

From the Heart of John and Danielle Freed

Dear Friend,

Can you imagine a time in your life when you needed a friend? Maybe it was in a crisis moment and you needed a friend to step in for help and support, or possibly at a pivotal time when a decision had to be made and you needed a friend's wisdom. Perhaps you had something great happen in your life, and you wanted to share all the details with your friends. For Danielle and I we can see milestones in our life like our experience at IWU, Daybreak, our marriage, first ministry in Mukwonago, Wisconsin or those crazy first weeks of having our son Dean, and our friends support, advice and encouragement at these times were crucial and such a blessing. The letter we are writing you now is a specific note written for our friends to partner with us in our new calling.

As you may have heard this past year was an incredible year for Danielle and I. In January 2009, Danielle and I took a step of faith toward church planting. We spent an intense week of evaluation of our personal, spiritual and leadership abilities at the Wesleyan Church Assessment Center. This assessment process was to determine whether Danielle and I are cut out, ready, and called to church planting. After a long week, our assessment team gave us a high approval rating and the green light to begin seeking God's calling for church planting.

Not sure what God wanted to do with our lives we did not pursue church planting right away, but we did find out the week of that assessment we were going to have a baby! We were so excited about having Dean that we did not want to make any major changes in our ministry. However, God had a different plan.

Since day one, Danielle and I have been living out our calling to tell others about Jesus Christ. We have done this through mentoring, children's ministry, youth ministry, after school programs and in the relationships we make in every day life.

Some of you have benefited from this calling, and have seen with us lives changed with the message of hope, peace and love found only in Jesus Christ. I am sure we could share stories of specific people who God has brought into our path to meet Him. Danielle and I are not special, overly gifted nor do we have some type of super human ability, we just love people, and love to tell them about Jesus!

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Because of this calling, God started to stir our hearts for church planting. Over the summer of 2009 I personally wrestled with God about what church planting would mean to my family, about why I felt so unqualified for the task and about how raising our own funds was something I was simply scared to do. As the end of the summer, my calling to plant was evident in the books I read, conversations I had and desires I was having for the future.

I specifically remember when Dean was born and I was holding him in Riverview Hospital. It was the end of September and the changing of the season was in the air. As I held my new little boy, I made a promise to Dean that I would live to be a Dad that always followed God...even when it seemed crazy! I knew then and there, we were going to be planting a church.

Since that moment God has been opening doors and opening our heart to the spiritual climate of Noblesville, Indiana. God has put Noblesville, Indiana in our path in so many unplanned ways. When I wanted to ask Danielle to marry me on March 15, 2003 – I asked her at Forest Park in Noblesville. When we began searching for a place to have our wedding, we called churches and halls all over northern Indianapolis, but it was the Noblesville 4-H banquet halls that came available. In the spring of 2007, Danielle and I purchased our first home. It was a small home that was perfect for us, and was in Noblesville. Finally after researching all the hospitals in our area, we decided to have our son in Noblesville. For the first time in my life, I can say I have a hometown; my heart is in Noblesville, Indiana.

While Noblesville has been ranked one of the top 10 places to live in the US, the reality is Noblesville is searching for answers and is looking for hope. 53,000 people call Noblesville home, and of that number 40,000 do not attend a church anywhere and quite possibly do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Because of the rapid growth and drastic culture changes

to the area, many young families are no longer considering Jesus a source for answers, direction or for a worldview. They are sadly uninterested in the current established church.

What is most surprising to me is that in a city of 53,000 people only 12,000 people actually attend church. Of that 12,000, 60% (7000) are women, this then would leave only 5000 men in the entire city that go to church. Obviously, the message of Jesus Christ needs to be taken to the men of the Noblesville community. Over the past few months God has been opening many doors for this to happen. We have been so encouraged by the incredible opportunities we have had to share our vision with the leaders in the community and to hear their excitement for the influence this new church can have.

This new adventure for Danielle and I is one that is requiring great faith. We are writing you this letter to ask for your partnership in our journey. We are in desperate need of your friendship in two areas, prayer support and financial partnerships. Attached to this letter is a simple pledge card that we ask you would consider filling out to be a monthly financial partner with us in reaching people for Jesus Christ in Noblesville. Please understand that your partnership with us at this time is extremely meaningful to us. As we take this step of faith, knowing that our friends are with us and stepping out in significant financial support is a testimony to God's faithfulness. We feel that having you as a friend at this time in our life is not a coincidence, it is all a part of God's perfect plan for Noblesville, Indiana. Thank you ahead of time for your financial partnership. Please be sure to include your email address so that we can update you often of our progress both personally and as a church.

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The second area for partnership is through prayer. We are in desperate need of forming an army of prayer warriors. Every day we are meeting new people, sharing our vision with them and sharing the message of Jesus Christ. In these times we are in great need of the Holy Spirit's guidance, wisdom, counsel and power! Having your commitment to be on our prayer team is empowering to our journey. We invite you to join our team as a prayer warrior. We will be sure to update you weekly through Facebook or monthly through our emails about specific ways you can pray for our launch team and planning as we move forward. Also, we'd like to use this as a tool to be praying for you and your families needs as well!

- 1. Financial Partnerships*
- 2. Prayer Support*

Friends, please know this. We can't move forward without you! We would not have answered this calling to plant a church in Noblesville, Indiana if we didn't believe that this was God's calling for us. We have seen His hand already at work in our efforts and believe He is going to provide for our every need. Please join us in this journey!

Finally, thank you so much for your friendship! We send you this letter because throughout our life God has given us friends that we could turn to at this pivotal time. As you read this letter, please consider also passing it on to your friends who also may want to partner with us financially or in prayer support.

With much love,

John, Danielle and Dean Freed

