to deliver the eulogy at the funeral.

2009 has already proven to be a stretch for our family. We are all looking forward to school being out and to have a little more breathing room as a family.

You can catch up with more of our normal activities on Facebook. Just add me as a 'friend'.

MINISTRY UPDATE

CARABOBO, VENEZUELA

January brought our team to Carabobo, Venezuela - just outside Valencia - to conduct a "Train the Trainer" Consultation and to officially bring Frank Torres (*photo on left*) on staff as our Venezuela Director. We have known Frank for quite some time and have worked with him frequently since 2004. He is a good and faithful man and we are exuberant to have him on the team!

During the consultation, we trained a small group of leaders in our three main areas of focus: Personal Development, Leadership Development and Church Planting...AND we equipped them to begin to carry out this work of the ministry as a team under Frank's leadership. It is an exciting time to see the steps of growth among the pastors and leaders there.

One of the most encouraging occurrences was an encounter with Ariste Perez (*photo on right*), whom we worked with back in 2005 at our very first training held in South America. Well, evidently the training was effective because Ariste shared with us that for the last 4 years he had been discipling leaders, planting churches and sending missions teams to various parts of Venezuela to bring the Gospel to the lost. You can see his interview (with translation) on our website.

BURKINA FASO, AFRICA

February brought our team to Africa for 2 weeks. The first week was spent in Burkina Faso - that's in West Africa. It is (by far) the most desolate place (*see photo*) I have ever been. With the population being over 50% muslim, there is much work to be done here, and the pastors seemed very worn out and tired. As one leader shared, "When the percentage of muslim population reaches 60-65%, the people begin to become fearful to come to Christ." They need training, they need equipping, they need help...and yet there is hope.

We conducted a 1-day "Vision Seminar" and had over 250 pastors attend. In this, we introduced Strategic Impact, what we do (equip pastors to disciple and plant churches to reach their nation with the Gospel) and why we do it. The response was grand! What a hunger for training!

Lord willing, we will be returning in June to conduct a full-blown "Leadership Thrust", which provides training, tools and experience in the process of planting a new church where there currently is no church. This is instrumental in this region. If Christians do not rise up and begin to expand the Kingdom here, there is a great risk. A pastor told us, "Islam comes in quietly and not violently. Then, when it reaches a certain level of control, it changes to reveal its true nature. If West Africa is not reached by the gospel, then it will become the next root of terrorism and aggression against Christianity and the West." This certainly put a new reality on the importance of our work. Strangely, it appears that on some level, we are fighting terrorism - preventing its spread at its root.

SOUTHERN, AFRICA

Again, we returned to Southern Africa to continue to develop and disciple the teams from Zambia, Tanzania and Malawi (*photo on right*). We were able to spend time with Vasco, the pastor in Malawi who was in the horrific auto accident. He is improving, though the progress is slow.

As we continued to invest in these good men, the bond between us deepened. We love these guys! We are so blessed to have the privilege to work with such quality men! They have completely "owned" the concept and their work is expanding into the rural areas of each country and across the borders into other nations as well. Last year, the Tanzania team conducted a training in Burundi, and this year, the Zambia team has already begun work in Zimbabwe - where there has been so much turmoil of late. We anticipate continued growth throughout 2009 and beyond!

THANK YOU!!!

Praise God for your continued prayers and support.
We could not do this without the faithful ministry partners that you are!

The McCartys

One last thing...

I trust you all know we are exceedingly grateful for your partnership... and its importance. We could not descend into these countries to work without your firm grip on the other end of the rope! So, thank you!

As you can see, **the ministry has gained immense momentum!** So, it is now time for us to finish raising our personal support. Typically, a ministry will not allow missionaries to begin work without having all their support raised. Since SI was a startup, someone had to “bite the bullet” and jump in first... that someone was the McCarty family. As we struggled to get the ministry off the ground and work on everything from administrative to marketing to technology to accounting to curriculum development tasks, we simply did not have the time to finish raising our support. It has been this way for around 3 years now, and it is time that we refocused on this task.

We currently need to raise around \$3000 a month in support. These funds will go to cover the rest of our living expenses - primarily toward health insurance and the purchase of a home (we are so grateful for a supporter who has loaned us a single-wide mobile home for the past few years!).

Would you consider one of the following actions?

1. Pray

- For us to have and make the time to raise this support. Frankly, we would rather be doing ministry in the field, but this has to be a priority!
- For others to catch the vision and passion and give generously...even in these tough times.

2. Become a monthly ministry partner

- Many of you have supported us in prayer. Would you consider becoming a monthly ministry partner by helping fund our ministry? We pay our bills just like you do... once a month. The ongoing support of our monthly ministry partners are the reason we can continue in ministry.

3. Increase your level of support

- Lots of you have been faithful financial supporters. Most employers give an annual raise to their employees toward cost of living, increased experience, etc. Would you consider increasing your current level of support? Even the smallest percentage is a help.

4. Make a special gift

- Like all families, we encounter financial bumps along the road... when things are tight and you hit a bump, it can be a big problem. Special gifts throughout the year sure go a long way to meet those immediate needs.

5. Share with a friend

- Most likely, there are other believers that you know. I know it can be uncomfortable, but would you consider introducing them to our ministry? Could we set up a coffee meeting to share what God is doing through SI and through our family?

However the Lord is leading you, please complete the enclosed response device indicating your intent.

I really don't like asking these questions...it is uncomfortable... but in order to continue to serve, I must. The calling is worth it, the task is a worthy one, and God has been opening more opportunities to train and serve around the world than we can address.

Thank you for your consideration and your prayers!

In His mighty grip,

Dustin & Tracy McCarty
(& Dakota & Trinity & Remington & Sierra)