



May 6, 2010

From the Elders...

Over the last several months, the church family at Valley Real Life has been consistently praying for God's leading in seeking the man He has prepared to lead our congregation as Senior Pastor. Last Sunday, Nathan Rector (campus pastor at The Crossing, in Quincy, Illinois) came to speak to our congregation. During the week leading up to last Sunday, there were numerous meetings with Nathan involving the elders, the staff and also the leaders from Real Life Ministries in Post Falls. The responses from all of these meetings were overwhelmingly positive, as were the many comments after Nathan's message to our congregation last Sunday.

After careful consideration and much prayer on the part of the elders as well as on the part of Nathan and his wife Jayme, we have all come to agree that God is calling Nathan to be our Senior Pastor at Valley Real Life. As a result, this week we have officially asked Nathan to come serve in this important role, and he has agreed to do so. Details of this transition are yet to be worked out, but we hope to have Nathan, Jayme and their children here with us by the beginning of July.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who are a part of our great fellowship and who have diligently prayed for God's direction. We have greatly appreciated your patience through this process and state without hesitation that your prayers have been an essential factor in God bringing us together with Nathan. All of this began with the reestablishing of our priorities to reach the world for Christ one person at a time through the process of relational discipleship. As we began the search for a pastor we agreed on three priorities. We believed that first it needed to be someone wholly committed to relational discipleship by connecting people to God and to each other through small groups. Secondly, it needed to be someone who had the leadership and pastoral skills needed to be a part of our remarkable staff. And thirdly, we believed he needed to be an effective communicator from the pulpit. Nathan's background and experience led us to conclude that he would readily satisfy our first priority. During our week of discussions it became very apparent that Nathan had the pastoral and leadership qualities we were seeking. And finally, last Sunday Nathan's message to our congregation confirmed to all of us that Nathan certainly communicates God's word with passion and effectiveness. We believe that in Nathan Rector God has brought just the right man to come and serve with us in the great work God is doing through His people at Valley Real Life.

Praise God for his faithfulness to us. To God be the glory.

Dean Byrns, Ed Palacio and Scott Sparley
Valley Real Life Elders