



October 11, 2009

First, thank you so much for supporting our family financially as we have been planting Ridge Church in Knoxville, Tennessee over the past 15 months. As we say constantly, we believe that God brought us back to Tennessee after ministering in other cities for the past 9 years. We never thought God would call us back to Knoxville, but He did! He also called us to do something difficult and risky, planting Ridge Church.

We have learned much about ourselves from the church planting assessments and conferences that we have been part of. We have learned even more about ourselves and about God from the experience of planting Ridge Church. After more than a year of healthy, God-honoring ministry with the people of North Knoxville, God called us in mid-September to fold our church fellowship into a new church plant, OneLife Church. OneLife meets in Powell, a suburb northwest of Knoxville just a few miles from our previous ministry area in Fountain City.

I met Rodney Arnold, the lead pastor of OneLife, over a year ago. At the time, I was networking with all the Knoxville church planters I could find. One of the guys I met suggested I talk with Rodney, who was in the planning process of launching OneLife while Emily and I were getting started with The Ridge. Rodney and I met and chatted via email and had lunch at Cracker Barrel. It was a great connection, but I never realized that he would one day be my boss!

This summer, God began to gently guide Emily and me in some ways that we never expected. He began showing us that although our ministry in Fountain City as part of Ridge Church was healthy and honoring to Him, He had other plans for both our family and our church family. This guidance from God was backed up with much prayer and thought, as well as the wise words of several trusted coaches and advisers.

In praying and thinking through our future in ministry, we re-connected with Rodney and OneLife Church. On "off week" Sundays when we were not having our own worship gatherings, Ridge Church attended both of the "preview services" of OneLife Church, and Emily and I realized that OneLife was where God wanted us to be. OneLife, as we've told people several times, is pretty much exactly what we wanted for Ridge Church's future. I met with Rodney and proposed to him that Ridge Church fold into OneLife. He agreed to welcome us and our people with "no strings attached" and no promise of a ministry position for me. Although Emily and I had no way to know what God was up to, we knew this was His plan for us. So, we announced to our people on September 13th that Ridge Church would be folding into OneLife. On September 20th, their second weekly worship service, we officially folded into OneLife Church.

As only God can do, He had been preparing the hearts of our Ridge Church people for this transition. When we announced the changes, our folks took it so well we knew that God was at work sovereignly preparing the way. The Ridge Church people have been great! Almost all of them have already gotten involved in serving at OneLife. Many of them love kids and are now serving in the children's ministry area of the new

OneLife Church, PO Box 1763, Powell, TN 37849

church. This has been awesome, as OneLife had more kids than they expected to have this early and needed some quality help in that area!

Since there was no staff position available for me in September at OneLife, Emily and I were committed to serving as missionaries to Knoxville and serving the local church in any way we could. Soon after Ridge Church joined OneLife, Rodney created the position of Connections and Care pastor and asked me to oversee that ministry. This is a great ministry fit for me! My job is to guide people who need a relationship with Jesus to connect with Him. I am also responsible for helping people who are new to OneLife to connect with the OneLife body. My role also includes counseling people who are having trouble in their spiritual, emotional, social, or physical lives.

Emily and I are enjoying our new church family at OneLife! God has done some amazing things already—six people have started relationships with Christ in just the first five weekly worship services! We are already planning our first baptism service for these new Christ-followers. Also, Emily and I are planning our first Connection Lunch on November 1st for all the people who have begun attending OneLife over the past month. Things are very exciting and God is certainly at work!

God has used all of you, our prayer and financial supporters, to allow us to live here in Knoxville and “pay the bills” while we have been engaged as church planters. Your financial support, in addition to my pay at the HoneyBaked Ham Store, has made a way for us to get by financially. God has now graciously shown us a new place where we are continuing to serve in church plant ministry at OneLife Church. This means we will continue to need your financial support to make ministry possible! All OneLife staff members will work part time through at least 2010 and raise financial support to pay the bills. In order to serve as a member of the church staff, I need to work fewer days each week at the HoneyBaked Ham Store. Emily and I need to raise more financial support to make that work for our young family.

Emily, Chloe and I are asking you to support our ministry at OneLife. If you are a current financial supporter, we ask that you begin sending your financial gifts to OneLife starting as soon as possible. If you are not a current financial supporter, will you consider becoming a financial supporter on a monthly basis, or with a special financial gift if monthly support is not possible right now?

All financial gift checks should be made payable to OneLife Church and mailed to the P.O. Box below. Please enclose a note indicating that the gift is intended as financial support for us so that it is credited to our account. Also, please let us know that you have sent financial support so that we may thank you for it! OneLife Church will send you regular giving receipts and yearly statements for tax purposes.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Thankful for you and serving in Jesus' name,

Kevin, Emily, and Chloe Layne

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