

## Interesting Developments...

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Wednesday, 07 March 2007  
Last Updated Wednesday, 07 March 2007

The last few weeks have seen some interesting developments in my experience as a pastor. People have started visiting our worship and coming back the next week. One of these guests is a woman has brought her 3 daughters for three weeks straight, and this past week each of her daughters brought a friend. Another couple has recently moved into the area and seems to be settling in at Central. A young man who has been coming for several months took me aside after worship two weeks ago and said, "I want more." This is something that every pastor (whether we admit it or not) dreams will happen - so that young man and I are getting started on a long process of deliberate discipleship. I'm looking forward to that.

We haven't had any "new Christians" born out of the life of our community (both together and as individuals) though - and this has troubled me. Many folks are still struggling with getting into the lives of non-Christians and it's slowing down our transformation into a discipling community. This struggle doesn't spring from fear or a superiority complex - rather, conversations I've had with folks here at Central just make me think no one's really impressed this to people as a spiritual discipline. Folks are learning how to do make connections with people "outside" our circle - but new ideas often take time to brew. At this point, though, I'm really starting to feel that most of the Church is waiting for the brew of an outward-looking faith to be ready for us to use. It's neat to see. So, when I got a call this week from a friend who's been coming to church for about a year (being wonderfully honest that they weren't a "Christian") I had to kinda sit back and wonder what Jesus is going to start doing here at Central. The Conversation went kinda like this: "Well, I need to start behaving now" "Huh?" (I'm pretty much a doofus on the phone) "Well, my neighbor just asked me if I was a Christian and I blurted out yes without thinking." "Cool!" (I also don't give appropriate pastoral responses like, "Well praise the Lord." It's not that I don't think we should do this, or that I'm not doing this - it's just that I really have a dislike for "Christian-ese" and "cool" just seems to leave room for more conversation) Who, who knows what'll happen next. I'm just excited that God's changing people in unexpected ways. Sometimes it is nice to see work bearing fruit even in small ways.