

## Prayer Requests

and stuff we are waiting for God to provide

That **our hearts are open and ready** as God moves, especially when the silver bullet job opportunity shows up in His timing, and that it comes with spot lights, neon signs, and fireworks so that we don't miss it. Is there a silver bullet job?

**Clear discernment** as we listen to the Lord's voice for what assignments and jobs to take, what to turn down, and where we should be on a day to day basis. That we would listen & hear well, so that we do not accept jobs that would serve to become **distractions**, that might cause us to miss God's true plan and purpose for us. This goes hand-in-hand with praying that **God would meet our financial obligations** as we walk, following his instructions day-by-day for our lives.

For God to provide **mentoring relationships** to help us in the mission He has called us to. Freedom Ministries, Prayer & Healing ministries, house parents, foster parents, and areas that God knows we need training in.

God to **grow our spiritual gifts**, talents, abilities, and those of our team, so we are better equipped to follow His plan.

**Pray for our kids...** those we are working with now, and those we will work with in the future. We need God to intervene on their behalf to bring them safety, love, peace, encouragement, healing, and eventually justice in some cases.

**The Jeep has 236,000 miles on it**, needs a wheel bearing & a new front drive shaft & bushings along with some other stuff. Our goal of nursing her to 300k might give way if God see's fit to provide a **Dodge Durango or Kia Sedona** to take it's place. A seven passenger, all wheel drive, 6 or 8 cylinder (16+ city mpg), haul anything, go anywhere, people mover. Dark color that won't show dirt. Perhaps equipped for class III towing w/electric brake unit. We're also asking God to add a second car to the family: something in the 30+mpg, 4 to 5 door sedan family.

Pray for God to open doors & provide the means for our eventual **dream to start a year round girls camp** to address these issues.

Praise God for all the friends who have invited us over for lunch or dinner and for those who have brought over meals. You guys have been amazing. Thank you for letting us share what God is doing. You are joining with us in this ministry!!



*The LORD takes care of the godly. They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have plenty. - Ps. 37:17*



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Photo taken 2005, on a North Carolina mountain road

We are working to create a mailing list of families who want to support us in prayer and who would like to receive monthly or quarterly updates about what God is doing in us and through us. To add your name, please e-mail your mailing address to [Wired@DrewandTracey.com](mailto:Wired@DrewandTracey.com) and we'll include you. You can also reach us at 484-748-0008.

[facebook.com/Drew.Cope](https://www.facebook.com/Drew.Cope) & [facebook.com/Tracey.Cope](https://www.facebook.com/Tracey.Cope)

*Four years ago, God made it clear that He had a plan. But for now, He's only allowing us to see from here to the next bend.*

## Drew and Tracey Cope February 2011 Newsletter

I [will] instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.

Proverbs 4:11-12



Photo from 2009 youth hiking trip in Jim Thorpe

**Thank you for your interest in supporting  
God's plan in our lives.**

For the past nine years, Tracey and Drew have been pouring their lives into average, everyday, middle class teenagers who appear to have great lives on the outside, but who are falling apart, both emotionally and spiritually, on the inside. Most of these teens are bruised by messy divorces, angry/abusive alcoholic parents, and/or sexual abuse. They may also have self worth, abandonment, insecurity, and identity issues which often trace back to unhealthy relationships with their fathers.

God has placed His heart inside of us for these teens. Now we are waiting for Him to reveal where we are to do this ministry as we move forward, and how He is going to provide financially for us as we love His children.

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty (you gotta be close). This we declare of the LORD: He alone is our refuge, our place of safety; He is our God and we are trusting Him.

Psalms 91



Photo taken 2004, on Route 10 south of 926

*We loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well. - 1 Thess 2:8*

**“Do not take advantage of the widow, the orphan or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to [the LORD and He] will certainly hear their cry. — Exodus 22:22**

## Where have we been?

Both of us were helping hurting teen friends in high school. We studied youth ministry, psychology and sociology at Eastern University. We've spent the last 9 years working as youth pastors programming youth services, small group curriculum, leader training, as well as trips & events for up to 300 students. In our free time we've been substitute teaching, working at school sporting events, running an Ultimate Frisbee league each summer and making repairs on the fixer-upper house we bought in 2003. In May 2010, God put all of that on hold and brought our lives into laser focus & our youth ministry calling into crystal clarity.

- **February 2007**, God spoke the word "House Parent" to Tracey.
- **Summer 2008**, God tells Drew it's time to quit running PADA's Chester County Ultimate Frisbee Summer League after 5 years at the helm. We made 2009 our last season year.
- **January 2009**, a woman prophesied, "in 12 to 18 months, your job description is going to change. You need to be open to what God wants to do next. Don't box God in to what you've done the past 8 years. He's about to shake things up. You are going to be doing something completely different than what you are doing right now."
- **March 2010**, Drew received an unsolicited e-mail from a distant friend regarding a job opening for "house parents" at the Milton Hershey School. He also, incidentally, started to have conversations with Pastor Mike about the type of youth ministry that we like to do, discussing our passion for investing our lives in world of hurt kids.
- **May 2010**, We encountered the most extreme case of a hurting teenager that we'd ever seen and at the father's request, welcomed them into our home. God prepared us, and equipped us to help this teen, to love them, to care for them, & to coach the parents in helping with the healing process. Our pastor granted a 3 month sabbatical from our positions at the church to pursue this ministry.
- **July 2010**, God woke Drew up in the middle of the night saying, "Stick with the plan of going back to work in September. It won't exactly play out that way, but base your plans on that for now."
- **September 2010**, We met with leadership to discuss God's call on our lives, and the direction of the church and make the decision to follow God towards being House Parents. We spent September & October finishing projects at the church and a God given severance period researching this & applying to Milton Hershey School. It was spoken over us to make our house a sanctuary, to remain local, to rest, to dream big, and to write a plan for how it would work.
- **January 2011**, Milton Hershey declined our applications for employment. We finished our renovations, took some odd jobs, shoveled snow & prayed several teens through a variety of issues.

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. - Psalms 37:23

## How is God moving?

In everything we've done during high school, college, and in the past 9 years at the church, we were the most happy, the most fulfilled, and the most passionate when we were working with *our kids*; those from messy divorces, angry alcoholic parents, the abused, and those with daddy issues. God revealed to us some other God-given gifts, talents & abilities that previously, we didn't know we had as we invited a teen into our home this summer. God broke our hearts and we cried so many times over this child's pain and the pain of other teenagers like them. We simply couldn't go back to ordinary, program based, event based youth ministry. We wouldn't be happy knowing there are other kids like them who need the type of environment we were privileged to be able to create for this teen, to help them heal.

We've spent the first part of 2011 finalizing our home renovations. After 6 years in a stark white house, we've finally painted things, hung photos up, and bought curtains and blinds to help keep the heat in and the cold out. This didn't make much sense in the natural, not working and all, but God was very specific with Drew, "Spend the money: go buy the curtains." We are taking that to mean that it must be important for this place to look nice, that it is to be a sanctuary for us, and the kids who will stay here. He told us to write a newsletter, continue to share the vision he has given us and to trust him. **In the last 8 weeks....**

- a woman prayed for us at God's direction, and then the Holy Spirit gave us a word for her granddaughter. We worked with her to address feelings of **worthlessness, unforgiveness**, and repercussions from **sexual abuse** and daddy issues. Her family noticed an immediate change. Praise God!!
- a single dad invited us over for dinner. Before leaving we asked how we could pray for them. His teenage daughter spent 6 minutes sharing a pain in her heart she hadn't expressed before. We invested 2 hours talking and praying with her to break off lies she had believed about being **stupid** and **worthless** after **receiving a hurtful word** when she was younger. She's doing well.
- A woman had us over for lunch. Her teenage daughter came home, we started talking, and she expressed concerns that she was a nice person, but found it surprising how **critical thoughts** raced through her head all the time. We invited her mom to help us pray this **generational** issue off of her daughters life. Fruit is showing!
- We have met a few times with a young woman who has **PTSD** from **abuse** she suffered as a pre-teen. We've prayed through several issues and offered her love, support & a caring ear. Pray for her.
- God opened the door for us to have a conversation with a **12 year old seer**, who visually perceives spiritual things; angels, demons, emotional & spiritual baggage, etc. We are discerning with her how she is to grow this gift and what role we play in that.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do the good works He prepared in advance for us to do - Eph 2:10

## How is God moving? - continued

- We had dinner with a young adult couple and after dinner, she brought up an issue she had with **comparing** herself, and trying to measure up, stemming from a comment, "**why can't you be more like...?**" We're learning the hurt poorly chosen words can cause.
- We met with a young man who has grown distant from God, is dealing with **regret**, but is **not desperate enough** to seek change.
- We prayed with a gentleman who made some **inner vows & judgments**, after his father treated him unfairly. It's coming back in **anger**, outbursts, & negative behaviors with his wife & kids.
- We prayed with a teenage guy who wanted to get rid of some pain he picked up after overhearing a **fight between his folks** and we worked through some other things as well.

That's just the last 8 weeks!!!!

## Where are we heading from here?

We've been given the privilege of **spiritually re-parenting** the hurt out of some of our kids' lives both in the removal of the bad things, and the impartation of the good things they missed growing up. One of legacy's in Drew's family is, "to be truly happy, **find something you LOVE to do**, & then **find someone to pay you to do it**." We have found what God had designed us to do and we love it and we are waiting on the second part.

The Holy Spirit clearly said, do not get a 9-5 job at the bank, or the grocery store, or McDonalds. We are not to advertise on Facebook that we are available for hire to complete home repair projects. We are not to send a letter requesting financial support. However, God has been pushing Drew for four weeks to produce a newsletter informing friends of where we are.

We are called to share God's incredible love with badly wounded teens. We truly want to move forward in helping and spiritually nurturing those kids who have nowhere else to go, no one to talk to, and lead them to the healing power that Christ has for all of us. We still believe that four more teens will live in our home. We are taking Foster Parent classes at the end of Feb.

**Several options are on the table.** Visit similar ministries, become foster parents, provide respite care for teens as an alternative to Rockford & Devereux, become a safe house for teen moms or sex trafficking victims, and pay the bills through consulting work, construction, web-based business, raising support, a 9-5 job, another youth pastor gig, or becoming houseparents somewhere. We attend a prayer group on Friday and God told us we could take substitute teaching calls Mon-Thurs, however the only calls we've gotten in the past 6 weeks have been for Fridays. Please pray for revelation of God's direction. Are we asking the right questions? Are there different questions we should be asking?

Won't he leave the 99 sheep in the hills to look for the one who was lost? - Mt 18:12

We are investing our lives together.... being safe people... who create safe spaces.... for teens to tell their stories and share their pain.... and who serve as conduits for Jesus' healing love in teenagers' lives.