

# MINISTRY UPDATES

Greater Grace Newsletter from Mike Thompson

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## Mike's InFaith Mission Focus

Here is a brief overview of my ministry focus with InFaith.

1. **Planting and strengthening residential recovery ministries** and rescue missions through developing, and coaching leaders and providing structure and gospel centered recovery related curriculum.
2. **Strengthening churches and non-profit ministries** by equipping leaders & teams to align their ministry with their God-given

## Front Lines Updates

### GOSPEL CENTERED RECOVERY HOUSES

“**The Branches**” is the name of a men’s residential recovery ministry forming in Mora, MN. My missions work is to provide consulting as a free ministry to this mission that is in its beginning phase. My mission is to provide resources for ministries like this in underserved and underfunded communities. They can not afford a trained consultant with specialized training and experience in nonprofit start ups. Your support helps these crucial ministries have the resources they need to serve people well in Jesus’ name.

#### New Project

Tonight the board of The Branches asked me to assist them by writing a ‘lean business plan’ for their ministry. This plan will contain a detailed survey of the community resources and needs, and will highlight the need for a faith based recovery center. Details about the vision, mission and plan to meet the community needs will be included. Budgets and other important analysis and action plans will also be developed.

We also had a lengthy conversation about how to invite leaders of various churches and nonprofits to join our board or become involved in various ways as key stakeholders. The board expressed a strong desire to involve many churches and people who align with this ministry.

I have also been asked to help develop presentations that can be used for presenting the ministry to various church mission boards and other possible donors.

On Sunday afternoon our board will gather to pray at a facility that we are exploring for possible use as a residential recovery house. I thank God that recent large donations have put The Branches much closer to being able to secure the facility that is needed for this ministry.

### CHURCH STUFF

We continue to serve as interim pastor of Fish Lake Chapel, which is an InFaith associated church. Dawn leads a Thursday women's study and many women have responded and fill our front room each week. What a joy to see them work through the word of God and support one another in life and faith.

As an InFaith missionary I am serving this church beginning with a one year commitment as Interim Pastor. During this time we plan on introducing a church assessment and working on vision, mission, values and forming a plan to assure Fish Lake Chapel has a thriving gospel centered future for decades to come.

### JAIL MINISTRY

I have been invited to be part of a team that will provide faith based anger management courses. It is an honor to be part of this team.

### PERSONAL UPDATES

Dawn is back to work at a wonderful health care facility that cares for elderly. Dawn and I continue to take walks and pray together and enjoy the wonderful life God has given us.

WORKSHOP To see wood products we make and sell to support our mission work check out our Facebook site: “Mike and Dawns Wood Products”  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560611692441>

## UPDATES IN PICTURES



## Thanksgiving in Duluth



## Grandkids Dance Recital & Vikings fan caught with packers mug



## Praise Reports Prayer Requests

PRAISES	PRAYERS
We sold several workshop items that help partially fund our mission work	Increased financial support is needed to fully fund my position
Dawn's women's study is thriving and well attended	Many will come to faith in Jesus Christ
God related conversations ongoing with those wanting to know more about faith in Christ	We need music ministry help at Fish Lake Chapel (where I serve as interim pastor)
Growing ministry opportunities to serve churches and recovery houses	Ministries that are asking for help to become even more effective



## Contact & Other Information

MINISTRY PAGE: <https://infaith.org/ministries/michael-thompson>  
 Michael Thompson  
 411 Central Ave West  
 Mora, MN 55051  
 Mthompson@infaith.org  
 715-661-3254

Note: Ministry page (QR Code and/or web site link above) has a ministry overview and a link/button for donations

### InFaith Home Office:

145 John Robert Thomas Drive, Exton, PA 19341 / 610-527-4439  
<https://infaith.org/>

# Bonus Devotional Thought

**Romans 1:4b**<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life<sup>[a]</sup> was a descendant of David,<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power<sup>[b]</sup> by his resurrection from the dead: **“Jesus Christ our Lord”**

Early Christians would not call anyone LORD except Jesus. Romans soldiers demanded that Polycarp (an early church father) must say, “Caesar is Lord.” He denied that Caesar or any-one other than Jesus Christ is LORD, and his denial resulted in his murder / martyrdom.

“Jesus is Lord” (Kurios / Kyrios = “Lord” and Iasous = “Jesus”) was the **earliest creed** identifying one with Christ as a follower. Baptism candidates after conversion recited this creed. This 1st century creed is included in Paul’s writings in 1 Corinthians 11 and 15.

In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul includes the confession that “Jesus is Lord.” It is assumed that persons who confess Christ as Lord are believers given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then in chapter 12 Paul references this conversion experience of confessing Jesus Christ as Lord.

**1 Cor 12:3**<sup>3</sup> *So I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.*

**Romans 10:9**<sup>9</sup> *because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**1 Cor 15:3-6 (3-10 for full statement)**

<sup>3</sup> *For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

These three passages (above) include 1st century creeds that focus on the death, resurrection and lordship of Jesus Christ. But let’s continue our focus on the “lordship” of Jesus Christ and explore that more.

“Jesus is Lord” (Kurios) Implies two things

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus is The Savior

Kyrios is a Greek interpretation of YHWH = LORD in our English text.

Thus: Jesus is Jehovah!

**Jn 20:28** Kyrios (Lord) is a reference to Jehovah. The context tells us when Kyrios is a reference to a human or polite greeting or a reference to the supreme authority.

In this case the Greek is in the nominative case: Jesus is THE LORD (kurios)

Also consider that David called the Messiah “LORD” = Divine Messiah (**Psalm 110**)

Over What is Jesus Lord?

Jesus is LORD over demonic forces and sin, which make him LORD and Savior. Jesus conquered Satan, sin and death on the cross!

Ryrie identified a common problem, that many view Jesus only as “Savior” and do not consider that Jesus is also “Lord.” Obtaining saving faith in Jesus includes the following:

**Faith** = knowledge, heart response and commitment, (not mere mental ascent).

Who saved us from Satan, our sin, and eternal death? The **LORD** Jesus Christ.

Jesus must be LORD to conquer Satan, sin and death. Lord’s conquer and rule! That brings us to the challenge, is Jesus your Savior and Lord? Is that what you trust him to be? Or do you view him as Savior but keep the Lordship of your life to yourself?

Is Jesus Our Lord?

Is he Lord of

1. Our thinking Matt 11:29  
God’s perspective
2. Lord of our behavior
3. Vocationally: Lord of our time, plans, job, actions.  
See Paul’s work under Christ’s Lordship Acts 26  
Our work or vocation IS Christian Service!!
4. The Church  
Laity and clergy are mere servants of the Lord Jesus Christ
5. Political

Jesus is King of all Kings and senators, and presidents, and congressmen and cabinet secretaries. How does this thinking affect the way we view the world? Do we trust political figures or political parties to save us and become pseudo Messiah figures? (only Jesus can save us from sin and death) (all politicians must confess “Jesus is Lord” to be saved from sin and death)

6. The World – global  
Lord Jesus tells us to “go” make disciples and grow them in the faith  
Is Jesus YOUR Lord – Kurios?