



# December News | 2024

## Reflections 10 Years in Ministry series #6

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### The Main Event

10 years of: Grace - Growth - Grateful

Coming together to celebrate and commemorate 10 years with our Mission Experience family was truly life giving. It was amazing to look back on the roads both literal and figurative that we've traveled together in the last decade.

Seeing the growth of both our ministry and our kids in physical, emotional and spiritual stature is a testament to God's hand at work amid a chaotic world.

For me the preparation for this banquet was intertwined and wrapped up in the busy whirlwind that has been the ins-and-outs of everyday life. The celebration service & banquet flew by, and I was left the following Sunday morning reflecting. The sermon at the service I attended touched on Luke 10 and the concept of "missing the big event"

Martha is caught up with all of the to dos of life meanwhile Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to his teachings.



I've heard this passage preached on many times before, but it had never hit me quite as it did this time. The preacher poured over Mary sitting at

Jesus' feet while Martha scurries about consumed with the burdens of her day. The emphasis was placed on Mary's posture before The Lord. Mary wasn't just a groupie or a fangirl if you will caught up in Star-struck daze shirking on her responsibilities while her temporary infatuation

captured her attention which is how Martha may have seen it. No. In this recounting of history Jesus IS everything to Mary and being in his presence is life. Period.

So, I was left with the humbling truth that I'm often a Martha in this story, as we all tend to be. Missing the main event. Anxious and worried about what the future will bring, about problems at work, about things entirely outside of my control. All the while Jesus is right here.

The time we spent together at the celebration service and the banquet was time in the presence and at the feet of Jesus soaking in the main event - the giver of Life.

"But the Lord answered, "[insert your name here twice; once so you know He's talking to you and a second time, so you know he cares for you in your time of distress] you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41-42 ESV [my emphasis]

Whether in the midst of the chaos and confusion that can be life here in the US or the chaos and confusion that is life in Haiti most days - Jesus is the good portion family - may we choose him over and over again and may He always be our main event.



With Love, Kailee Duryea,  
Assistant Marketing Director



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# The Tenth Anniversary Celebration was a huge success!

Thank you to all of you who came, bid at the auction, or donated.

The day started with a fantastic celebration led by Ellie and an excellent music team. This was followed by inspiring and challenging messages from Pastor Christian Wood from Hales Corners Lutheran Church in Hales Corners, WI, and Pastor David Baumgartner from Pinecrest Community Church in Parker, CO.

Then, board member Steve Fedewa shared about our years of ministry together. It was encouraging, challenging, and uplifting.

The evening banquet was at Denver Zoo, which made for a fantastic setting with the wild lights turned on throughout the zoo at night. The evening event started with an auction, a delicious meal, and a lighthearted time as comedian Tal Saucerman had everyone laughing. After dinner, the Staff and Board members were honored. (This will be shared in the January newsletter).

Next, we saw a fantastic tenth-anniversary video created by Norman Ramdohr and Triple Square Productions. It included pictures and videos of our ten years of ministry together. We plan to make this available soon on a private YouTube channel so others can view it. We will send out the link once this has been done.

Over the last ten years, we have been on quite a journey! We celebrated God's goodness over the years and mourned the loss that we have also experienced.

The event wrapped up with Coach Gary Kubiak sharing with us. He stood up, immediately laid down his notes, and said now that he had realized that we were all just ordinary people here, he would like to take it from his heart. He talked about the difficult times he had experienced throughout his football career and how he kept persevering even through the tough times. At one point, he said, "Mike, I can think of a hundred things I would come back to Denver to attend to speak at, but I would never have expected this."

It was fun and good to see friends we had not seen in years since we have had to delay our team trips. We missed all of you who could not make it. We are excited to see God's continued work through our ministry together. Pastor Mike



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