



Getting Older, Cutting Back, Yet Expanding

The Lord's recently brought Jan and me a huge blessing. AND a real challenge -- isn't it true that often those two go together?! So we thank the Lord for the *blessing* and pray for help in the *challenge!*

Here's what's happening. At the very time at my age I'm thinking of how to cut back some of my travel, the Lord seems to open doors for a remarkable *expansion* of my ministry. BUT through others!

The spiritual needs of North America as a mission field continues to be serious -- even growing. Our greatest needs at MNA persists -- more laborers for the harvest...church planters. My ministry on seminary campuses to identify and invest in potential church planters remains both needed and very productive.

But it is also time for me seriously to consider less travel.

So...in his providence, the Lord has recently unearthed a number of men who are very interested in essentially doing part-time what I've been doing on the seminaries in their cities. Thus, I'm in discussions that could well lead to this kind of ministry in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Charlotte and Orlando. In fact, Harrison Spitler in Charlotte and Drew Bennett in Central Florida have already joined our staff, part-time, to develop church planting communities on their respective campuses.

The potential of having committed church planter 'developers' at seminaries in each of these cities excites me! My role thus will begin to shift more from "*doing*" this ministry to enabling, coaching, advising and helping *others* do this ministry. And I would continue regular presence at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis where we live.

So, thank the Lord with us that he seems to want to expand what I'm doing through other men around the country. Thank him for this new interest!

The challenges? On the one hand, pray for wisdom as we continue these discussions and as decisions are made by these quality men about whether to add this ministry part-time to their already full plates. I'm also discovering that training others costs money and time. Pray for the extra resources necessary during this period and for strength for the extra travel this training will bring, this fall and next spring.

So many of you have prayed for us and given to make this ministry possible.

And that means more than you know! In this new chapter, we still need you praying...and for some of you, giving. You can do that [here](#).

Talk about growing and feeling old, the last weekend of May I officiated the wedding of our first grandchild to marry! What fun!

I suppose I am therefore truly an ole geezer. And the Lord continues to bless my ministry. And now at this stage, he seems to be ready to expand it through others. Thank him with us and pray for all this to take root.

Jan and I continue to do well physically. And we're still in love after 53 years!

We appreciate and love you!

Let me know what you think. Or if you want to talk about this, church planting, or anything.

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