

# Paul+Christie

Iowa State University

## \*\*Special Edition\*\*

Missionary Update



## Big News!

It has been an exciting couple of months here in Ames and I have a lot to tell you about. Stonebrook Community Church and the Rock are in the process of recognizing me as a pastor. For those of you not in Stonebrook I am going to give you an overview of the process and what the pastors have communicated to the congregation.

**How does Stonebrook raise up Pastors?** Pastors are trained locally by using formal education classes called Great Commission Leadership Institute, on the job training in leading small groups and plenty of personal mentoring from other leaders and pastors. This is the same process we have used since 1972 when the church was started and is a growing method in the U.S. and overseas.

**What qualifies someone as a Pastor?** We strongly consider at least two passages in Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Both passages emphasize the importance of godly character as essential qualities for pastors. We place a very high value on this and examine pastoral candidates based primarily on this. As the pastors work closely with leaders, they are able to see first hand their character, leadership abilities, marriage issues, fruitfulness in ministry and other factors.

**What has happened?** I have been in some leadership capacity within the church for about eight years and have been on staff full time for almost two years. Last spring the pastors came to me interested in getting to know me and started more formally evaluating my life and character. I was invited to several new events that gave the pastors and their wives a chance to see if this is something the Holy Spirit was leading in. Those close to me in ministry filled out a qualifications test on my behalf and I took a doctrinal test to determine my level of biblical knowledge.

**What is happening?** I will be ordained over the local church alongside the four other pastors but I will still concentrate on the college students working with the other campus focused Pastor Tim Borseth. I will stay employed through Great Commission Ministries for the foreseeable future. Therefore your continued support is necessary for our work.



**How are we doing?** This is very exciting for Christie and me. I have been asking God for this for at least a decade. The process has been tough as our lives have been scrutinized to the nth degree by everyone around us. Even our own self doubt has been a battle. But, the other pastor's faith in me and the incredible amount of encouragement that we have received has kept me encouraged.

This change in position basically means more responsibility, mostly before God. Please pray that he makes me up to the task. Barring any unforeseen issues or questions Stonebrook will be ordaining me during a special service at 12:30pm on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are in the area please consider joining us for this exciting occasion. Visit [www.stonebrook.org](http://www.stonebrook.org) for directions.📍

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THE ROCK