

# Walking Together

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APRIL 2009

MIKE & BETH MATTES  
CCO MINISTRY

TRANSFORMING COLLEGE  
STUDENTS TO  
TRANSFORM THE WORLD

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

*Philippians 2:1-2*



## Finding Time to Garden

Written By Beth & Mike

April Newsletter  
at a Glance

- Community Gardening
- Staff Seminar: Rediscovering the Gospel
- Spring Quarter focus on Relational Evangelism
- Heather shares her faith with roommate, Chris
- New church cooperative partner at OSU & a staff person hired, Josh
- Delighting in the blessings God has showered upon us in April
- Continuing to develop a support team to reach our financial goal

We are trying something new this third year of our marriage - gardening our own produce. A “community garden” is exactly what it sounds like, a garden developed and kept by members of the community. This particular community garden is located a little over a mile from our house and will bring together two distinct neighborhoods’ of Columbus, Old Town East and South Bexley; and most of participants will be gardening produce.



Our Community Garden Awaits Seedlings!

Old Town East, where the garden is located, is a fairly “rough” neighborhood of Columbus. The garden lot sits next to an old dilapidated and unused building and the city lot had remained abandoned for several years. As we worked on emptying the lot of bricks, stones

and trash the garden immediately drew the attention of the neighbors and within a few hours of working on the garden we had a “waiting list” of people wanting to garden!

We laid down mulch and created a path, marked off each person’s plot in the garden, put up a perimeter fence (to keep people from walking over seedlings, and hopefully enough of a deterrent to stop any theft) and set up water collecting barrels.

By the end of a few days of hard work, we had ourselves a nice looking community garden!

Many of the neighbors from Old Town East have commented how the air feels and smells different on their street now with the garden. Beth and I are not only looking to grow some yummy produce, but also get to know and love our neighbors in Bexley and Old Town East.

## What we are Reading

**BETH**

Baby Bargains

**MIKE**

The Expectant Father

**TOGETHER**

Harry Potter Book 6

## April Staff Seminar

Written By Mike & Beth

Our CCO April Staff Seminar was focused on “The heart of the Campus Minister” and was facilitated by World Harvest Mission. This two day gathering of the entire CCO staff offered us the opportunity to wrestle with sin and God’s holiness & righteousness. It is easy, even in full time ministry, to get distracted by the pragmatic nature of ministry and lose sight of the full weight of the Gospel message. We let things like performance based righteousness and even dishonesty about the depth of our sinfulness keep us from understanding what Christ

accomplished on our behalf. Through a series of sessions and small group gatherings, we allowed ourselves to be a bit more introspective than we may usually be at staff functions. We were thankful for the time to really do some self reflection and to see the ways we might communicate in word and action our truth claims of who we are. And for the ability to challenge our thoughts and feelings to come into better alignment with the Truth of who we are as sons and daughters of God. If we are going to transform students, we also must live into transformation!

## Students Share Their Faith

Written By Beth

It is crazy to think that April is only the half way point for the OSU Spring Quarter. Ministry is a bit hard in the Spring because many of the students are distracted by the beautiful weather and figuring out what they will do in the summer. Even with the weather and summer planning, it is exciting that many of the girls I meet with still stay involved in our small group study and want to be more focused for our discipleship times.

One of the areas I talk through with the girls I disciple is evangelism and the importance of sharing their faith with their non-Christian roommates, classmates, friends, family.

Heather, a student whom I have been meeting with for three years, has truly begun to work through evangelism. Each week I meet with her she has new and exciting examples of how she is sharing her faith with her roommate, Chris! At the very beginning of the school year, Chris went to church and our woman's Bible study,

but then the excuses started and she kept saying she was too busy to go. Heather has been encouraging her to come with her to different gatherings, while having conversations with Chris about God and reading the Bible. This past month Heather had some transformative conversations with Chris and through the persistence of Heather and God working on Chris's heart, Chris has been going to church with Heather and will be going on their church's retreat this upcoming weekend! Chris has started to open her heart to God, but as she has shared with Heather - she is not completely ready to give her life completely to God.

God is Good (All the Time)! And it is amazing to see what God does in the lives of students on campus, but we are always reminded that it is in God's timing to bring us unto Himself (and so we actively wait in Him). Please pray for Chris to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Heather (Top) & Chris (Left) are roommates at Ohio State



*"Something is not quite right with these balls..."*

*- Lewis, Our Golden Retriever*

## A New Church Partner at OSU!

Written By Mike

Most of the time it takes several months and more often then not - a year or so- to get a church to a place where they feel confident about the CCO and ready to enter into a co-operative partnership to reach college students at a neighboring college campus. This was not the case with Indianola Church of

Christ. It was amazing to watch God bring all the pieces together to develop a new church cooperative partner for Ohio State in a matter of a few weeks! About a month and a half ago I began to have conversations with Josh Rodriguez who was doing campus ministry on his own part time and renting space from a local church. As Josh and I got talking about campus ministry, he became so impressed at the level of training,

supervision, direction, administration and care that the CCO offers both campus ministers and the local church for specifically college ministry. A week or so later Josh introduced me to

**"There has never been a need to explain the value of campus ministry or church investment in the community to CCO."**

**Pastor Sean Warren, Indianola Church of Christ**

Sean, that head pastor of the church which he was renting space from once a week. Our conversations where certainly filled with the Spirit. It

was clear that God had arranged so many things up to this point for us to find a common desire to serve together in an official partnership and for Josh to be given the opportunity to come on staff with the CCO. Within a matter of a few short weeks we pulled together a new church co-operative partnership... I am overjoyed both for the new church co-op and to have Josh coming on CCO staff this June!



Sean Warren, Pastor of Indianola Church of Christ

## April Showers

Written by Mike and Beth



The April showers came both in the literal sense and also in the figurative sense as the past month has showered us with many joy filled blessings. We have had many things we are thankful for over the past month and a few things we would like to lift up in prayer, please pray with us:

Father God, we thank you for...

- Mike's family coming into Columbus to celebrate Easter
- Beth's parents were able to find a condo in Columbus which they will be moving in to this summer
- Baby Mattes is continuing to grow well and Beth has been feeling well through the pregnancy
- The community garden we are able to be a part of and the friendships we are able to build with our neighbors
- Beth is helping and encouraging on of the women student leaders, Heather, as she begins to share her faith with her roommate, Chris.

- Positions Mike has been able to create the new church partnerships for the CCO in Ohio

Father God, we continue to pray for...

- Mike's cousin, Jimmy, as he continues to heal from a military tank accident and multiple surgeries on his arm
- Baby Mattes will continue to develop beautifully, gracefully each day and that Beth will continue to feel well
- Heather's roommate, Chris, may she give her life to Jesus
- That the OSU ministry may be able to raise up student leaders for the ministry's continued growth
- Mike as he continues to develop and work with "New Hires" in Ohio and preparing them for CCO Staff

Amen. Thank you for joining with us in bringing these requests before the Lord. Please continue to let us know how we can join with you in prayer. May God continue to bless you!

## Coming Up Short

Written by Mike

Though we ended our streak of breaking the 100% mark of our monthly goal, we are extremely thankful for every financial gift made this past month! And though we may have dropped 1% in our year-to-date goal, we are still overwhelmed with gratitude for the amount of financial support that has come in...

**THANK YOU!**

The amount that came in in April reflects the "normal" amount we trust to come in from those of you who give on a regular basis to our work with the CCO. We are very thankful for your steadfastness and your dependability, even in the midst of instability. We are very appreciative of your faithful donations...

**THANK YOU!**

It is a joy to see that we are only 7% away from reaching our overall annual support goal, though to keep ourselves moving further away from 100% we need to add additional monthly, quarterly and annual givers (we will even take the "one time" donations) to our team! So if you know anyone who might be willing to join our financial support team, please pass along our newsletter or send us their contact information - **Thank You!**

If you are interested in financially supporting our work in ministry with the CCO and at Ohio State. Here is how:

### Give Online:

Visit: <https://secured.ccojubilee.org/gifts/>  
 Select: Mattes, Mike & Beth

### Write a Check:

Payable to: Coalition for Christian Outreach  
 Check Memo: Mattes, Mike & Beth  
 Address: Coalition for Christian Outreach  
 5912 Penn Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3805

April	Amount (%)	Goal
Monthly Support	\$4,608 (88%)	\$5,250
Year-to-Date Support	\$39,232 (93%)	\$42,000

**Year (September 2008 - August 2009) goal is \$63,000**

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transforming college students to transform the world

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The CCO is an organization committed to transforming college students to transform the world. We accomplish this by partnering with churches, colleges and organizations to develop men and women who live out their Christian faith in

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