

the garden report *September 8, 2011 Kevin & Amy Edlefson Fond du Lac, WI*

Seasons of Ministry

You can feel it in the air - cooler weather, school bells ringing and everywhere you look the sea of green and gold announces a new beginning – the Packers kick off the new season tonight! Summer has been a busy time of outreach once again. Two summer interns (Rick, for June only, and Andy all summer) were given chances to join us in mission through worship leading, prayer walking and involvement in our church and community. Our kids market days at the Farmer's Market drew 120-150 kids every month – doing crafts, jumping in our bounce house and winning prizes in a scavenger hunt through the Farmer's Market. Vendors and patrons alike enjoyed what we had to bring as sponsors of this weekly community event.

Fall brings new opportunities, starting with Fondue Fest this weekend. We are once again sponsoring the kids zone area, with our bounce house, crafts, story times and contests for kids and adults. Then our Fall Kickoff will happen on the 18th – an outdoor worship gathering in the park followed by a picnic and one last time of family fun as we move from the Farmer's Market and Fondue Fest to our own backyard. We've been out in the community meeting people where they are, now we hope to welcome them into our own space and life together following Jesus. Then we will celebrate our 2nd anniversary October 9th.

Figs and Fish Nets

We've seen people at each stage of growth – inquisitive seekers who are still unsure about Jesus and church, but still coming and asking questions, those disconnected from the faith for many years coming back and growing, people who are completely new to the Bible and life following Jesus and others who are moving into maturity and leadership. Now we need to see more at each stage of growth!

At a recent vision team meeting, we discussed Jesus' parable of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9) and the miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11). We are at a crossroads. Outside funding is dropping away quickly and we have yet to develop a core that can bear the full load. We face hard questions ahead. What is our one-year plan for digging around the roots and helping the tree to bear fruit? Where is Jesus telling us to cast our nets? It's been a long three years. Weary and tired as we may be at times, we remain obedient to Jesus' direction and know that only in him can we be fruitful. Your prayers and support at this time are greatly appreciated, dear partners in the gospel (Phil. 1:3-6). Pray for wisdom and for effective witness.

For the display of His splendor!

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Praises

- great participation for our **Kids Market days**.
- **new faces** and a more established network in town.
- our **summer interns** and what they gave and received.
- **learning opportunities** for me (D.Min. class in June) and Amy (teacher's certification).
- **rest & renewal** through August getaways.

Prayer Points:

- **transformed lives and numeric growth**.
- **Fondue Fest conversations & Fall Kickoff connections**.
- **more partners in ministry and renewed strength and encouragement** for our core volunteers.
- **for our family** in a new season as Amy & the kids get back into school rhythms.