

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"

Romans 5:1-2

"Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have also obtained access into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Evangelism

A video and study several years ago encouraged believers to take the initiative and simply "walk across the room" in order to be used by God to impact someone for Christ. Matthew 28:18-20 in part is commonly translated "Go and make disciples." The word "go" however is a participle that carries with it the meaning "as you are going."

I ask myself, as I am going, how can I influence people for Him? I suggest there are several initiatives we can take: simply take that first step to meet someone, take that first step to open a conversation about something deeper, take that first step to show genuine care and concern for someone - to meet them where they are.

Take that first step - are you willing to walk across the room (or yard) to influence someone for Him? After all, He took that first step to meet us in our need.



Ron Bennett speaks on the Foundation, Anatomy and Motivation for Discipleship

Senior Navigator staff and specialists in discipleship Ron and Mary Bennett

led our Fall Conference as Ron shared his thoughts about following Jesus. He noted that we look at our world through various schema or lenses. He asked if the "Gospel" is merely a set of doctrinal truths? Instead of a set of truths, Ron proposed that the Bible teaches that the Gospel is more a "who" than a "what." "The Gospel is God's story expressed through the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ." The Gospel is a cosmic drama with the main character being Jesus (and not us!).

Secondly, he noted that a good mental image for a "disciple" today might be "apprentice." A disciple is an apprentice of Jesus and His Kingdom. Our purpose is to be an Image Bearer (2 Cor. 3:18; Romans 8:29). Our pattern for discipleship should be to be totally aligned with the character, mission, values and habits of Christ. (Luke 6:40: "A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like his teacher.")

Finally our motivation for discipleship is God's iridescent love. Ron shared that the image of the light of God's love striking a prism, breaking into multiple hues is similar to the multiple ways His love works in our lives.

The Conference was well-attended with around 100 people. The audio will be posted at www.kansasnavs.org/media soon. Be watching our Facebook page for that announcement.



Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 63-65*

*You can impress from a distance,
but to have impact you have to
be up close.*

Over the years I have attended dozens of retreats, seminars and conferences ...[and] thousands of sermons. Many of the speakers were outstanding. What they said was interesting and provocative. I was impressed with most of them in regard to their knowledge of the subject... All of this pales in significance, however, in comparison to the impact that one man, Jim Morris, made on my life. Up close, I heard not only the message, but also saw the man. He was not giving a sermon, he was living a sermon.

In Scriptures we see multiple examples of the impact of one life upon another. Deut 34:9 describes the result of the relationship of Moses with Joshua... Mark 3:14 [relates] "He appointed twelve ... that they might be with Him." Phil. 4:9 states, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice."— Richard Spann

Kansas Communities Ministry



Spread the word about our new podcast!

The Kansas Communities Ministry has launched a new podcast entitled "Making Disciples Naturally." The title comes from the JB Phillips translation of Colossians 2:28-29: "So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me."

We know that following our Lord's command in Matthew 28:18-20 is not always "natural." It takes intentionality, purpose, courage, prayer, time and work. However, our premise is that we are already "naturally" making some type of disciple by the way we relate to people, the way we live our lives in front of others, etc. Why not be intentional and make disciples who love Jesus, grow into His likeness and who make other disciples (2 Timothy 2:2)?

Our prayer is that these podcasts will be practical, engaging and Biblically sound and that they will be an encouragement in ministry. The first seven episodes (being released once weekly on Sundays) are portions of an extensive interview we did with Dr. Richard Spann.

Each podcast is about 12-14 minutes long and is available on iTunes, Stitcher and other directories or at <https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts>. Help spread the word by reviewing it and rating it on iTunes. Contact us at radio@kansasnavs.org with ideas and comments/questions. Thanks!

New Director of Kansas Communities Ministry Announced

David and Karla Dennis were introduced by Dr. Richard Spann as new leaders of the Kansas Communities Ministry. They grew up in Kansas and have had a long involvement with the Navigators. "We are excited to serve and look forward to co-laboring with you in the years ahead."

