

Close to my Heart ...



I am writing this to you from Washington State where Dean Buse, our new Community Outreach Coordinator, and I are attending a “Boot Camp.” This camp is designed for those who are responding to the Holy Spirit’s “still small voice” calling them to start a church or similar ministry, as He has spoken to us about doing in our 50-mile radius. It will serve as a “jump start” to help get us moving in the right direction and maximize our efforts in the process. Indeed, the Holy Spirit has especially moved upon Dean giving him a clearer vision of what He is intending to do through our efforts. This has brought great inner joy to both of us.

It would be easy for us as a church family to be like the two men Jesus described who were walking on the road to Jericho, and they passed by a man who had been robbed, beaten and left to die. Yes, they recognized the need, but they thought they were too busy to offer help. There are many living in the smaller communities surrounding Kearney who are like that wounded man. They have been “robbed and beaten” in their marriage, or other aspects of their lives.

In Jesus’ story, a “outsider” Samaritan, happened along the road and also saw the hurting man. Even though he too had limited resources and was pressed for time, he stopped to give aid to the man out of divine compassion. We have the choice whether or not we will break out of our pace of life in order to share the divine life and empowerment we have so generously received from God.

I have been so proud of Dean who has left a secure position at the Kearney Hub and responded to God’s still small voice calling him to lead teams of “Good Samaritans.” And, I am proud of many of you who are responding to God’s voice calling you to take valuable time out of your schedule to be a part of a healing team to these communities.

The most exciting part is that God is going to cause you to experience a sense of deeper significance and His joy as healing and life begin to sprout as spring flowers pop out of the ground. There will be God’s joy and gratitude in the hearts of those who have been bound and harassed by Satan’s forces for so long. They will be like Dean, who was raised in a small community, attended church there all his life, but was never told about how to find real life in Christ. Bottom line: This will be a win-win situation for everyone involved!

I ask you to be praying earnestly as to how you might be a part of such a life-giving team, and that the Holy Spirit will help each of us to hear His voice and obey.

About 370 years ago, a shipload of Europeans landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year, they established a town site. The next year, they elected a town government. The third year, those elected officials decided to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness. In the fourth year, the citizens tried to impeach their leaders because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles into the wilderness. “Why do we need to go west?” they asked.

These were the people who had the vision to see thousands of miles across an ocean and overcome incredible hardships to get there. But in just a few years, they were not able to see just five miles out of town. They lost their vision because they became comfortable.

*You are loved
Bob*

The renowned D.L. Moody used to tell preachers, “If God is your partner, make no little plans.”