



Church of the King

connecting our city to Christ

May 16, 2010

To Our Church of the King Family

Life is sometimes like a puzzle! There are lots of little pieces that turn into a beautiful picture. The struggle that many people have is that they don't always see the entire picture. More often than not we get one piece at a time. And sometimes when the pieces start falling into place the picture is not exactly what we think it should look like. Life is sometimes like that too. We see ourselves going in one direction but changes or a loss can cause us to turn a corner that takes us on a whole new route.

Eddie and I have recently experienced just that. In August of last year God began to do something in our lives. At first it seemed pretty ordinary. I did a favor for a pastor friend of mine and went to Detroit to sing at a church anniversary celebration. In that service God spoke to me. After I sang a song, the speaker asked to pray over me. As he began to pray he also began to speak prophetically over me. He began to talk about a transition in my life. He began to say that this transition would not be what I would expect. I really didn't know what this meant, but Eddie and I talked through this and put it in God's hands. Soon after that night Pastor Brad shared with me what he and Leah sensed God was doing in their lives. When they eventually made their decision to transition part of me assumed that this was the "change" mentioned to me by the speaker that night. But it didn't stop there. God was continuing to prod my heart and eventually Eddie and I realized the changes were not over. For three months God was dealing with us. At the end of those three months I was invited to a completely different church on the other side of the city, even within a different denomination, to sing for a special service. Oddly enough after singing, the speaker asked if he could pray for me. As he began to pray he also began to speak prophetically over me. I was blown away as he began to say some of the same things that had been spoken over me three months earlier. He talked about how the transition I would face would not be what I expected. He challenged me to obey God and to follow His plans.

This rocked our world. As Eddie and I continued to have conversation we both sensed God doing something in our lives. Through prayer, Eddie felt that God had spoken a very simple statement to him...."baby steps." God was clearly showing Eddie that we would only know His upcoming plans for our lives one step at a time. It's as if God was putting our puzzle together and only giving us that ONE piece at a time to work with. He was teaching us a new lesson on trust. He was teaching us a new lesson on patience. And He was teaching us a new lesson in our marriage on communication. As pieces began to fall into place God began to birth dreams in our hearts. Not only birth dreams, but resurface many that had been dormant for while; Dreams that I have had since I was a kid to work in the inner-city and dreams that Eddie has had for years to go to school. As Eddie and I continued to pray and continued to talk we realized God really was putting a picture together that neither of us really



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expected. In this picture there were twists and turns and although they were leading us down God's path they would require us to experience a great amount of change.

I want to share with you the portion of our puzzle that has most recently become clear. First, let me say that we believe God has spoken. As scary as it can be I want you to know that there is so much peace in obeying God. His plans for us are not just any plans, they are the BEST plans. But obedience does not exempt us from great sadness and loss. God has spoken and this new direction He is leading our family in will move us away from Church of the King and so many that we love so dearly. After receiving direction from the Lord, Eddie and I felt called to join the team in Philadelphia. We approached Pastor Brad and Leah and offered our family to invest into the new work in Philly. Our decision to transition was not an easy one. Our desire has always been to simply follow Jesus and do whatever it is He asks us to do. We are thankful He's made this clear to us. It's a little overwhelming to think about starting over, but there is so much joy in knowing that God has called and that we have answered.

Over the next few months Eddie and I will be working with our ministry teams and Pastor Tal to prepare both the kids ministry and the worship ministry for a healthy transition. We are available to all of you for any questions you might have.

I really believe that the Galindo family will experience the greatest LOSS. You are such a wonderful family to us and we will miss you. I look forward to sharing with each of you what you mean to my family. I look forward to meals and coffee dates with many of you over the next few months. We have experienced so much joy over the past eight a half years. I came here a green, nervous southern girl who didn't really know what she was getting into. I have loved every moment spent with the kids here at Church of the King and leading you in times of worship. I have made some of the best friends I will ever have here. I've loved watching many of your kids grow up. I've watched students give their hearts to Jesus and pursue Him not because I wanted them to but because they genuinely love their creator. It's been an honor that I never deserved. We love Church of the King and we have been honored to serve Pastor Tal these past few months. As with many of you the Sullivan's have been such a blessing to our family. Eddie and I are so thankful that God chose them to lead this body. We know great things are in store for COTK under their leadership. The work God has begun here at Church of the King is so valuable and I believe that the best is yet to come. His plans are not our plans. They are better than our plans. They work better, they last longer and they effectively reach more people.

Thank you. Thank you for loving us and for continuing to support us. I pray that any loss you may feel from this bend in the road will cause you to rely even more upon God. Change may be hard for us, but as we have all been reminded over the past few weeks, NOTHING is too hard for God.

With great love for you all,

Pastor JT & Eddie