

THE FOLSOM
VIEW

“...HAVING THE EYES OF YOUR HEART ENLIGHTENED...” EPHESIANS 1:18

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING AT 900 E. NATOMA, FOLSOM, CA 95630

May God Go With You

As you surely know by now, Nathanael, Misty and Ezekiel May will be leaving for Oregon on Thursday to begin working with the church in Tualatin. Personally, I've always felt that a move like this was inevitable for the family. Nathanael's considerable talent and, more importantly, his enthusiasm for the word of God, seemed destined to propel him to preach regularly for a local church somewhere, should a reasonable offer come his way. That offer came and they are on their way.

As I said last Sunday night, I believe Nathanael, with the support of Misty, can't help but preach. In I Cor. 9:16, Paul said, "for necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" I believe that Nathanael is in the category of preachers who identify with Paul. Any preacher worthy of the name identifies with Paul; it's not a job — it's compulsion. It's not really a choice. Pay or no pay, in season, out of season, we have to preach.

So I applaud Nathanael and Misty for taking up this challenge. I have talked to so many young men over the years who state a desire to preach, but never get around to it. There is always a reason why they can't make the move "at this time."

Nathanael and Misty are well aware of the challenges inherent in being a "full-time preacher." Both have been around preachers all their lives. Nathanael's father, Dan, is a preacher. Nathanael is aware that there is a difference between preaching and being a preacher. When you preach on occasion, you present a lesson and then scoot out of town. No worries. When you're "the preacher," there's nowhere to hide. That's why, if possible, you choose the group you will work with almost as carefully as you chose your spouse. You look for a "good fit."

I have all the confidence in the world that Nathanael and Misty will thrive in the role, under the eldership at Tualatin. In the years he's been

here, I have been impressed with Nathanael's willingness to learn and his commitment to the truth, regardless of where it leads him. On the very few occasions when we have differed on an issue or a text, he has been a gracious and thoughtful listener to a different point of view. And he's made me think as well. He's one of the few with whom I can seriously "talk shop" with and I've enjoyed those occasions.

We're all aware of Nathanael's acute sense of humor. He has entertained us in various settings, from the little asides while leading singing to comedy routines while hosting the holiday party. I'm tempted to say to him, "you've decided to preach and you've got a sense of humor; that's great because you're going to need it," and I would only be kidding a little. If I've learned anything in my 62 years, it is to not take myself too seriously. A sense of humor, first about your own shortcomings, will save you from a boatload of stress.

We're going to miss this family, *a lot*. Though they have been absent on many Sundays, due to preaching appointments, that has not affected their commitment to the work here. They have taught classes, hosted classes in their home, been instrumental in helping with the young people's meetings and been personally involved with people who need help.

It will be strange without them. There will be a void. Misty has been here ten years and the family has become an integral part of the family. It'll be hard to see them go.

But the cause is a good one and we wish them all the best. "Vaya con Dios" is that beautiful Spanish phrase that means "Go with God." We believe that they will go with God, and we pray that God will be with them in all they do for the Lord in the coming years.

Bible Class Teaching Profile

Name: _____

I would like to (please circle all that apply):

Teach a class

Assist in a class

Learn to teach

**I am willing to teach the following age groups (please circle all that apply).
Indicate the age groups you *prefer* to teach with a checkmark (✓).**

18 months

1st Grade

Jr. High (6th – 8th Grade)

2 year olds

2nd Grade

High School (9th – 11th Grade)

3 year olds

3rd Grade

College Age (12th – mid 20's)

4 year olds

4th Grade

New Converts

Preschool

5th Grade

Adult

Kindergarten

I can teach during the following quarters (please circle all that apply):

Fall (October – December)

Winter (January – March)

Spring (April – June)

Summer (July – September)

I would like to help with the following (please circle all that apply):

Train teachers

Design and develop curriculum

Serve on the Bible Class Committee

Make changes to or "revamp" existing curriculum

Research curriculum (materials for purchase)

Word process some curriculum items

Make copies of some curriculum items

Help color or draw some curriculum items