

The Murphy Letter

June 2010

A Mid-Life Transition

There is no midlife crisis here. Even though Sharon and I are both mid-life (Sharon at 29, me in my forties!) we are amazed at how fast the years have gone. We looked back at the years of ministry that God has blessed us with. It was August of 1977 that Sharon first had contact with an inner city ministry as a high school student. Later she spent time weekly in inner city Chicago before coming on as a full-time urban missionary in 1983! I came later, with my first exposure to the inner city coming in 1986 as a student making a weekly trek to Humboldt Park in Chicago. Full time ministry came for me in 1988. So combined we have been involved in some way with urban ministry for 24-30 years! We have also been looking ahead and realize that, God willing and if Jesus does not come back, we could be involved with inner city ministry for another 24-30 years! So we are at our mid point ministry-wise.

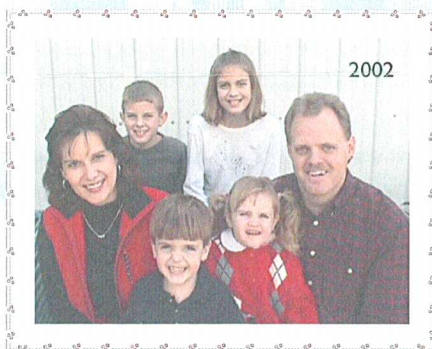
At this mid-point we took a long look at where we have been and where we would like to go. We did a thorough evaluation with a lot of prayer and heavy decision making. We have decided that I need to combine academic depth to all of the amazing hands-on experience in urban ministry. We want to use the next two years to prepare for the next 30! I will be entering a Master's program in Urban Studies at the Moody Seminary & Graduate School in Chicago this fall. The Master's Program will require a lot of time in Chicago, so I will be transferring back to Sunshine Gospel Ministries and working there while completing my graduate degree.

Sunshine
Gospel Ministries

It's All Sunshine

Those who have received our prayer letters for the last 8-9 years know that we first came back to Chicago to work at Sunshine Gospel Ministries in June of 2002. Sharon and I had previously gone to school and worked in Chicago, but the move from Charlotte, North Carolina was a big one. After living in Charlotte for over eight years the move was a radical change in weather, size of city, culture and the new ministry for us. We made the move this time with four kids which took a little bit more work.

We found in the ministry of Sunshine Gospel Ministries a great group of people to work with, an exciting mission and constant challenges. I was able to work as the Program Director for our Cabrini Green ministry before transitioning to the south side. The ministry made a move to the Woodlawn neighborhood where their office resides today. Sharon and I moved with the family to Elkhart so I could work at Sunshine's Camp in Union, Michigan. I was able to serve in that ministry for two years, one year back in the city and then on to Guidance Ministries in Elkhart. I am looking forward to renewing ties with the ministry in Chicago. They are at an exciting time of growth as they have established a presence in the neighborhood while expanding their technology outreach ministry, Bridge Builders ministry and children & youth outreach.



Contacting Us

We will maintain our address in Elkhart: 23618 Stonegate Ct Elkhart IN 46517. Through August 1 our ministry address will continue to be Guidance Ministries PO Box 1494 Elkhart IN 46515 and Sean's email is sean@guidanceministries.com. **Beginning in August** our ministry address will be Sunshine Gospel Ministries PO Box 377939 Chicago IL 60637 and Sean's email will be sean@sunshinegospel.org. Sharon's email is sharonmurphy6@gmail.com. Home phone is 574-875-0509. Sean's cell is 574-612-5973. Missionary financial support information is listed on the next page. Thanks for keeping track of all of our info!

Thank you everyone for your continued support!
Looking forward to seeing all of you again.
May God bless you all —

Family News

Typically Sharon or I write a little blurb about the kids so you know how they are growing and what they are doing. This month we decided to let them write a little something about themselves instead. Mostly without edit, here goes:



Hi, this is **Tiana**. I was in a talent show and I played the cello. I am so excited because there are three more days left of school! I am excited for all the things we are going to do this summer. We have VBS, tennis lessons and music lessons. I have been playing cello for about a year now. I can't wait to go back to school too (this fall) because I have an awesome teacher next year that I had two years ago. I am going to be moving to a new school for 5th and 6th graders. I will be in the sixth grade. I am not sure if I am going to be in orchestra or band. I might try to do both! I can't wait to be in sixth grade.



Hello, this is **Isaac**. I am in sixth grade now. I went on a class trip to Ox Bow park all day today and enjoyed it. I will be in pre algebra next year. I play the clarinet, i like it and think I am good at it. We are very close to summer break. I will be going into junior high next year. It is a brand new school and i will be (among) the first ones there. Next week I will also be starting in the youth group at church.



Hello, this is **Noah**. I just completed my junior year in High School. I got very good grades which will hopefully help me to get into college. I am looking forward to a one-week missions trip to Mexico in July. I will also be spending time this summer in Wisconsin as well as taking a summer government class. I just finished my third year of swimming at the high school (he got most improved swimmer on the team, editors note!) and plan on swimming again my senior year.



This is **Julissa**. I had an awesome year at Purdue University, studying Elementary Education. I made a lot of great friends and I can't wait to go back this fall for my Sophomore year! I am home for the summer and I am a full time nanny for a family at church, and I also work at Cici's Pizza. The money I earn this summer will go towards school. I am also very excited that I will be doing a five month study abroad program at the University of Bristol in England next spring semester!

Hi this is **Sharon**. This school year seems to have flown by! We made several trips to Purdue to visit Julissa and eat lunch with her and her friends. We enjoyed going to most of Noah's swim meets and Isaac and Tiana's concerts. We try to be involved in their daily activities as much as possible. I have worked at our church for over two years now and really enjoy what I do. I have worked at the junior high cafeteria for three years and look forward to seeing Isaac every day for lunch next year! We miss our long-distance family and friends and hope to visit some of you in the near future.

Thankful for our Financial Supporters!

It is so easy for us to get caught up in the busyness of life and family and ministry and soon months and years fly by! We then realize that we have not stopped enough to thank our financial supporters who God uses to sustain our family and this critical work in the inner city. Whether you have been giving for eight years or eight months or less, we appreciate you so much. You and your family are constantly on our minds and hearts. We do not take for granted what you sacrifice for us. We have always said that being on missionary support is a humbling experience and it is true. We are humbled by God's provision and the expression of your love for us.

We have sent a slightly different version of this letter to those who are currently not investing financially in our ministry. We are asking them to consider supporting us for the summer months or starting in September as we make the transition. We will need their support as well. Please pray that God would move some of them to join us.

We anticipate continuing on missionary status for the next two years. At that point we expect to go off missionary support but still be involved in urban ministry. We don't know what that will look like, but we know that our financial supporters have endured with us a long time! God may certainly change our plans but that is our expectation going into the future. Thank you in advance for hanging with us, Lord willing, for the next two years! God will reward your faithfulness and please know that we have been abundantly blessed by your giving.

Sending in Missionary Support

As we make the transition this summer, here is the schedule for making the changeover back to Sunshine Gospel: All tax-deductible financial support for our family needs to continue to be sent directly to Guidance Ministries (PO Box 1494 Elkhart IN 46515) *until August 1*. **After August 1** financial support checks should be sent to Sunshine Gospel Ministries PO Box 377939 Chicago IL 60637. PLEASE PUT MURPHY SUPPORT in the memo section of your check or enclose a note. Special gifts (non regular, occasional) can still be sent directly to us at 23618 Stonegate Ct Elkhart IN 46517 as they come up. Those gifts would not be tax-deductible. God is so faithful and we give praise to Him!