

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"

Matthew 22:36-39

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NET Bible)

Equipping

The Kansas Navigators are guided by what we see in Scripture about how to encourage others in their faith by: *Evangelizing* (helping someone come to faith in Jesus alone for eternal life based on Matthew 4:19, John 3:16), *Establishing* (helping them develop a daily walk and personal intimacy with the Savior, based on Colossians 1:28) and *Equipping* (helping them catch the vision and reproduce in others based on 2 Tim. 2:2).

What are some ideas for the "equipping phase"? 1. They need to see that I have that vision of reproducing in others, 2. They need to understand that they are capable of reproducing (see ["The Ways of the Alongsider"](#)), 3. We must pray for them consistently that they would catch that reproduction vision and 4. We must take them to conferences and other settings where they see other disciplinarians sharing their enthusiasm for reproduction.

Intimacy with God and others

by David Dennis

The Apostle John wrote: "Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God. The person

who does not love does not know God, because God is love. By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another." (NET Bible, used by permission). Jesus said in Matthew 22:36-39 that the greatest commandment is to love God, with the second being to love our neighbor. Both of these passages tell us to develop a close love relationship with the creator of the universe and that because of that relationship we can love others with this supernatural love.

In meditating on this passage, I note several truths of which I'll share only one. The source of all love is God. We cannot love, truly love, someone apart from knowing God (John 15:5). I once worked with an individual who frankly was hard to love. That person would complain and belittle me at times. How hard it was to love that person! One day in my quiet time I recognized that I was merely a conduit for God to show His love through me to that other person. In addition, the Word of God showed me that I, too, was not easy to love! I complained and (at least in my mind) would belittle people. What a revelation! I then decided to let go of my pride and just love that person as God would love them.

The pandemic tends to separate us from each other. We must make concerted efforts to stay connected. Let us grow in our love relationship with God. Only by doing that can we truly love others.





Goads and Nails

Excerpt from *Goads and Nails*,
Volume 1, pages 93-96

"Good Things in Christ"

"I pray that you will be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have full understanding of every good thing in Christ." Philemon 6

"The above verse has always challenged my thinking in regard to the 'good things' that we have in Christ. In the ages to come, they will be shown to be infinite in scope. At the present time, our appreciation of the extent of these good things is limited. Philemon 6 states that our understanding increases as we become active in sharing our faith. In the past few years, I have attempted to enumerate some of these good things that I have experienced since I first started sharing my faith. Let me mention two of them at the present time: ... His power and His presence.

Matthew 28:18-20 states, '... all power is given to me...' [and] '... lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'"

— Richard Spann

Some of the "...ations" of theology

by Larry Beck

In Biblical theology there are many terms we use to define certain truths, i.e. *Salvation*, *Justification*, *Propitiation*, etc., but the focus of this writing is on *sanctification* which can be difficult for some to understand in its practical outworking.

Sanctification is perhaps best defined by Paul in **Romans 8:29** when he writes "**For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...**" This one statement encapsulates a significant number of practical theological truths wherein God is orchestrating "**all things to work together for good, to those who love God and who are called according to His purpose.**" (Ref vs. 28)

As one writer put it "Conforming us to the image of Christ" is basically the equivalent of God training us to be in such relationship with Him that we are enabled to produce the fruits of His Spirit.

Our human nature cannot produce the fruits of the Spirit as noted in **Galatians 5:22-23** (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) until we are forced to look to God for the strength and wisdom to behave in obedience to His Word. Unfortunately, our fleshly or human nature tends toward independence (relying on ourselves) instead of dependence (looking to God for resources). For example, we won't learn to **love** our enemies (Ref **Matthew 5:44**) until God sovereignly places some in our path. We won't experience the **peace** which passes all understanding (**Philippians 4:6-7**) until we are in circumstances tempting us to be anxious. Likewise, we won't learn **patience** until we're tempted to be impatient, from just about anything from mechanical and electronic devices, but mostly people.

But God also realizes that we are weak in our humanity, even as Christians. He knows we need a respite from struggle and therefore as a loving Father He also gives us times of refreshing. Below are just a few texts of scripture indicating that God blesses His children, satisfying them and giving them good things to enjoy. (Continued on page three)

Conference and Retreat update:

Fall Conference this year (2020) has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Dr. Don Davis will be speaking to us in Fall of 2021.

Spring Men's Retreat: April 9-10, 2021 with Eddie Broussard, International Vice President for the Navigators speaking on John 15.

Some of the "...ations" (by Larry Beck) (Continued from page two)

Matt 7:11 - "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

Psalm 107:9 – For He satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Jeremiah 31:25 - For I satisfy the weary ones and refresh everyone who languishes.



As an illustration, consider the picture of the railroad track. One rail represents struggles or trials and the other the blessing and peace. The tracks lead to the same end point but are likewise connected with ties. Consider that if life were always full of blessing and ease, we would wander away from the Lord; the OT is replete with examples of Israel doing so. But if life was always full of struggle and trial, we might lose heart and question the goodness and wisdom of God. Thus, similar to the train tracks, we need both struggle and blessing, trial and comfort from the Lord to keep us moving toward Christ-likeness - Sanctification; strengthening our faith in God's ability to meet our needs and glorifying Him with praise and thanksgiving as a result. Both are part of His sanctifying work.

Encouraging one another with these words by Elmo Joseph

(Recently, Richard Spann, former Kansas Communities Director, underwent extensive surgery. In the days that followed, while still hospitalized, he became weaker and weaker and developed complications. Things looked bleak. Here is Elmo Joseph's description of God's miraculous answer to prayer.)

We were told Richard was experiencing severe physical pain and emotional discouragement. David Dennis brought those of us who were available that Thursday to meet online just a few hours after we heard of Richard's need for prayer. David sent this message out a few days later: "I was able to communicate with Dr. Spann Sunday afternoon. He (Richard) said 'I recovered remarkably Thursday afternoon and evening. I had my first real food Friday morning...I was allowed to go home late Friday! Your suggestion of prayer was greatly used by the Lord to change my health! Thanks to you and the entire team! I am recovering remarkably well at home with an unusual amount of energy!' What a privilege it is to join with others to participate and experience the power of prayer."

The outcome should not be surprising. Ephesians 1:19-20 (MSG) says "Oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven." The Bible Knowledge Commentary says about these two verses: "The third fact Paul wanted believers to know pertains to the present time: **His incomparably great power for us who believe.** The word "power" (*dynamis*) means a spiritually dynamic and living force. This power of God is directed toward believers. Paul then used three additional words to describe God's power. It is according to **the working** (*energeian*, "energetic power," from which comes the Eng. "energy") **of the might** (*kratous*, "power that overcomes resistance," as in Christ's miracles; this word is used only of God, never of believers) of God's inherent **strength** (*ischyos*) **which He** provides. This magnificent accumulation of words for power underscores the magnitude of God's "great power" available to Christians." Isn't it wonderful when we by faith can tap into that "resurrection" power of Christ!

We do rejoice that Richard is improving and it seems the Lord is not finished with him yet. I for one have been very blessed by his leadership, teaching and example for many years. I'm sure he along with so many others of the Navigator ministry will join the men and women of faith in Hebrews chapter 11.

¹ Thessalonians 4:18 (ESV) says; "Therefore encourage one another with these words."

Spotlight on Online Resources

◆ *Discipleship Library:*

Lorne Sanny (November 22, 1920 – March 28, 2005) was discipled by Dawson Trotman and succeeded Dawson as President of the Navigators. Lorne loved the Lord and was greatly used by Him over the years. This 53 minute talk is [“Essentials of Reproductive Disciplemaking”](#) and is especially helpful. A PDF of the notes for this talk are [found here](#). He discusses evangelism, establishing and equipping.



◆ *Kansas Navigators:*

What is a Disciple? That question is addressed in a [recent blog](#) by Dr. Spann. Often our own preconceived idea of what a disciple looks like is inaccurate. Quoting Howard Hendricks, Richard says that a disciple is a learner, a follower and a reproducer. This is an excellent blog and we urge you to take a look at it.

◆ *Podcast “Making Disciples Naturally”*

Mr. Bill Mowry is the author of [“Ways of the Alongsider”](#), an excellent and practical study in helping us get a more accurate picture of what it means to encourage someone spiritually. Instead of assuming the professional clergy are responsible for making disciples and instead of pursuing a teacher/student relationship, Bill encourages us to simply come alongside someone, with Scripture open between us and pursue a love relationship with God. We think you’ll be encouraged by this five episode series of podcasts found on Apple Podcasts, iTunes, Spotify and [on our website](#).



Thank you for praying!

We were reminded of the tremendous power in prayer as we interceded for our brother Richard Spann recently (see story by Elmo Joseph). It is a privilege to be able to come into the presence of the Creator of the universe, our Lord and Savior, to simply spend time with Him, get to know Him and to express our needs, desires and even “wants”!

We recognize that we do not merely pray *for* the ministry; indeed prayer *is* the ministry

and we thank each of you for your labor in lifting up the Kansas Navigators in prayer. We are all in this together and we really appreciate your prayers and support!

