

KANSAS COMMUNITIES MINISTRY UPDATE

"My objective is to know Christ in my own life in ever-increasing depth and to make disciples and develop laborers at all times, under any conditions, in every place I go"

Philippians 2:1-2

"Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Discipleship

On Monday of this week I called a friend with whom I am going through Every Man a Warrior. We talked and prayed together since we are both homebound. Then on Wednesday evening I "Zoom Conferenced" another friend with whom I am going through the TMS (Topical Memory System©) verses. We reviewed our verses, shared our STS and prayed together.

On Thursday morning I FaceTimed another friend with whom I am reading and discussing "The Lost Art of Disciplemaking" by LeRoy Eims. We discussed chapter 5, shared what's going on in our lives and prayed together.

How blessed we are to be able to continue ministering despite lack of in-person interaction! Share with us how you are managing during this time by emailing us at newsletter@kansasnavs.org.

What does Scripture say we should do in hard times?

"God [is] our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)

"Unprecedented," "uncharted waters" and "frightening times" are just a few of the words we hear on the news about the COVID 19 disease and its devastating effect on health (both physical and emotional) and our economy. Certainly there are many who are struggling financially right now as they are laid off or just can't find work. There are many who have or will be suffering from physical illness. And there are many who are suffering from social isolation as we are told to shelter in place.

We know that none of this caught our gracious God by surprise. He is still in full control and will bring good out of a bad situation. What does Scripture teach us about our response during hard times? (all quotes are from NKJV)

1. Pray and don't be anxious. Phil. 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

2. Think on pure and noble things and imitate Godly people in your life. Phil. 4:8-9: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things [are] noble, whatever things [are] just, whatever things [are] pure, whatever things [are] lovely, whatever things [are] of good report, if [there is] any virtue and if [there is] anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

3. Be content and look to Jesus for your strength. Phil. 4:11-13: "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

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Goads and Nails

Excerpt from *Goads and Nails*,
Volume 1, pages 79-81

Wherever you are, BE There

"A common phrase heard in our house as our daughters were growing up was 'Earth calling Dad.' I would 'zone out' and be in my own thoughts, oblivious to what was going on around me...I share these [thoughts] with you not as something that I have accomplished but rather [as] a goal...

"To not 'be there' when we are with others is to hinder our relationship with them. It also lessens our awareness of needs on their part that the Lord would want us to address...

"If anyone ever had reason to be occupied with their own thoughts and concerns it would have been our Lord...Yet we see Him on the way to Jerusalem [when] ... a lone voice called to him by the side of the road... Mark 10:49 relates that Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him'...

"Unless I 'am there' I will not be aware of the voices of those calling for help...and the Lord can not use me in their lives."— Richard Spann

Hard times (continued)

4. **Pray fervently and seek fellowship with trusted friends.** Matt. 26:36-37: "Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed."
5. **Remember that the Creator of the universe is in control. Fear not. Cry out to Jesus.** Matt. 8:23-27: "Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to [Him] and awoke Him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'"
6. **See how God may be glorified in this situation.** John 9:1-3: "Now as [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.'"
7. **Look for ways that this may be an opportunity for people to believe in Jesus.** John 11:41-42: (story of raising Lazarus from the dead) "Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up [His] eyes and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said [this], that they may believe that You sent Me.'"
8. **Trust your life to God (your life is in His loving hands). Continue to simply do the right thing (do good).** 1 Peter 4:19: "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls [to Him] in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."
9. **Don't be afraid and remember that God is stronger than any adversary. He will provide.** Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I [am] with you; Be not dismayed, for I [am] your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

I trust these promises will encourage you today as you continue to minister for our marvelous, gracious Lord and Master. Share these verses with others and encourage everyone you meet. He is coming soon!



Eddie Broussard to speak April 9-10, 2021

Eddie Broussard, International Vice President for the Navigators has graciously consented to join us for next spring's Men's Retreat. Mark your calendars today for this event.

Professor to Patient to Friend to Brother in Christ

He sat down next to me at one of our men's monthly Saturday morning breakfasts late last summer. I had known Frank (not his real name) for a number of years. He had lived in another state and worked as a college professor, then moved back to Salina to take another position. He had been my patient for several years during that time. He then moved away to a different state again, but moved back to Salina upon retirement. I had known Frank as a very gracious, intelligent and personable fellow.

That Saturday the Lord put us side by side at the breakfast. We chatted a bit then he pulled out his business card and gave it to me, suggesting we grab coffee sometime. I was honored and planned to take him up on it but let several weeks go by. Even though he was extremely personable, I felt a little intimidated by him. After all he had taught on the college level and clearly was very intelligent and knowledgeable. Finally, after praying about it, I texted him and asked if he was still interested in getting together and he immediately responded in the affirmative.

We agreed to meet at a local Perkins Restaurant for breakfast. I still remember that Tuesday morning. We shared about our families, our lives and ultimately about our spiritual walk with the Lord. Frank, while being a believer, expressed a great interest in growing in his faith. I asked if he'd be willing to get together to do a Bible study on a weekly basis. He said without hesitation, "Yes!" That was about 6-7 months ago.

We went through the 13-week Growing in Christ © Bible study from the Navigators. I'm not sure I've known someone who was more eager to get God's Word into his mind and heart! He faithfully did the lessons, memorizing Scripture and discussing the Bible with me every week that we could. It was so exciting to see his enthusiasm and eagerness to grow! He really gave me great encouragement in my spiritual walk!

However, Frank had been battling for several years a smoldering yet serious illness. He would have episodes of flare-ups but was always able to pull through. Through all this he remained optimistic and very active and sharp. He and his wife, a lady with a beautiful Christian testimony, were able to join a Life Group with Karla and me over the last several weeks. We had just completed a study on "Eternal Rewards" emphasizing the difference between gaining eternal life (which is a free gift and not dependent on our works) and eternal rewards (which is something we do work for — 2 John 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:8; 2 Timothy 2:12). Frank's wife was starting to lead a series on the life of Paul.

It was about this time that the coronavirus was kicking into high gear. We skipped one week of Life Group (spring break), then after that we didn't think we could really get together except on Zoom. However, Frank took a turn for the worse about this time. He was hospitalized with pneumonia, ultimately requiring mechanical ventilation. He succumbed to this infection and passed away into the presence of Jesus.

I learned from Frank that it is never too late to start growing more and more into Christlikeness. I also learned from him that we are all the same at the foot of the cross. He was a wonderful, kind, loving man who was professor, patient and finally friend and brother in Christ. See you in heaven!

Spotlight on Online Resources

◆ *Discipleship Library:*

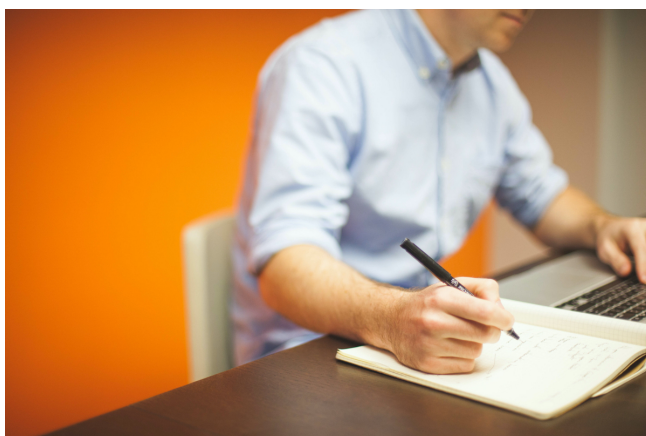
Hear from Doug Nuenke (The Navigators © US President) about how the Navigators' vision for spiritual generations has worked and continues to make disciples who love the Lord, all through the ripple effect of the Gospel. "We are all cracked pots" Doug says! "God's Purposes Through Us": <http://turret2.discipleshiplibrary.com/APPO1235.mp3>

◆ *Kansas Navigators:*

Watch our 2019 Fall Conference where Ron Bennett shared Scripture and his thoughts on "Discipleship on the Resurrection Side of the Cross." <https://kansasnavs.org/media/discipleship-on-the-resurrection-side-of-the-cross/>

◆ *YouTube:*

If you haven't seen and been blessed by "It is Well With My Soul" by this "virtual choir," be prepared to be moved and encouraged. This seems like such an appropriate song for this difficult time in which we find ourselves. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDIJz6zzHNU>



Calling All Writers!

Would you be willing to share your thoughts with others via this Kansas Navigators Newsletter? We are looking for articles that would be an encouragement to fellow believers as they seek to grow in Christlikeness, evangelize the lost and help others to grow. Each article should be around 500 words or less and we reserve the right to edit! Consider topics such as personal testimonies (salvation or other stories of how God has worked in your

life), brief devotionals or Bible studies, book or article reviews, etc. Practical helps are great! The topic needs to focus on evangelism, discipleship or spiritual growth. Won't you consider sharing your insight? It would be such an encouragement to many people! Thanks. Email us at newsletter@kansasnavs.org.