



**November 2014**

## **We Thank God for Pastor Dave and Melanie Beelen**



Pastor Dave and Melanie Beelen have faithfully served God and His people at Madison Square Church for 32 years. It is the only church Pastor Dave has served, and Lord willing, Pastor Dave will continue to serve there until God tells him it is time to retire. We love Madison Square Church because it is one of the few truly multi-cultural churches in Grand Rapids. We have been immensely blessed, warmly received and greeted by so many folks every time we worship there.

We feel like we belong and fit in, because Pastor Dave fondly refers to the congregation of Madison as a group of mixed nuts. We come together in all sizes, shapes, and colors to make something beautiful and wonderful in God's eyes. We are humbled by our own flaws and imperfections. We experience great joy because we realize that our value, purpose, and meaning, comes from Almighty God, our gracious heavenly Father. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Highest praises, honor, and glory be unto Your name!



Pastor Dave and Melanie Beelen sharing with the congregation the slides they took on their trip to Israel.



*The Beelen Family have modeled for me what Christian love, acceptance, and forgiveness looks like in positions of leadership as well as in family situations.*

*Friends, Pastors, Encouragers, Mentors, Directors, and Church Family, —*  
***Christ in real people*** *that's who the Beelens are to me!*

*Henry Salley*



*Thank you for giving us the opportunity to honor pastor Dave & Melanie. We're glad that God blessed Madison CRC for the last 30 years with a humble and faithful pastor as Dave Beelen and his great wife Melanie. I hope many churches can enjoy as Madison, having an anointed pastor and excellent team work leadership. May our wonderful God keep anointing him for His glory and the blessings for the Madison family.*

*Gratefully in Christ,  
Lorenzo & Emiliana Miguel*





*Pastor Dave is deeply human, longs for God, desires reconciliation for all of humanity and has over and over again been authentic with us about his need for Jesus' death and resurrection on his behalf. God's love for him flows out toward us. He plays the drums, sings, and raises his arms to God in surrendered worship. At times he is overcome by the sensed Presence of the Holy Spirit in the sanctuary. When this occurs Pastor Dave invites us to be still, with him, in the Presence of God.*

*I have heard it said that the best thing a pastor can do is bring his own transforming life to his congregation. I have witnessed this for years; God's transformative work in one of his sons, Pastor Dave. We, his parish, are seeing it with our very own eyes.*

*Anonymous*

*Pastor Dave creates a safe place for hurting people by being vulnerable with his congregation. Christ and His Word are primary in His strong preaching. We have been challenged by Pastor Dave to hold to our marriage vows during a difficult season in our marriage. He was there for us during our 10 month separation. He even held us to accountability for our marriage and cared for our hearts and after our healing gave us opportunity to share what God had done. His grace for us and gentle encouragement to go the long course, led us to now being able to come alongside hurting pastors for the last 7 years by doing Intensive Marriage Retreats through Shepherd's Heart Ministry here in W. Michigan.*

*He was there for us also during times we needed grace words for our son, when our hearts were broken. He understands grace without losing site of the need for truth to be spoken in love.*



*He has great joy in helping others to be successful by developing apprentice preachers within the congregation, sharing his pulpit to give others a chance to develop their gifts under his leadership. By this He has modeled Jesus in building and encouraging preaching gifts in others. Only a truly humble man could step aside so others can shine. It is a privilege to honor him. Even though we now attend one of Madison's church plants down the street, and our Pastor Brad has been mentored by Pastor Dave, we are amazed at the strong intensity of the preaching he has obviously fostered in our young pastor. We are honored to have been led by Pastor Dave and now our current Pastor Brad.*

*Sincerely,  
Chris and Carolyn Schroeder*



*Pastor David and Melanie Beelen have been a rock solid presence for the Madison family over the last 30 years. The thing we admire most about them is that they are the same people inside and outside the church. They have taught us how to put our relationship with God, our marriage and our family first because they have lived this out not only in words, but more importantly in actions. Their passion for racial reconciliation and Christian community development is evident in how they have chosen to remain residents of the great city of Grand Rapids, raising their family on Bates Street.*

*They model what it means to live balanced lives. Pastor Dave is not afraid to take risks to build the kingdom of God. More importantly, he's not afraid to take risks to develop young leaders who desire to invest their lives in ministering for the glory of God. Pastor Dave and Melanie, we love you and count it a privilege to be under your leadership and guidance for the last decade. We praise God for your example, faithfulness, and dedication to Christ.*

*With love,  
Pastor Brad and Christy Knetsch*



*I have known Pastor Dave for at least 5 decades. It has been a blessing to watch how God planted seeds of renewal in him and nurtured his Maverick spirit throughout the years. God, in his matchless wisdom united Pastor Dave and Melanie so that we could watch how "iron sharpens iron" in their ability to be powerful change agents in the heart of Grand Rapids. With their combined ministries, many lives have been impacted for good. God's kingdom has been multiplied over and over again as a result of their work independently and together.*

*It's my prayer that they receive this encouragement as fuel to continue the journey with added enthusiasm.*

*Victoria Proctor Gibbs*



*There is not enough paper in the world to record the love and appreciation I have for Pastor Dave Beelen and his family. They have been there all my life as an extension to my (already large) family. You and your entire congregation have poured so much into my life, and it is why I am who I am today. The role you play in my life is huge. You are incredibly who God created you to be and I most certainly have reaped the rewards from your response to God's call on your life.*

*Thank you to my wonderful Pastor and Spiritual Father,*

*Diana and Eddie Riley*



*I am grateful for Pastor Dave and Melanie for many reasons. A significant reason is because they have remained committed to Madison Square Church for over 25 years! During that time, we have grown and changed as a congregation, I believe, in part because of Pastor Dave's "hanging in" with us. I believe this was God's intent. Watching Pastor Dave from the variety of roles I've had at Madison, it has become clear that he has allowed himself to be changed by God. Perhaps because of this, Madison Square Church has not been a status quo church either.*



*He preaches the gospel – very well. He stretches us with challenging, likely difficult to preach, sermons. He regularly calls us to pray, to fast, to listen to the Holy Spirit and to be in the Word daily. Pastor Dave is an avid reader and learner and has put into place a number of opportunities, year after year, to feed into the lives of upcoming leaders. I have been the recipient of some of these. On top of that, ya gotta love a pastor who goes on annual silent retreats and still kayaks Lake Superior!*

*From the pulpit, Pastor Dave shows respect for Melanie. He's honest about himself but also expresses his respect and love for Melanie. This speaks volumes to a congregation. I am in awe of Melanie's enduring commitment to the work of God at Baxter Community Center! No matter what she's doing, you can see in her, so clearly, the love of God. Together, yet in unique ways, Melanie and Pastor Dave have really given themselves to the Madison/Baxter community as well as to each other and their 3 children.*

*To the two of you, may God bless you, your marriage, and your family! May your life in him continue to strengthen and sweeten. May it glorify our great High Priest, Shepherd and Savior.*

*With love,  
Gay Kaashoek*



*Thank you Pastor Dave and Melanie for your faithfulness to us! Melanie, you have been a faithful woman doing God's work and keeping your promises. You are a trustworthy woman who loves well. Pastor Dave, thank you for being faithful as our pastor. We benefit from your good preaching, your silent retreats where you "sit at Jesus' feet", your prayers for all of us, your personal care and prayers for our family, and much, much more. We see you as a growing man of God, not just "settling" for mediocrity. Thank you both!*

*We love you!  
Ron and Mary Boes*



*I am so thankful for the gift of Pastor Dave and Melanie who day in and out emulate servant leadership at church and in our community! Blessings to you both for showing us how to empower others and be reconcilers!*

*Denise Fase*



*One of the highlights for me joining Madison Square Church 13 years ago was having a pastor again after 21 years without one. As Church Planting Missionaries in the Philippines Joel and I were often living and serving in places and with people groups in which we were the only mature Christians. We didn't have a pastor or for most of those years, mentors either. Pastor Dave has been a truth teller, an encourager, a coach, a believer in my gifts, and has pastored me well. I am so grateful to God for the person and gifts of MY PASTOR.*

*Patty and Joel Hogan*



*Pastor Dave and Melanie,*

*Ever since I have known you I have been blessed by your passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and your willingness to put into action your faith. You have exemplified what it means to be committed to family and ministry, in that order. Thanks for taking our family under your wing and allowing Madison Church to be a place where we could heal as a family and thrive.*

*Melanie has been an example to many with her ministry of the Gospel in the "marketplace" being a wonderful leader at Baxter. She has shown what a Proverbs 31 woman should look like in our day.*

*On a personal note, Pastor Dave, you have and continue to mentor me as I become the Campus Pastor at Madison. Thanks for sharing your 32 years of experience with me and helping me to hone my preaching gifts. You are a father in the faith to me, and I appreciate all you do. Many others at Madison could say the same, I'm sure. May God continue to bless you in this season of life and ministry, Dave and Melanie!*

*God bless,  
Darrell and Kia Delaney*



We thank God for this opportunity to honor and bless Pastor Dave and Melanie Beelen.

We depend on the prayers and financial support of people like you. Every gift makes a difference!

Checks payable to: **PastorCare West Michigan 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508.**

**Online contributions** can be made through the PastorCare West Michigan website, using our secure **PayPal account.**

**This is a 501(c)(3) organization.**

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