

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"

2 Peter 1:5-7

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance, to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Evangelism

Evangelism in the 21st century western world is in many ways different than it was 20-30 years ago. We live in a culture largely unaware of our need for a Savior, if not openly hostile. How, then do we bring up spiritual topics or share our faith with others?

Some thoughts: 1. Be likable: Do people consider you to be friendly and "safe" to confide in? 2. Be loving: Look for needs to genuinely meet. 3. Be willing to listen for or bring up spiritual questions and discuss them honestly. Authenticity is key!

Fall Conference

There is still time to register for our Fall Conference! Bill Hull will be our speaker on October 6 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He will be speaking on "Can the West be Won?" Bill is an internationally-known author, pastor, and preacher and has a passion for discipling.



He is the co-founder of The Bonhoeffer Project, a movement dedicated to the development of disciple-making leaders (www.thebonhoefferproject.com). His books include The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ, Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker and many others.

His messages at the Fall Conference will be: (1) Can the West be Won? (2) The Gospel you Believe Determines the Disciple You Make and (3) The New Normal.

The Conference is open to all and starts at 9 am with registration. To register (either online or by downloading a PDF brochure) go to kansasnavs.org and click on "Conferences."

Get a group together and sign up soon! There is still time to register (deadline September 28). You are welcome to come even if you are not pre-registered (although the meal at noon is available only to those signing up by the deadline.) You won't want to miss this encouraging conference!



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Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 9-10*

"...LeRoy [Eims] was a WILD-EYED fanatic about Scripture memory. So also were Dawson Trotman, Lorne Sanny, Jim Morris, Bill Brunson, Dick Grant and many other Navigators who have gone before us. Why the necessity of being WILD-EYED? It is because there is absolutely no change in our lives that happens apart from our exposure to the Word of God. ... If we do not avail ourselves of the Lord's means of Grace, we can not glorify Him. Only the Scripture that the Holy Spirit has access to in our lives can be used to produce change (2 Cor. 3:18)...

The Lord has used memorized Scripture in my life in many ways...The worries, the cares and the responsibilities of this life as mentioned in Mark 4 can be consuming. Years ago, in an uncertain time I had memorized Psalm 20:7: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

In remembering His name there is peace— Richard Spann

Book review: "A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World"

This little book by Paul Miller is a very practical and encouraging study of prayer. Let's face it, prayer is hard! We often feel guilty that we are not praying enough, or that our minds wander when we pray or that we are not sincere enough. Or we wonder if prayer really makes any difference at all. After all, if God is sovereign, won't He do what He is planning to do anyway? Or if we see an answer to prayer, we may think (secretly of course) "Well that would probably have happened anyway!" We tend to become cynical in our prayer life.

But that's not the way God wants us to approach our relationship with Him. In this book, Paul Miller notes that prayer is all about relationship. Just think, we have the tremendous opportunity to converse and have fellowship with the God of the universe!

Some points I found helpful:

1. We can (and should) come to God as a child. It's OK for a child to ask random things, to not stay "on topic" and to be totally honest. It's entirely appropriate to converse with God that way.
2. Cynicism is characteristic of our age. However, it errs on two fronts: It may make us think (in answer to prayer), "It would have happened anyway" or, seeing evil, we think, "God really doesn't hear me nor care. My prayer will not be answered." Both extremes are wrong. Prayer confronts evil head on and believes in a loving, present, hearing, caring God.
3. Jesus offers us ways out of cynicism. One of these is to look at things realistically, to be aware of the evil in our own hearts and in others. Yet with that wariness, we are to totally trust in the goodness of our heavenly Father. On the cross Jesus did not listen to the cynical taunts of the religious leaders or crowds (Matt. 27:42-43: "He saved others; he cannot save Himself"). Instead He had his ear attuned to His Father and trusted Him above all else.

In the same way, we must keep our ear attuned to the Father and trust in Him through daily, constant prayer. — David Dennis