



DAY 11

Opening the Door

*"Look, I'm standing at the door and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I will come in and we will eat together."
Revelation 3:20.*

In the winter of 2000, I moved back to the area after 14 years living in Columbus. Just weeks after we moved into our home in Hiram, we were visited by MCCC Pastor Roger Mize. We were familiar with Pastor Mize since we often attended MCCC on weekends when we visited my parents. Honestly, I was not thinking much about church at that time. We were settling into our new house, starting new jobs, acclimating the kids to a new school, etc.

We had a nice visit, and on the way out the door, Pastor Mize stopped and asked me if I would be interested in helping lead the youth group. This came out of the blue, yet without thinking, I said sure! I never considered working with church youth, and I was not looking for anything extra to take on, but for some reason, the "yes" just came out.

Before I even started, I attended the Maundy Thursday service, led by the CYF. Wow, I was moved by the service! The youth were thoughtful, sincere and inspiring in how they expressed their take on the story. I knew that I needed to be a part of this!

This cemented my "yes", and grew to many extraordinary experiences with the youth. In Sunday school, Maundy Thursdays, Senior Sundays, Peace Sundays, CYF, mission trips, and Camp Christian; I accompanied them on journeys of learning, questions, discerning and growth. Playing games, working hard, serious and silly conversations, difficult and thought-provoking encounters, and figuring out how to express the meaning of it all - these things became the fabric of my/our journeys of faith.

My faith grew in ways I could never have imagined by answering that knock on the door.

God of possibilities, I give you thanks for providing opportunities to grow in faith. When I pay attention to the tugs, pushes and feelings in my spirit, I can answer the call of your knocking. Even if I don't know why or how, may I trust that these things can open the door to new experiences and pathways on my faith journey. Amen.

– Brian Hurd