

FIVE MINUTES FOR MISSIONS—FEBRUARY 2006

GREG LOEWER

Who is the pastoral liaison to language congregations at Columbia? Who is presently on the Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter Advisory Council? Who is presently a member of three Ministers Fellowships? Who is the Team Leader of the Language Ministries of NorthStar Church Network? Who will lead the WMU-sponsored Prayer Service at Crossroads on Saturday, February 18? Who is Columbia's host pastor of our new multi-site? As many of you have already guessed, the person who wears all these hats—and many more—is Pastor Greg Loewer.

Greg was born in “Cajun Country,” Eunice, Louisiana, in 1957 and raised on a farm. Crops included rice and soybeans, and the farm had the largest herd of Hereford cattle in the state, about 1,000 head. His parents were devout Christians; his father was a Training Union Director, SS teacher, and chairman of the deacons, while his mother was a SS teacher, WMU Director, and the church pianist.

Rev. Loewer accepted Christ as his Savior as a child while he was at home with his mother. He felt a call to Christian ministry when he was a young teenager, and this call was later confirmed in college.

His parents were the most influential persons in the formation of his spiritual life. The following true story illustrates Harold and Glenna Loewer's commitment to Christ and why that commitment influenced their son. In 1967, the year before Martin Luther King was killed, Greg's parents held an evangelistic service on their farm for the Black community. The next year, two years before school integration, Harold and Glenna began a mission Sunday School on their farm for African-Americans. Greg's dad taught the teens and adults, and his mother taught the elementary-aged children. Greg and his sister taught the preschoolers. Many persons came to faith in Christ through this ministry, which continued until the family moved from the farm in 1972. Greg says, “This example of obedient, faithful witnessing by my parents in the face of prejudice and bigotry from the world around them—and even from within our church—made a big impression on me. My parents eventually

worked with Campus Crusade for Christ and other ministries in the U.S. and Central America. Their lives demonstrated to me the importance of evangelism and missions.”

Greg graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois with a BA in Economics and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and a major in Pastoral Ministry. Today he is an ordained pastor, but he has worked as a field hand and field foreman, and bused trays and washed dishes during college. He also worked in the College Admissions Department as a tour guide and college representative, and was an associate pastor before beginning a seven-year pastorate in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 2005, Rev. Loewer was called as Host Pastor of Columbia @ Crossroads and is recruiting a Launch Team to begin the new multi-site at the location of his former church on Glen Carlyn Road. On Launch Day, Easter Sunday, April 16, Pastor Greg expects there to be over 200 persons gathered for the first service. Many will come from the Bailey’s area as spiritual seekers, wanting to learn what this new, contemporary multi-site is all about. Pray that Pastor Loewer and the Launch Team members will have great wisdom as they begin Ignition Groups (adult Bible study groups), organize the congregation for pastoral care, and try to discern ministry passions that will develop among this new group of Kingdom believers.

Let us pray for Crossroads:

Father in heaven, Your Word describes You as a holy, righteousness, compassionate, and prayer-answering God. Look down on this new venture and hear our prayers. Raise up more children’s workers, AV tech support, and door-to-door publicity volunteers. May there be unity on the Launch Team. May all involved understand the need for spiritual preparation. Grant Pastor Loewer and Team members wisdom, discernment, and guidance from the Holy Spirit. Develop ministry passions that will serve and reach the community. We give you praise for the work, commitment, and prayer that has already been done in Your name and with Your encouragement. In the blessed name of Jesus; Amen.