

# January 2012 Table Talk

As you go, be the church and multiply!



## Message from the Elders:

### The One Thing

The Table has four values we have focused on since the beginning: Truth and Meaning, Worship and Identity, Authentic Community and Missional Journey. They seem like four very different aspects of the life of a Christ follower, and because we're products of modernity and the West, we like to categorize them as if they were one more choice we get to make in our lives. I like the Bible, but I don't like being in community. I like to worship but I'm not a missionary. There's one thing that connects all four values and makes each and every one important to a believer. One thing that makes them required instead of optional. That one thing is *discipleship*.

Discipleship, for ourselves and others, involves each one of these values. God's Word is the basis for the teaching that shows us what it means to be transformed into the image of Christ. A disciple is taught by God's truth. A disciple has a place to serve in God's kingdom and learning to use our gifts and serve is an act of worship. Disciples need one another to be challenged, to be held accountable for actually living out our faith. This can't be done outside of community. Disciples share the Good News they've discovered. This requires being equipped to share and learning to take advantage of the opportunities God creates for us to share our faith as we help others.

You see, the one thing that ties all our values together is discipleship. The process of being a good disciple is worked out through all our values and isn't effective without engaging all of them. Or another way to look at this is a good disciple will demonstrate in their life all four values.

Which comes first, I don't know. Did the chicken come before the egg? I just know you can't have one without the other.

Geoff Hartt  
*Stafford Community*

## Ministry Spotlight:

### God Still Moves

One of our favorite songs, "God still moves", is very meaningful to Loy and me. Not only do we enjoy singing the harmony and lyrics by Steve and Annie Chapman, but the message comes through loud and clear. God still moves - through the hearts of the people, He does not sleep nor does He slumber.

I started having severe cough and post nasal drip last March. Many times you as a body of the Table, came and prayed for me. I went through three series of antibiotics and each time I started feeling better but once I went off the meds the cough and post nasal drip returned with greater severity. It was frustrating to say the least and it had a negative impact on my life. I wondered what was God up to? It seemed like I was doomed to have this adversity for ever. My doctor had returned in July/August from breast cancer and recommended I see an allergist and ENT doctor. I passed all the allergy tests and went to the ENT. The doctor checked a lot of things but found nothing wrong. He decided to order an MRI scan of my sinus as he could not see anything wrong by visual examination.

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Within a few days, I received a call from the neurosurgeons office wanting to schedule a consultation. I did not understand what was going on but later received a call from my doctor explaining that I had a pituitary tumor. What a shock this was. The MRI also revealed that I had a mucocele in my right frontal sinus. So this is what God wanted us to know. Only through the adversity of cough and post nasal drip did this drive Loy and I to seek medical advice, advice that directed ENT to order MRI scan.

The week of my scheduled surgery, a couple from our campus asked if they could arrange a prayer night to cover Loy, me and the operation in prayer as well as the laying on of hands and anointing us with oil. What a blessed evening that was! I'm sure all of us left that meeting touched by God's love. The next morning, a day before my surgery, I received a call from my chief neurosurgeon saying my surgeon wasn't able to perform the surgery. He was recommending a referral to OHSU. In the eleventh hour God moved. The OHSU surgery team was able to remove the tumor and also investigate and open my frontal sinus to allow proper drainage and prevent further growth of mucoceles. Praise God.

Loy and I have felt your prayers through this episode in our life. In fact, some of you arrived on our doorstep in angel's footsteps. You see, last Tuesday, I became very chilled. Within minutes, Heidi stopped by to deliver a meal. I was stressed and fearful to the point of tears and our dear sister prayed. She left and within a few more minutes, Jason stopped by to deliver a meal, and to serve us in any way. Again I was overcome with emotion and tears and our dear brother prayed. I really needed God's touch at that time. I was scared. A trip to the ER next day revealed an infection in my blood and bladder. God still moves.

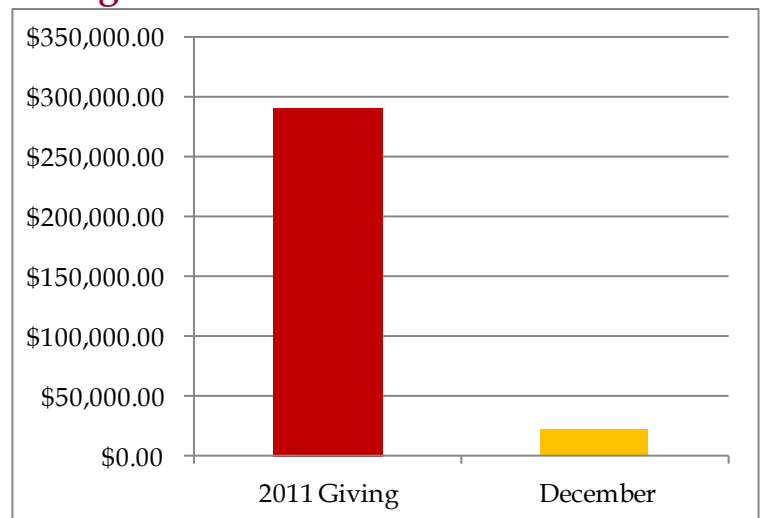
Thank you for blessing us with your prayers and support during this time. You rock!

Bernie Pehrson  
Vancouver Community

### Prayer & Praise

- We continue to praise God for the sale of the North property!
- We owe \$3,000 less on the existing loan than we had originally estimated. Praise God!
- Please pray for Vancouver's continued work in the ACE community.
- Rachel Dupont shared a great story with us last month about God's work in the artisan community of Forest Grove. Please pray for His continued work through this group.

### Giving:



2011 GIVING: \$291,117.67 DECEMBER GIVING: \$22,940.00

#### THE TABLE OFFICE

23215 SW Newland Rd ~ Wilsonville, OR 97070

Phone: 503-638-5426

Website: [www.thetablepdx.com](http://www.thetablepdx.com)

