

## Interview with Bob:

### **What discipling relationships do you have?**

Bob: Gene Holland and Lori Woodward are two people that we have been in an intentional discipling relationship with. We met them both in 1992.

With Gene Holland, we have shared fellowship and co-mentored each other in care groups, family gatherings and many public Christian events. Every summer since 1992, except when Brenda and I were in Uganda, we have been sailing partners. Gene is now 89, still sailing, still praising Jesus and encouraging others to do the same. I believe I have been able to help him draw closer to the Lord since his wife Stella died in 2011.

Lori Woodward is a long-time off-and-on member of Madison that we have been in a discipling relationship with for a long time. We have tried to be there for her when she chooses to seek our fellowship, which has been regular, though intermittent and often with long pauses (sometimes years). Recently we have seen a lot of growth - some real breakthroughs that are moving her toward a much more full life in Christ. We rejoice in the small part we have played in her journey. This summer, we've taken her sailing a number of times. Yesterday, in response to my earlier request, she read the following testimony to Gene Holland and me as we sailed on Muskegon Lake.

### **Lori's testimony:**

I met Bob and Brenda in 1992. They have been mentoring me off and on since then. At the time that we met I was 19 and I was really struggling with a drug addiction and depression related to severe trauma inflicted by my parents. Bob and Brenda encouraged me and often helped me get to places that were helping me to deal with the addiction. There were times that I wanted help and many times that I didn't. There were times that I needed help but did not know what I needed. They have listened to me, shared with me, encouraged me and guided me. There was never a time that I felt abandoned although there were times that we disagreed. It has been a very long and slow healing process. Over the last couple of years I have made many strides in the healing process. They have encouraged and guided me through this journey. The journey is not over as new issues often creep up unexpectedly. I am learning to listen and trust more through their encouragement and my increased trust that God will never leave me or abandon me. This is something I have had to learn as trust in God and trust in people was not something I learned as a child. I no longer have to live in fear. I can boldly live out faith in God and in the knowledge that he will not leave me or forsake me. Thank you Bob and Brenda for all the encouragement and sacrifices you have made over the years. I really appreciate it.