

### **Discipleship Spotlight: Rsykamp, Hogan, Leep, King, and Schroeder Care Group**

Our Madison Care Group has been together for over 20 years and, although we were all originally members of Madison Square, some of us moved as new sites opened and we now represent all three Madison sites. Our group consists of Andy and Kris Ryskamp, Rich and Cindy Leep, Judy King, Carolyn Schroeder and Joel and Patty Hogan. We originally came together because of similar interests and experiences in cross cultural ministry. Our goals are to build each other up into a growing intimacy with Christ and with each other for the glory of God. We quickly learned that each of us also carried unique gifts and wounds that were being used to encourage and nurture each other's faith journey. We have prayed for and seen miracles of healing and the salvation of family members. We have offered each other loving intervention in difficult situations and comfort for deep grief in the loss of loved ones, particularly the loss of Steve, Judy's husband and Chris, Carolyn's husband.

We meet twice a month, rotating homes and rotating leadership. We vary our format to include sharing meals, Bible study, book study, focus on spiritual practices, fellowship and prayer. We have also met each other's needs through phone calls, hospital visits, bringing meals when needed, praying over each other and speaking blessings to each other. Our continual spiritual growth as disciples of Jesus Christ is a result of each person pointing the others to love and serve the Lord and to grow in our understanding of ourselves and our unique giftings and callings. The mutual love and support for each other and for each other's extended families deepens year by year. There is a real sense that we are family to each other and that we are the Body of Christ made real. In very significant ways, we are encouraging each other to love Jesus more and more, to become more and more like Him in our attitudes and actions and to keep involved in discipling others to do the same. As one group member put it, this care group has been God with "skin on".