

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."

Psalm 23:1-3

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He takes me to lush pastures, he leads me to refreshing water. He restores my strength. He leads me down the right paths for the sake of His reputation." (NET Bible - used by permission)

Establish/Equip

Which is more important, leading a person to Christ or helping them grow in Christlikeness? On the one hand, there is no argument that evangelism and introducing someone to our Lord is the key activity that we should be involved in. After all, if a person doesn't believe in Jesus for eternal life (John 3:16), no amount of "sanctification" is helpful.

On the other hand, it is telling that Jesus in the Great Commission commanded his followers to make **disciples**, not merely to make **converts**.

Which activity (evangelism or discipleship) do most churches emphasize? Which do **you** think is most important? I'm not arguing for less evangelism here; I'm reminding us (myself included!) that helping someone grow in their faith and Christlikeness ("sanctification") is just as important and must not be ignored. Growth isn't automatic but must be intentional!

Hearing "Well Done"

(Editor's note: Recently the Kansas Communities Ministry lost two faithful women of God, Sandy Stout and Beverly Spann. We grieve their home going, but not like the world grieves. We rejoice that they are now healed and we will see them again some day. This blog, penned by Richard Spann in 2013, is in honor and memory of these women of God and others who have gone before us.)

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
Matthew 25:21

On two occasions our Lord spoke of the Master commending His servants. One of these is in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25) and the other is the parable of the minas (Luke 19). In both cases, it was a view of the future when each of us will stand before our Lord. II Corinthians 5:10 also speaks of this time. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." This judgment seat (Bema) is a seat of rewards, not condemnation, our condemnation already being taken by Christ. (II Corinthians 5:21 – "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.") In these six words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," we are given instruction in regard to what our Lord will find commendable in our lives on that day.

The first word which is arresting is simply the word "good." Our casual view of this word robs it of its scriptural significance defined by our Lord's own words in Mark 10:18. "'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good – except God alone.'" Jesus' statement was designed to bring the rich young ruler to the realization of the Deity of Christ. We see, then, that goodness is Godliness, and comes only from God Himself. To be recognized by our Lord as "good" implies the presence of the character of Christ Himself. No other source of goodness is available to mankind. By God's grace, He has made the life of Christ available to us. Galatians 2:20 states, "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"... and also in Colossians 3:3-4, "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

The second word which demands attention is the word "faithful." This has also been translated as reliable and implies dependability or trustworthiness. (Continued on p. 3)

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Goads and Nails

Excerpt from *Goads and Nails*
Vol. 2, pp 9-13

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

The Apostle Paul in this verse is referring to a cause and effect relationship. The activity of sharing our faith brings us naturally into an understanding of many things in Christ which we would not appreciate unless we were involved in that activity. It is the Lord's desire that we share our faith, not only to be witnesses of His power in the lives of others, but also to be recipients of His grace in our lives as well.

The activity of sharing my faith has helped me understand in a personal way that there is no prejudice to the working of God's grace in someone's life. Many of those with whom I have ...shared the Gospel have been in the eyes of the world either off the road in a ditch ... or out on a limb. May you be active in sharing your faith...

- Richard Spann

Updates ... Fall Conference: "I Can See Clearly Now: Seeking First God's Kingdom"

Register now for our Fall Conference with Speaker Dr. Don Davis to be held Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Wichita, Kansas.

From Dr. Davis:

"As followers of Jesus Christ, we have been gifted with the Holy Spirit, who equips and transforms our hearts and minds to be conformed to the mind of Christ. As our comforter and teacher, He establishes within us the mind of Christ so we may represent Christ in the roles and relationship we manage within our life circles. As those who anchor their entire lives on the person and work of Christ, we must strive to see things as God does through his eyes, and respond with courage and faith."

This conference is open to men and women of all ages from teenagers to retirees. Schedule is from 9 am until 4:15 pm on November 6.

Online registration is now [available here](#). Full brochure is [available here](#). You can download the brochure, print it out and register by mail.



Sam and Barbara Claassen putting the finishing touches on the Navigator Booth

Kansas State Fair:

We were able to make the name of Jesus and the Kansas Navigators known at the State Fair this year through the efforts of Jim and Carrie Truax, Dick and Betty Borchard and many, many others who helped at the booth. This year the Lord provided two adjacent booth spaces, allowing for room for us to chat with more people in a relaxed atmosphere as we heard their spiritual stories.

Over 4300 books were given away this year (about 100 more than in 2019). 516 people signed up for the drawing for the two-night stay at the Castle at Glen Eyrie (and we do have a winner!). 258 said they were acquainted with the Navigators while 209 were not. A total of 164 indicated an interest in hearing about our conferences or being involved in a Bible Study. We are now praying for wisdom on how to follow these folks up and help them as the Lord leads.

Hearing “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Continued from p. 1)

I Corinthians 4:2 states “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” Ephesians 2:10 tells us “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” The Lord has prepared us individually for His work. He has prepared His work for us, and the Holy Spirit has given us His gifts. Unless we use His gifts to accomplish His work, we are not faithful servants.

The third phrase in the commendation is “well done.” This refers not to the quantity of work, but to its quality. It is all too easy to be burdened with many things, even good things, even spiritual work; so that the mere quantity of worthwhile things to do may lessen the quality of our work. In I Corinthians 3:12-13 we read the following. “If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work.” One of the verses that I particularly find convicting is Colossians 3:23. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Would the quality of our work be different if we were personally interacting with the Lord in all we do? If the answer is “Yes,” then we have not fully realized that our ministry or work with others is, in fact, a ministry to and interaction with the Lord.

We all look forward to that day when we see our Lord face to face. Our desire is to hear these words, repeated in the New Testament in these parables, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” To that end we must be abiding in Him, for unless we are dependent upon His presence, His power, and His purpose, our efforts are as nothing. This demands continual fellowship with Him in which His resources are given to us to meet our responsibilities, and in which our resources are available to Him to meet His responsibilities. As He makes known to us what He would have us to do, whether prayer, an act of service, a gift, or the direction to speak His word, then let us be faithful. Let us say as the Psalmist. “I hasten to do your will, O Lord.” And as we do His work in His strength, let us remember that we are actually serving Him as we serve others, so that when the fire tests the quality of our work, it will be seen to have been built with gold, silver and costly stones rather than wood, hay or straw. Then we shall be confident on that day as we look forward to hearing Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

In Christ, Richard Spann



*In loving memory of Beverly Spann
October 22, 1937 - September 17, 2021*



*In loving memory of Sandy Stout
March 31, 1939 - September 10, 2021*

Spotlight on Online Resources

- ◆ **Kansas Navigators Conferences:** Lord willing, we will be having two upcoming conferences: **Bartlesville, Oklahoma at Grace Community Church October 23, 2021.** Speakers Ryan Henderson, Chris Majors and David Dennis will be addressing “The Critical Importance of Time Management.” Contact Elmo Joseph for sign up information. Secondly, **November 6, 2021 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church** will be our Wichita Fall Conference with speaker Dr. Don Davis. See article on page 2 for more information.
- ◆ **Kansas Navigators blogs: The Last Enemy** was published in March of this year. This is a very appropriate blog for this time in our Navigator family. You can find it [here](#).
- ◆ **Podcast “Making Disciples Naturally”**

We hope you are finding the weekly podcasts helpful. Please spread the word to your family and friends. We just started a new series with Willie Penner, a faithful man of God who has an amazing true story of how the Lord provided for him through difficult circumstances. You can find these podcasts at <https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts> or subscribe via Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, etc.



Relationships

It is evident that the Lord put us here on this earth not just to live for ourselves (Phil. 2:3 “[Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” NKJV). In addition, we are not here to just experience and enjoy “things” (Heb 13:5 “[Let your] conduct [be] without covetousness; [be] content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” NKJV). No, we are here to glorify the Lord Jesus and to minister to people. People and relationships make the difference.

We lost two wonderful and faithful women of God this last month. Over the years, these two women invested their time and their lives into countless others.

Let us resolve to love well, to invest our time in others and to develop relationships which will last into eternity. That includes folks in our own families, our neighbors and other spheres of influence. Let’s be good listeners, encouragers and nurturers. May the Lord help us to use every moment to the fullest as we love those God has placed in our lives. Heb 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NKJV)

