

[Becoming Chris Kamalski]

::: {TRANSITIONAL//RHYTHM} :::

transition | tran 'zi sh ən; - 'si sh ən | (noun): the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another
(Origin mid 16th cent. from Latin *transire* 'go across').

rhythm | 'riðəm | (noun): a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound
(Origin mid 16th cent. from Greek *rhuthmos*, related to *rhein* 'to flow').

APRIL 2010

Issue Number 3

My Vocational Calling

Explore words and images central to the directionality of my life and calling as I return to South Africa.

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What I've Returned To

A new neighborhood + a new partner in mission + a new role = a growing clarity in what I'm returning to.



Page 3

Who I've Returned To

In ten short months, God laid the groundwork for significant relational connection in Pretoria. Come meet my friends!

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140 Character Updates



Twitter truly does rule the world. Bullet-point updates from adventures during the past four months.

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A Grateful Partnership

Celebrate the Lord's provision with me and learn how you can partner with our emerging mission in Pretoria. I am excited to invite you to prayerfully consider joining our financial team.

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Ongoing Communication

It's a veritable 'Choose Your Adventure' for how to get ahold of me...so pick a path because I am ready to connect!

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::: [In Voluntary Displacement] :::

I wrote this reflection as a (rejected!) submission piece for a small magazine on the subject of transitional seasons.

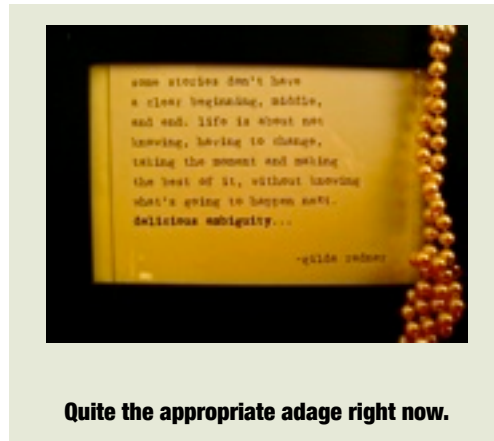
in | in | (preposition): expressing a state or condition.

voluntary | 'vɒləntərē | (adjective): done, given, or acting of one's own free will.

displacement | dis'pləsmənt | (noun): the moving of something from its place or position.

"Strangely familiar." With this phrase rattling around my mind one early December morning, I paddled out for a few Dawn Patrol waves at the same surf spot in North Orange County I had been frequenting for over a decade. My long-time surf buddy had mustered this summation as a possible explanation for the weirdness I was invariably feeling re-entering my home for the past 12 years, having just returned from a ten-month apprenticeship as a part of a missional community in Pretoria, South Africa.

Himself a product of a bicultural experience growing up in Germany, my displaced heart found momentary solace in those words, and in the familiar of a few wedge-like peaks rolling off the



Quite the appropriate adage right now.

stationary jetties of Newport Beach. And yet, as we floated together in the growing light of morning, those words began to flip themselves over, a realization taking root in my heart that it was actually the familiar that now appeared strange.

Shaking off this disconcerting anxiety, I attempted to dismiss this feeling as the manifestation of my inevitable struggle to re-enter a place I had long called home. Surely, I was upturned by the materialistic excess surrounding me, or the acres of people just a little too beautiful for them to be au natural. These conclusions rang simplistically hollow however, as this experience living abroad

was merely the longest I have spent outside America, rather than my first.

Something deeper is awakening inside me as I walk the tightrope of this transitional space between a familiar life I once lived, and the nervous, diffused anxiety I feel about the still undefined life unfolding in front of me. I am clamoring for the comfortable familiarity of the somewhat easily defined life of my past, knowing full well that this familiarity will rapidly breed stagnation if I seek to grasp what no longer is actually possible, that of a life formerly lived. Simultaneously, a steady, small Voice within propels me forward toward a new reality of risk, cultural integration, and a life both equally desired and feared in the same breath.

Jesus was aware of a deep preference for paralyzed stability in humanity. This understanding must have provoked his absurd question to a man paralyzed for 38 years, Christ audaciously asking whether this man actually wanted to get well (John 5). Frustration wells in me as I realize that this question frames my entire journey. Do I wish formational movement in my soul? If so, then I must be willing to take a few steps away from paralyzation towards freedom! I want to live in voluntary displacement, willing to move from the familiar to the strange, knowing that this journey is counter-intuitive, yet necessary for anything within me to change.



:::[My Vocational Calling]:::

::: [MY HEART IS INVITED
BY GOD INTO A
CREATIVE LIFE OF] :::

+ Holistic Spiritual
Formation +

->Flowing Outward Into->

+ Social Justice & Missional
Relationship With My
Neighbors +

Through

{Shared, Intentional,
Global Communities
Living By A
Common Rule Of Life.}

::: [I am Abba's beloved son,
journeying together with
my global community as our
hearts are formed in

restoration of our broken world.
Walking together, we can do so
much good for all.] :::

of one's heart.] :::

::: [I will walk alongside others
as the Spirit forms their hearts;
helping them to process their
true self, lovingly exhorting
them to grow in dependence
with God.] :::

::: [I will seek to restore what has
been lost in the hearts of my
friends, empowering them to
come alive again as they grow
into who God has always
intended them to be, living out
their vocational calling for the
good of the world.] :::

::: [My vocational calling is
to form the Church
to discern & engage
their vocation in community
for the world.] :::



During the last month of our Apprenticeship year in 2009, our missional community went through a process called the Life Compass by which we began discerning, embracing, and ultimately owning the vision God has given us for our lives. The words and images on this page reflect the directionality of my life as I settle into a new rhythm in South Africa.

growing relationship with
the Spirit of God.] :::

::: [I will enter into relationship
with my neighbors &
live as a listening presence of
formation & justice towards the

::: [Through creating original,
imaginative environments, I will
help others experience life with
God & their own true self,
seeking to offer spiritual
direction, counseling, & teaching
on the formational journey



::: [What I'm Returning To] :::

::: [A New Neighborhood: Clydesdale] :::



To quote a [local guesthouse website](#), “The pretty, leafy suburb of Clydesdale, which lies almost midway between Brooklyn and Sunnyside, is set in an ideal position for getting around Pretoria. Clydesdale is close to both UNISA [a huge university offering the largest independent degree completion program in the world] and the University of Pretoria and about 500 meters from Loftus Versfeld [the iconic rugby/soccer stadium, and a main host stadium for World Cup matches in June 2010], incredibly popular whenever there’s a rugby match in town.”

More importantly for our team, Clydesdale feels like a village set within the intersection of several larger neighborhoods (the Sunnyside/Hatfield/Brooklyn/Arcadia neighborhoods, all with unique features), bordering the heart of the inner city of Pretoria. Curtis Love, a local South African on our team, has already coined our neighborhood as “a sanctuary within the city.” As a missional community seeking to train and send South Africans into missional service and engagement globally, we hope that this neighborhood literally in the heart of the city can serve as a welcoming respite from the pressures that students, young families, and lower income South Africans living in the inner city face daily.

We can’t wait to call it home in a few weeks!

::: [A New Partner?: Jesuit Institute] :::



The [Jesuit Institute South Africa](#) is a multi-faceted organization that offers introductory listening prayer guide training as well as advanced training in spiritual direction based on the famous spiritual exercises developed hundreds of years ago by St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Jesuits are one of the longest running orders that have offered spiritual direction through the centuries, and are often used as ‘base models’ through which much of our current models of spiritual direction, listening/healing prayer, even major psychological modules, are based.

Beyond advanced training in spiritual direction from a particular perspective (as well as intriguing opportunities to participate and ultimately lead others in an extended year-long Ignatian Retreat, as well as to supervise spiritual directors), this organization is the hub for much of the spiritual formation work that is currently taking place throughout the Gauteng province (comprising the cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria, as well as a number of surrounding townships). They are actively engaged in discernment as to how to engage local South Africans living in townships in spiritual formation, direction, and transformation.

Plus, Lorraine Groenwald (see p. 5 to meet my friend), a local spiritual director/supervisor who runs a retreat center down the street from Pangani, has invited me to join them! Who knows where this critical partnership could take our team?

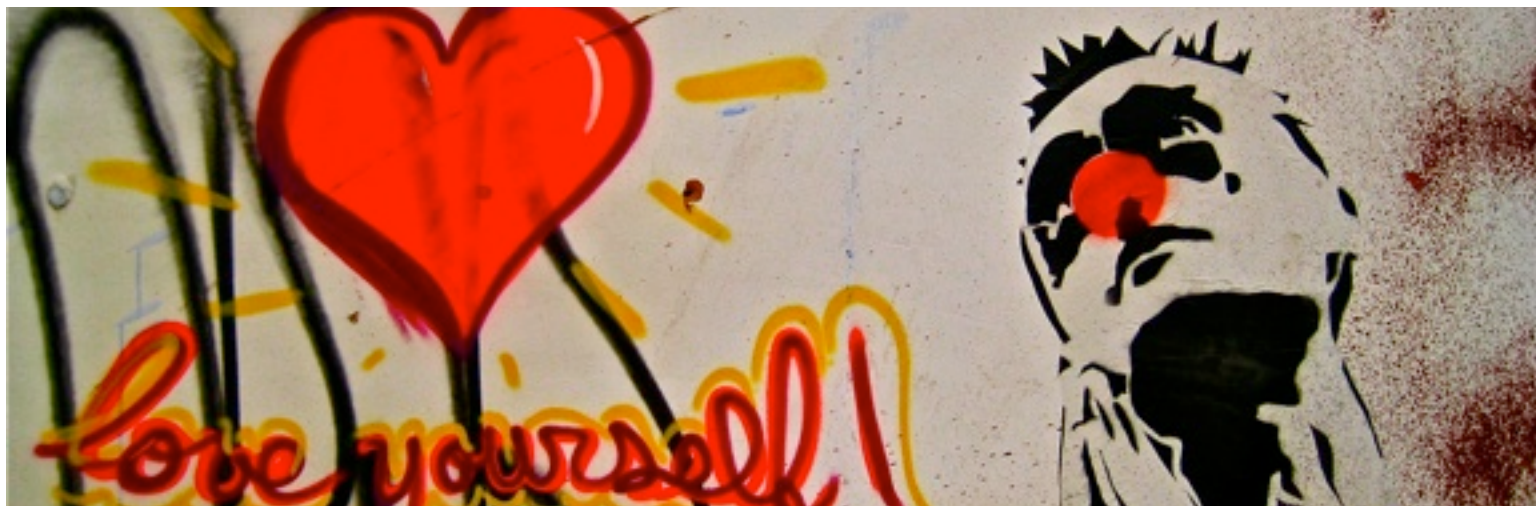
::: [A New Role: Forming Hearts] :::



I have grown in understanding for several years (particularly in light of my experience in the transformational community of the [Institute for Spiritual Formation](#) at Talbot School of Theology completing a Masters in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care, and receiving multiple years training as a spiritual director) that central to my vocational call is a desire to walk alongside the hearts of people seeking to open to the Spirit’s formational work within their soul. This can take place in a variety of environments and formats, and have included in the past few years a developing series of experiential teachings in spiritual formation, facilitating individual and group spiritual direction for a variety of people, introducing and leading a variety of spiritual exercises, prayer projects, and helping others understand the role of the spiritual disciplines in the transformed life.

I now return to our team in Pretoria seeking to fully integrate this call into my life and work here with South Africans. Within our team, I will regularly lead us in spiritual direction/discernment, as well as seek to help us form hearts alongside the Holy Spirit as we send South Africans into lives of missional service. I anticipate offering spiritual direction and retreats to several local faith communities in the cities, and am exploring partnerships with the Jesuit Institute as well as the local InnerChange team. I feel like a large part of me is unfolding as I take these steps forward!

(Photos L to R: 2010 World Cup fever has gripped all South Africans (Kick-off is June 11th!); A view of Pretoria from above the lion pit at the National Zoo; Snazzy cards used at Urbana '09 to schedule appointments with students to discuss what God was laying on their hearts; Formational graffiti (!) found in Grass Valley, CA.)



::: [Who I'm Returning To] :::

Central within my call by God to return to South Africa for this transitional season with NieuCommunities South Africa are the relational connections I have formed that I desire to see deepened in the days ahead.

::: [Meet 'The Carers'] :::



I was so fortunate to journey with a group of 25 Care Workers who provide late-stage medical care for patients dying of AIDS complications in Soshanguve, a large township outside of Pretoria. [InnerChange South Africa](#), a sister team to NCSA, lives incarnationally among the poor of Soshanguve, and have focused efforts on providing an environment for these Care Workers to receive training and self-care themselves, as they carry unimaginable grief on behalf of entire neighborhoods. Enter my role as their friend! I anticipate future partnership with Luc & Petunia Kabongo, who lead this local team.

::: [Meet Sarah Maxie] :::



Sarah Magdalene Van Der Merwe and I stumbled into a Blue Bulls rugby game and a friend's birthday party together in July this past year, and realized we were dating soon after! A proud Afrikaner that is constantly asked if her accent in American (I say no), Max leads a gap-year program for students emphasizing service through mission and intentional discipleship called [Pure Hope](#). NCSA provides much of the training and coaching her students receive. I like her for reasons beyond this: She's funny, has an incredible heart and huge vision, and loves God deeply. We are enjoying the dating journey...

::: [Meet Our Team] :::



As NieuCommunities South Africa shifts its focus away from a 10-month Apprenticeship program largely for ex-patriots to the training and sending of South Africans into missional service globally, our team has shifted in number and role as well. Joe Reed has assumed the Director role for our team, and serves alongside his wife Natalie, and their three young children Ezra, Keziah, and Malachi. Curtis Love, a South African of English descent originally from Johannesburg, who apprenticed alongside me in 2009, has joined our team as well. We continue to be led overall by Rob Yackley, who leads [NieuCommunities Golden Hill](#) (in San Diego).

::: [Meet My Church] :::



[3rd Place](#) is a small church plant filled with cultural creatives (largely young Afrikaner families and students), located in Hatfield next to the University of Pretoria, the neighborhood next to Clydesdale, where we will move as an NCSA team. I was honored to lead a series of teachings in spiritual formation with this community this past year, and count many dear friends among this fledgling community. I have quickly found a local church home, and look forward to a great year of learning, growth, and community. Plus, this is where I met Max!

::: [Meet Lorraine] :::



Lorraine Groenwald and her husband Piet run [Mohale Rest & Retreat](#), a fantastic retreat center literally a block away from Pangani. Our team was guided through a 48-hour listening retreat facilitated by Lorraine this past year, and I knew instantly that I had found a friend who viewed spirituality through the same formational lens that I do. Many conversations later, Lorraine will begin supervising me in spiritual direction this year, as well as introduce me to the [Jesuit Institute South Africa](#), who she works with closely. This partnership seems promising!

(Photos L to R: Provocative graffiti in Shoreditch, East London; The team of Care Workers I facilitated spiritual direction for in Soshanguve; My lovely girlfriend Sarah Magdalene Van Der Merwe; Enjoying a Blue Bulls rugby match with Rob Yackley and Joe Reed, my directors in NieuCommunities; Chalk art mantra of 3rd Place, my church in Pretoria; Reflective Listening Retreat at Mohale Rest & Retreat Center, run by my friend Lorraine Groenwald, a Jesuit-trained spiritual director.)

::: [140 Character Updates] :::

Twitter truly does rule the world. Bullet-point updates from the past 4 months.

- I returned to my 'Biola Accountability Guys' (My best friends, a group of men I met with weekly for over 10 years) in early December 2009 to see that a family explosion has taken place. *Welcome to the world Jude Warkentin, Caleb Cleary, Ryder Rae, and (soon to enter this world) Hank Thrash!* Uncle Carrot will soon be sitting at the Kid's Table again...
- Family Tree Day on a cold rainy day after Thanksgiving for the 31st year in a row. We are Crest Ranch locals!
- CRM invited me to join their recruitment team at Urbana '09, the largest student mission's conference in the US. Held in freezing St. Louis the week after Christmas, we thoroughly enjoyed countless fruitful conversations with students prayerfully considering God's call on their lives to engage in cross-cultural mission work of all types.
- Passion 2010 descended upon Atlanta January 2nd-5th, and I shepherded 5 Eastside alumni/students in a profoundly transformative 4 day experience. 21,000 students from all 50 states and almost 40 countries began the year soaking in the glory of God and engaging their worship in acts of sacrificial justice. Over 1.3 million dollars was given by these "poor" students to causes all around the world! Three of these five students are now engaged in RockHarbor Fullerton's new campus launch, as well as have committed to summer mission projects around the globe. This was my 8th Passion Conference (I serve with CRM in South Africa as a direct result of God's call on my life at Passion '07).
- Nick and Sophie Sykes, two former students I have had the privilege of mentoring several years ago, were married January 10th in an incredible ceremony that I helped to officiate. It was such a deep joy to play a small role in ushering in their union before God. I love them dearly!
- I deeply enjoyed returning to speak in an Eastside Chapel almost 1 year to the day after finishing my role as Chaplain for 200+ dear students. My old office is still referred to as "Kamalski's Office!"
- First Things (CRM's New Staff Orientation) was held at the end of January at CRM's headquarters in Anaheim, CA. I was impressed with the breadth and depth of CRM's work around the globe (425 missionaries serving in 25 countries around the globe, with 75 of those non-American nationals!) and truly feel like I've found the tribe that I belong to!
- Saratoga Federated Church hosted a 'Go & Tell' gathering for me January 17th. I was privileged to share about my unfolding vision with my oldest church family.
- California enjoyed its greatest winter surf season in decades. I bodyboarded the entire state, scoring epic waves!

::: [Grateful For Your Partnership] :::

I remain stunned by the consistent, generous provision of God through dozens of friends and family, from a former student scraping along in college (I once was 'poor as well!) to family going above and beyond their means, to former work colleagues, to the faithful, bedrock support of several home churches and their members (I have three homes(!): Saratoga Federated, RockHarbor, Oceanview Baptist), to amazing reconnection with old friends 'out of the blue' (Of course, God knew, and provoked hearts towards generosity).

In all of these instances, I am blown away by the desire to live in a manner profoundly different than the model our society holds up to the light: *generosity when scarcity abounds, simplicity so that others may have a 'bit more,' and global investment in 'neighbors' never before met.* I am living in Pretoria on mission because of you all! Thank you.



I am tracking at about what I need (\$2,600/month through 2010), but have found that 'typically,' ~10% of needed support drops off within the first year. Please prayerfully consider partnering with me to sew into God's emerging work through me in Pretoria.

(Family Tree Day at Crest Ranch Tree Farm above Felton, CA on a rainy day after Thanksgiving.)

::: [How To Partner Financially] :::

::: [Online] :::

1. [Click this link to begin financial partnership.](#)
2. Select monthly, annually, or one-time gift options and desired partnership levels. *(Please prayerfully consider that I have monthly financial needs of roughly \$2,600/month through the end of 2010. Additionally, we are moving into a more expensive area of Pretoria, and my expenses will increase by May 2010.)*
3. Enter banking details and you are done mere minutes later!
4. You may also access my fund through entering my name here: <http://crmladers.org/support/support-staff>

::: [Snail Mail] :::

1. [Click this link to download a Financial Partnership Pledge Card.](#)
2. Enter my name and fund number (*Chris Kamalski #3829*) on the card with all relevant details, and mail to CRM 1240 N. Lakeview Ave, Suite 120 Anaheim, CA 92807 USA

“If the character doesn’t change, the story hasn’t happened yet...”

...It isn’t possible to be stagnant...The human body essentially recreates itself every six months. Nearly ever cell of hair and skin and bone dies and another is directed to its former place. You are not who you were in [October],” [Donald Miller, A Million Miles In A Thousand Years, pp. 68-70].

(Photos L to R: Becca, Aly, and Travis during Urbana ’09, where I coached students considering full-time mission work with CRM; Christmas Dinner with the guys and ‘their guys;’ The incredible reception of Nick and Sophie Sykes, former students and the first wedding I have helped to officiate!)



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