

# The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



## Bearing Fruit that Lasts

Lately I've been giving a lot of thought to what makes a ministry effective - what it means to bear fruit.

Within our own ministry and certainly within the church where we're involved, there's a lot of ministry activity. Meetings, events, campaigns and lots of talk of growth and numbers.

It's all good stuff. For every number, there's a person whose life has been impacted. It's good and appropriate to celebrate success and all that the Lord has done.

However, I sometimes wonder if Jesus' own ministry might be considered an abject failure when evaluated by modern church growth strategies and metrics.

After all, though Jesus preached to the masses, he had a relatively small following of just over 100 men (and some women), with only 12 men in his inner circle.

One of these men betrayed Him, while the rest of his disciples deserted Him at His time of greatest need.

In John 15:16, Jesus said to his disciples, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."*

A few months back, I took a trip to Northern California to visit friends and ministry partners, many of whom are former students from our many years of campus ministry.

One of my first meet-ups was with Eric and Lane, two friends and former students from our early years at San Jose State.

Eric was one of the first students I ever met when I arrived at San Jose State University as a new staff member. He wasn't a believer but soon placed his faith in Christ and, like Lane, has been on a trajectory of growth for the last 37 years. Both of these men are



exhibiting enduring faith, walking with Christ even in the midst of unbelievably challenging life circumstances.

Mike got involved with Cru at UC Davis when we were just starting out.

He was a gifted guitar player and had a crazy vision to put a worship band together when we had only 15 students. It didn't make sense to me but we went with it and that act of faith was highly "instrumental"

(pun intended) in our ability to attract students and expose them to our vision. That launched us on a growth trajectory that resulted in an abundance of fruit.

Now, almost 30 years later, Mike is still walking with Christ and leading worship at his church while exhibiting enduring faith.

At the end of my trip, I met with Sean, another one of those early students at UC Davis when we were just starting out.

Sean was one of the first students from our ministry to heed the call to missionary service, spending 20+ years as a missionary to the Middle East before recently being called to return home with his family.

Sean, like these other men, is an example of "fruit that lasts." It's enduring faith that keeps going year after year, trial after trial, faithfully serving, trusting and impacting others in small and often unnoticed ways.

Thank you for your prayers and your partnership. Together, we are bearing fruit - **fruit that lasts!**



Love,  
Dave & Jen

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