

MINISTRY UPDATES

Greater Grace Newsletter from Mike Thompson

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Mike's InFaith Mission Focus

Here is a brief overview of my ministry focus with InFaith.

1. **Planting and strengthening residential recovery ministries** and rescue missions through developing, and coaching leaders and providing structure and gospel centered recovery related curriculum.
2. **Strengthening churches and non-profit ministries** by equipping leaders & teams to align their ministry with their God-given mission.

Front Lines Updates

GOSPEL CENTERED RECOVERY HOUSES

The Branches—In Mora, MN

SAVE THE DATE: The Branches will hold a public informational meeting followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Rev Brian Cole will be our guest speaker. We will explain in detail how the ministry will work and what men in the program will do each day. We will share how churches and individuals can partner with this vital ministry. The event will be at [Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mora, MN \(Saturday, Sept 27th 10am\)](#).

Brian will also be speaking at [Fish Lake Chapel the following day \(Sunday\)](#). We will have guest musician and a Pot Luck Meal after the Sunday service. You don't want to miss the opportunity hear Brian Cole and members of The Branches Board share the mission of The Branches Recovery Ministry. Come on Saturday (Emmanuel Baptist) or Sunday (at Fish Lake Chapel). You don't want to miss this!

Our variance passed the first phase. Aug 20th the city will make a final decision about the use of our building as a residential recovery facility.

I have been busy rewriting program curriculum. You can see some of the curriculum for The Branches on www.pastormiketompson.org under the "InFaith" button.

Note: The building we are purchasing is located at 114 Maple Street in Mora, MN.

NON-PROFITS AND CHURCHES

I continue to serve as interim pastor of Fish Lake Chapel, which is an InFaith associated church. As an InFaith missionary I am serving this church beginning with a one year commitment as Interim Pastor. October will mark one year of my interim assignment.

We have moved from traditional music only to a blended service that includes contemporary music. We are also hosting an AA group and have taken other steps to minister to those outside the church. There are many exciting ministry updates that are in the works. Please continue to pray for this fellowship that has been faithful to the word of God and the Lord for many decades.

ADVANCED DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM (ADP)

On May 7th we launched a 3 year Advanced Discipleship Program for local ministry leaders, pastors from Liberia and Haiti, and others interested in growing in their bible study and leadership skills. Some hope to complete the entire program and become licensed with various denominations for vocational ministry. Other will take courses that line up with their interests. We are presently studying Bible Study Tools and Methods. It has been a wonderful challenge and growth opportunity for participants. I am excited about the topics the participants have chosen for their research projects. The final project includes identifying a biblical subject to study and then writing a position paper using the process we are teaching.

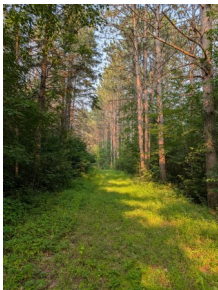
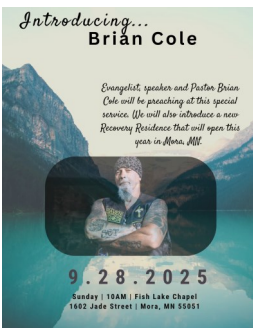
INFAITH UPDATES

Our Regional Director visited Fish Lake Chapel and then met with Dawn and I for several hours. We prayed and discussed several aspects of ministry. He challenged me to take on a roll of helping other InFaith churches and pastors in Minnesota. This is in addition to the ministries with which I am presently involved. Pray for God's wisdom, guidance and favor. After connecting with other churches and pastors in the area we will assess the best options for providing a Pastor's Conference.

PICTURED BELOW

Ministry pics, family activities and more.

UPDATES IN PICTURES



Praise Reports Prayer Requests

PRAISES	PRAYERS
Meaningful connections with other pas-tors and ministries in the area	Need to raise 900 more per month to reach my full support goal.
Dawn's women's study is thriving and well attended	God will lead many to faith through The Branches & Fish Lake Chapel
Regular monthly support has increased. Thank you for supporting this ministry	Health and fitness goals will be met. Try-ing to extend my expiration date :)
God's favor with working toward the opening of The Branches Recovery Min.	My family members would all grow closer to Jesus or come to faith in Christ

Contact & Other Information



MINISTRY PAGE: <https://infaith.org/ministries/michael-thompson>
Michael Thompson
411 Central Ave West
Mora, MN 55051
Mthompson@infaith.org
715-661-3254

Note: Ministry page (QR Code and/or web site link above) has a ministry overview and a link/button for donations

TEXT TO GIVE: (484) 897-7097 Mthompson Dollar-amount
(Note: Include a space between Mthompson and the dollar amount. Don't use decimals, only whole numbers please)

InFaith Home Office: (send checks via U.S. mail) (Include my name in memo)
145 John Robert Thomas Drive, Exton, PA 19341
610-527-4439

Bonus Devotional Thought

Does Jesus Pray for Us?

In [Luke 22:32](#), He tells us that He prayed for Peter's faith to remain strong. And in [John 17](#), Jesus' [High Priestly Prayer](#), He prayed for His followers and **“for those who will believe in me through their message” (verse 20)**. That's us! Now that Jesus has ascended back into heaven, He still prays for us. His ministry on our behalf continues ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).

Jesus is our “Advocate with the Father” ([1 John 2:1](#)). An advocate is one who pleads a case for another. Advocates stand in the place of those who cannot speak for themselves. Jesus, as our [Advocate](#), stands in our place before the Father and pleads on our behalf. Jesus' advocacy is sure to be effectual, because He is the one of whom the Father said, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased”** ([Matthew 3:17](#)). Jesus' prayers for us are constant, and they are perfect.

We have an Advocate in Christ, but we also have an accuser: Satan, who accuses us night and day ([Revelation 12:10](#); [Zechariah 3:1](#)). Our mortal enemy broadcasts our sins before God, mocking and insulting the ones Jesus bought for His own. But **Romans 8:33–34** says we need not worry about Satan's malice because Jesus, our Advocate, is more powerful: **“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”**

In [John 17](#), Jesus prays for His followers, and from that prayer we can learn the kinds of things Jesus might be praying for us now. Jesus prays for us that we would do and be these things:

- Know God and His Son, Jesus Christ (verse 3)
- Be protected from [apostasy](#) (verse 11)
- Be one in spirit as the Father and Son are one (verse 11)
- Be filled with His joy (verse 13)
- Be kept from the evil one (verse 15)
- Be sanctified through God's Word (verse 17)
- Remain unified in Christ throughout the generations (verses 20–21)
- Let our love convey Christ's message to the world (verse 23)
- Join Him in heaven for all eternity (verse 24)
- Experience the same kind of love for each other that the Father and Son share (verse 26)

Hebrews 4:14–16 describes Jesus as our [great High Priest](#). Because of His intercession for us, we have access to the Father ourselves: **“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”** Despite what we may face in this life, we can live with the confident assurance that, if we belong to Jesus, He is always praying for us.

I recall one occasion when I was completely worn out from the stress of difficult ministry. My current assignment as a ministry consultant was coming to an end. I was on the losing end of budget cuts. I did not know what was next and I was not able to accomplish all the things I had hoped for in my current assignment. I was depressed, discouraged and had no idea what was next. Personal and profession stressors were mounting. I was worn out and could barely organize my thoughts to pray thoughtfully. As I drove down a country road on the way to work I hear a message from R.C. Sproul on the intercession prayers of Jesus. It was a game changer. After listening to this sermon in my weary state, I simply breathed out a prayer: “Jesus will you pray for me?” It was all I could muster in my weakened state, but it was enough.

Over the course of the next few days I felt my strength renewed and hope restored. I felt a clear sense of where I should focus my efforts. My joy began to return. I believe this was due to the intercession prayers of Jesus for me.

This does not minimize our obligation or call to pray. But it gives us a solid back stop. If we can't come up with the words or prayers, Jesus can. If we are too weary to pray, Jesus is strong and will intercede on our behalf. When we don't feel like we can come through, Jesus will.

Blessings and love in Christ
Mike Thompson