



equip

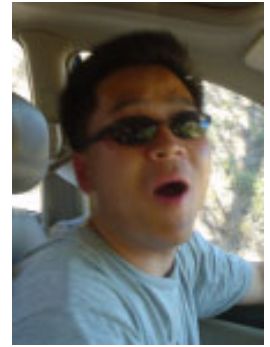
Equipping believers to transform societies

The vision of Equip (www.repurposing.biz) is to repurpose Christians and companies they own or work for to become ministries for God.

After all, *all* businesses serve people. Either it's serving their customers, their stockholders, their employees, their vendors/partners, etc. But to repurpose a company and its people *for* ministry *within* the context of that business means to apply kingdom principles to *how* they serve these people.

And it's not to say that the business serves to evangelize with everyone it comes in contact with. Although seeing people come to Christ is by far the most visible and awesome fruit of ministry, it's key to note that the business, even in its day to day operations, can become a ministry, as well. And what's really interesting to note is that in Hebrew (or is it Greek?), the word for "business" is the exact same word for "ministry".

While Equip has been seeking God's will and applying this vision for many years now, it started sending missionaries to South Africa about two years ago. The trip this September will be the fourth trip, and Equip will be sending to Cape Town about 20 consultants and 4 children (two of the consultants are a married couple of a family of 6, so all their kids, ages 6 through 11, will be coming as well).



So God *does* have a sense of humor. Because He (in His "infinite wisdom") has decided to send me to South Africa on a 3-week missions trip... uh... *say what?!*

It all started out earlier this year when I began praying for an opportunity to go back to independent consulting, so that I would have more time to pursue other things, including preparing to apply to grad school for computer science.

Finally, in April of this year, He answered my prayer by providing me with a three-month contracting opportunity, which allowed me to quit my full-time job. As I was looking at the scheduling of the contracting gig, studying for GREs, and applying for schools, I realized that starting around September my schedule would be freed up for me to pursue whatever I wanted to.

Not even a few days after I made this scheduling realization, I get an e-mail for an organization called Equip. I've actually known about them for a little over a year now, as two friends in my fellowship have gone on previous Equip missions trips (see sidebar for more information on Equip, itself). And it had crossed my mind on previous occasions that it is maybe something that I should pray about and see if I should pursue. But of course, I always had excuses like "well, with work and stuff, I don't really have any time to" (heh, did *that* backfire on me), and so of course, I never did actually pray about it.

Oh how God answers (the lack of) prayers. In this e-mail, it was announced that Equip was taking applications for the next South Africa missions trip, which will be taking place September 1 through 20. Of course, this is precisely when my schedule would be suddenly "freed up".



"Oh, no you didn't just do that, God," I muttered.

"Oh, yes I did," He responded. (Ok, I didn't *actually* hear him respond audibly like this or anything, but I'm assuming He was sitting up there chuckling this as He was looking down on me)

So after a good couple of weeks of wrestling with God on this, I finally decided (or rather, God finally strong-armed me?) into signing up for the trip.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:7-8, NIV)

All joking aside, the path that God has embarked me in preparation for this missions trip has already started to bear much fruit. Even as I was wrestling with God on whether or not to go, I picked up the bible began doing devotions again for the first time (outside of a retreat setting) since high school.

I am also re-realizing the power of prayer and am being reminded of how much God wants us to wholly be dependent on Him, and in turn, how much of a blessing He will pour out on us for our faithfulness.

So when are you outta here, Mike? I don't leave for South Africa until September 1, but until then, we continue to meet at least once a week for training sessions and prayer. And in the meantime, I am being completely dependent on God to provide me with brothers and sisters for both spiritual and financial support.



And lastly, what is a prayer and support letter without the discussion of support? Anyway, I need to raise \$3500, which covers the cost of airfare, lodging, food, etc. for the 3-week trip, as well as the costs of the 8-week training. And any money raised above and beyond that will go to help defer costs for the rest of the team. If you feel led to support me financially, please make a check out to **Vine Associates** (and attach a post-it with "Mike Ho" written on it) and either hand it to me or mail it to me using the enclosed envelope, preferably by August 31 (although, why not... if you send it in after then, it'll still be gladly accepted ☺, but please, no later than the end of September).

But please remember that prayer support is even more important. So even if you cannot support me financially, if you are able to commit to praying for me and would like to receive updates from the team, please also respond indicating so using the enclosed envelope.

Some of my many prayer requests include:

- **Protection from sin and the enemy.** God has done wonders in bringing me to a place where I feel like I'm starting to have real communion with Him once again, something that I haven't really felt I had since the beginning of college. All that can be easily taken away, though, should I fall back into my regular patterns of sin, laziness, and apathy.
- **Logistics, health and safety.** This is only the second time I'll be out of the country in the past decade (the first time being last August, on a vacation to the Bahamas, which I guess doesn't really count).
- **Do-it-yourself-ism.** I've already felt some levels of frustration during the training process because I feel like I'm failing God. But of course, the funny thing is, I *already* have failed God. I need God to remind me that it's not by my strength but by His alone that I can be used for His will and glory.
- **To Seek after God's Heart.** I realized through all this that one important thing missing in my life is a true understanding of God's heart and just how much He loves us. I believe that if I can get just a glimmer of how much He cares for us, it will help me to grow a passion for Him and a passion to reach out and love His fellow children.

I'm scared, excited and anxious all at the same time for this trip. But I know that as long as I maintain my strength in faith to Him, I'll be opened up to see the **absolutely infinite** possibilities of which He is truly capable.

In Him,