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What I have to report for October doesn't differ too much from the report I gave in September. We are still gathering weekly in my home and walking through a study on The Gospel-Centered Life. We are discussing several vital terms that will help us grow in our understanding of God, one another, and the Church. Topics include: repentance, faith, forgiveness, and idolatry.

In this report, I want to share two things. One being a prayer request and the other being content from a post I shared from our church website, breaking down what exactly we are doing in this phase.



First off, I would envy your prayers as I am approaching what seems to be an opportunity to share the Gospel with a next door neighbor. I have been building a relationship with Matthew since we moved in back in June, but that was interrupted when he was sent off to military school over the Summer. He has been away for most of the semester but has had a few weekends at home here and there. It seems that he is nearing the end of his time there and was hired at a local restaurant over the weekend. We've had some very valuable conversations over the last few weeks and a door seems to be opening for me to have some more intentional and in-depth conversations with him. Matthew is a tender kid, but has been in quite a bit of trouble over the years. I really believe the Lord is going to save him. I want and have a great desire to see Matt come to Christ and grow as a follower of Jesus. Would you pray?

Here are three things going on right now at Grace Harbor:

We are Gathering. Each week at 5pm, our team is gathering to eat, study, and pray with and for one another. A vital part of the local church is the gathering of it. We passionately believe in the church in a universal sense. One that is, in many ways, not visible by a tangible expression but by the movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people in their homes, jobs, and lives. But we also are convinced that the universal church is represented and best learned about and understood through the local church gathering and the proclamation of God's Word, the Bible. Through the Holy Spirit, God reveals Himself to us powerfully through the testimony and presence of other people who have been changed. So, we gather. We gather joyfully to do these things together at a set time each week, and then sporadically as a growing community of friends throughout the week.

We are Growing. Our group of 10 that started just 6 weeks ago has now grown to 14. We are amazed and ecstatic about this growth for many reasons. First of all, because we prayed for it. At our first gathering on September 10, we casted a vision that by December 10, we desire to multiply the one group we have into an additional group. Another reason we are excited about this is actually wrapped up in the first reason I shared: we desire for the growth we experience in this season to be absolutely organic. This explains why our online presence and activity has been more scarce. Our hope in this season is that we will be intentional about meeting people(face-to-face), building relationships, sharing our faith, and seeing fruit and growth from those things. It also frees us up to trust God with growth and rejoice the much more when we see it! This has been really good for us. In more ways than I have time to share here. Through this, we are also growing as a team. We are discussing and addressing things that are painful at times, but are very beneficial for us. We are finding creative ways to share and further develop the vision we have for Grace Harbor and are having a blast!

We are Preparing. We are making the very most of this phase of planting a church. In fact, I would be totally willing to stay right here in this phase for a very long time. I never thought I would say that or feel that way, but it is true. But I also know it's not where we will always be. We are constantly preparing our group for the days when change happens. We have already experienced some of those days. As comfortable and as much fun as we are having, we have to constantly be mindful that God is doing more things in and around us than we could ever recognize. The reason why we prepare is because we know that God is faithful and will save those around us who are lost. As we continue to share good news with our lost neighbors, He will save them! We desire to be place where people can step into and grow. We are talking to and preparing our group for what our vision boils down to: multiplication of disciples, multiplication of groups, and multiplication of churches.

Thanks for praying for us and with us!