

January 1, 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

I pray you had a wonderful, blessed and fulfilling holiday season! I hope 2010 is an amazing year for all of you.

Where do I begin? It seems only fitting to bring you up to speed with where I am in life, and the direction I see God taking me in. I graduated college over a year and half ago! I really can't believe it. I majored in Criminal Justice, concentrating on Forensic Behavioral Science. God opened a door for me to experience my degree working with an anti-terrorism unit, all to show me my passion and heart was not this. However I did produce a degree which is an achievement and will not go to waist, in addition to making my parents happy, it definitely opened my eyes to the world around us. I am currently now the office manager at the doctor's office that I have been at for over seven years. God has been faithful in providing for me, and I am forever grateful! So what is next? Why am I sharing all of this with you?

Most of you who know me, know that I have a desire to make God known and see lives changed through a relationship with Jesus Christ. I have seen how this relationship has changed my life, and given me meaning and purpose; and most importantly an unending amount of love and grace. Through my personal experience I have realized a few simple, key points to life in my short 23 years on earth.

First, life is short, and the older I get the faster it goes. There can never seem to be enough hours in the day. Secondly, we all see the devastating calamities; it is very obvious to see. Here is my point, there will always be starvation, there will always be a parentless home, there will always be wars and violence, there will always be sickness and disease; we can't fight the never-ending battle of this, but we can do something, we can offer hope. Which leads me to my third point, Jesus is the only answer we have to offer. See family and friends, what I have seen in my short 23 years of life, is that we have neglected truth for a "free pass" past accountability and conviction. We don't want to believe that someone or something could hold a standard that is absolutely true; we want a "free pass." We have created this idea that there is nothing absolutely true and that we are our own standard of truth. "Whatever you believe is ok to believe, and is your truth, and whatever I believe is my belief, and is truth for me." What we have done by allowing this, is a lot of misconstrued ideas of truth, and thrown out any sort of higher standard for humanity. We forget to give credit to anyone higher (God), unless something tragic happened to blame and say "where was God then?"

The greatest, most disheartening thing to me about forgetting God as our truth or an answer for a hopeless world is this. God didn't create a world with people to judge or

condemn the world and its inhabitants. He created a world, and people for relationship, for love, to offer a standard to live by, one that was out of love so we could thrive and live the most victorious life possible. He created us and then offered us relationship through His Son Jesus for a “direct connect” to His heart, so we could know Him, and desire to live to glorify Him, the creator. I say all of this to say, I think we have an urgency to share this redeemer as an answer to a broken, messed up world looking for hope, love and grace. I see it this way, I can offer someone who is a hungry a meal, but this will only satisfy so long. I can offer someone who is cold a jacket, but this will only last so long. What I have seen is that these things are necessary, food and clothes, but are not eternal; they don't last forever...and then what? As I think to myself, what has given me the greatest joy; the greatest peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding; what has offered me the greatest fulfillment and satisfaction out of life? And the answer is Jesus Christ. He is what lasts forever! When I hand a meal to someone who is hungry I would be missing the mark if that is all I offered them. Because Jesus came to bring hope to the hopeless, rest for the weary, and grace to the broken. He fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and healed the sick; but He also shared a message far greater than just His deeds, he shared the love of His Father, through His deeds, a message of eternal hope.

No one is going to tell me we were created from a “big bang” how impersonal and illogical can you get? It is just another cop-out, another excuse to not give credit to a higher standard, or accountability. If there is no accountability, there is no right or wrong. If you can't look around and see the spectacular beauty in our Creator God, the detail, the intrinsic design of human beings alone, then I will challenge you to open your eyes to the extraordinary work of a master designer! And then do an experiment on your own; take some gases and light it on fire and see what kind of design you get? All jokes aside, this leads me to the point of this letter.

If you couldn't tell by now where my passion lies; it is in sharing the hope of salvation to a lost and hurting world and the people who live in it. I have seen God have His personal hand on my life, and His Word confirms this personal desire He has for a hand in each one of your lives as well. He is real, and He is why we were created. What else matters? Think about it, what else can you take with you when you die; nothing that most of us spend time buying or doing; two things that I will live for, to love God and to love people. Everything else comes secondary to this.

God has given me a passion for making Him known to others, and has been teaching my how to do this through just the daily personal relationships that He has blessed me with. But now has given me a vision to make this opportunity into something far greater than I could have imagined.

Almost three years ago the Lord gave me a vision for something I've been calling “Worship on the Square.” For the past two years this event has taken form in the small community of Marietta, Georgia. He has provided people to come along side and helped form a team of people to make this event possible. (Please see the attached information for details on what this event is about.) Now God has opened doors for us to expand and go to other cities and communities. Due to this amazing opportunity, I have had to set up

a non-profit organization, which has been officially approved, and named “Out of the Box United Inc.” Let me explain to you the significance of our name. God is not bound by space or time, He is not confined to our understanding of who He is, and how we think He works in accomplishing things, and thus our team will not mold Him or confine Him into a space or a set of ideals we want. Our mission is go back to the simplicity of the example Christ set for us on earth, of meeting people where they are, and offering hope and showing love. We will do this as a united Body of Christ as Jesus so pleads that “we might be one as He and the Father are,” in John 17. We want to tear down the walls that separate us, walls that man has built, to reveal the truth of the message of the gospel. I have said “whether you dunk one time or three times, in light of eternity, it is Jesus Christ.” (Please read more information about Out of the Box United Inc, attached in this letter)

People, we have an urgency, and I will no longer accept to be apart of a stagnant group of believers, who say they have hope and an understanding of truth, and do nothing about it. I will not be just a “hearer of the Word”, we are called to be “doers”, to make disciples, and thus I cannot ignore this calling and opportunity to go and “do.” I will go on behalf of the Lord, and for the sake of the Kingdom, wherever He leads, and He is leading me.

I am writing you for a few reasons. One, I need prayer! This is a long, overwhelming but exciting road I’m being led down. I cannot do this without the covering of prayer. Please pray for strength, opportunities to minister, new cities to go to, and new people to meet. Pray for our team, all the people involved, on every different level. Pray for direction, strength, and peace as all of us go forward. Secondly we need help! It has taken a lot for me to verbalize this to you all, but we do. It took a friend of mine challenging me and saying “you have not because you ask not” so I’m asking you family and friends, I need your help.

We have projected four cities for 2010: Greenville, South Carolina- May 1st, Centennial Park, Atlanta Georgia, July 31st, Covington Georgia in September and Marietta Georgia in October. The 2010 projected budget it estimating at about 58,000 dollars. As I type this amount out I cannot help but have this anxious feeling of fear and doubt overwhelm me. But I know the Lord says to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...” So I’m asking you to prayerfully consider supporting this ministry. I’m asking for you to prayerfully consider supporting us monthly to allow us to have these events through out the year, in many different cities. We cannot do this without the generous donations and support of body and its members. No matter the amount, whatever the Lord lays on your heart, every penny helps. I’m also asking you to help spread the word. If you are not in a place financially, but know someone who might desire to help support us, would you mind being an advocate for us? (Please see the attached sheet for details in financially supporting Out of the Box United Inc)

This letter took a different direction than I had intended it to take. But as I began to write, I felt like a lot of you needed to be caught up with my life, and for a lot of you, I have not had the opportunity to share with you what has been going on in my heart and mind. There are a lot of you (family) who I have not seen in too long, so there are a lot of

different people groups that are represented in this one letter. Please know that I deeply care, and love all of you. If you are receiving this letter, it is because you have played an important role in my life in some way.

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart with you and to ask you for help. Please feel free to visit our ministry websites to keep up to date with where we are going and what God is doing. You can visit us at www.outoftheboxunited.com or www.worshiponthesquare.com . Email me at dblack@outoftheboxunited.com and I will add you to my list for monthly/quarterly newsletters. Thanks again! To God be the Glory!

Praying,
Debra Black