

the pope family

Zach, Amber and Taylor



Church Planters to the Los Angeles, California Area

August/September 2014

Dear Pastor and praying friends,

I am very excited to write to you about the work that God is currently doing in my heart and life. Over the past year, I have learned so much about God and His will. I have learned that we must be patient as God's plan for our lives unfolds. (Proverbs 3:5-6) The familiar saying, "Our timing is not God's timing," has become very relative in my life. Secondly, I have been taught that we must remain persistent as we move forward on the path that God has put on. If we are not careful, it is easy to focus on the setbacks and forget to keep moving. Finally, I believe that I have learned the purpose of the will of God. The purpose of God's will is that we might learn to trust His guidance and that He might receive more Glory through our lives. (Ephesians 1:12) This morning as I read my Bible, I came across a verse in Philippians 1 which says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" Though I might not be able to see the end result of the steps of faith that I take, I can rest in the reality that God will continue to work the purposes of His will in and through my life until Jesus comes. The one thing that I have not questioned through the ups and downs of the past year is the fact that God has called us to plant a church in Los Angeles and with His help, that is what we plan to do in the near future! (Romans 8:28/Romans 11:29)

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September 29th marked a very special turning point in our lives. On this day, my family and I began full-time deputation. My original plan was to transfer to L.A. with my current employer. After realizing that this plan was not working out, we reevaluated our strategy and, after much prayer and counsel, decided to step out by faith and begin seeking the support of God's people. I believe that this will prove to be a pivotal step of faith in our attempts to do God's will for our lives. To our supporting churches, we want to say thank you for your monthly

financial contributions! Your faithful support has made this move a viable possibility. Please pray for us as we are currently trying to fill our schedule with opportunities to present our burden to other local churches.

I recently had the opportunity to share the gospel with a young man named Gage. He came forward during the invitation in a service at our home church. He came with many questions about Jesus, the Bible and Salvation. He had been desperately searching for definite truth about his eternity. As I shared scripture after scripture with him, I finally asked him "would you life to place your faith in Jesus for Salvation now?". He responded by saying "that is why I came forward!". What a blessing to share the Gospel of Jesus with someone and then see them respond by placing their faith in Christ alone. I am confident that this is what will change the wicked condition of our culture. I echo the words of Paul in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

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