

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."

1 John 4:9-10

"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." (NET Bible)

Discipleship

Evangelizing...Establishing...Equipping. These three alliterated words describe the heart of the Kansas Navigators' ministry. We looked briefly at evangelism last month.

What is involved in "establishing"? When a person comes to Christ, when he/she first understands the tremendously good news that they can experience eternal life right here and now by simply believing in Jesus alone for eternal life (John 3:16, John 6:47), they then need to become "established" in their new faith.

Having the picture of the Navigator Wheel in the back of our minds, we can target areas of growth needed ... helping them make Christ the very center of their life, teaching them how to obey Christ's commands, and teaching and modeling the quiet time, Bible study, prayer, fellowship and witnessing. This is the essence of "establishing."

Thirsting for living water

by David Dennis

I met with a close Christian friend recently who shared with me that he often has feelings of an "emptiness" or lack of focus in his life. This is a common feeling we all get when we don't have something to fill our attention. We want to "veg out" by maybe watching a movie, or we go to the kitchen and grab that cookie (or cinnamon roll, or that "Dagwood"!). Maybe we've been under pressure at work, or things haven't gone well in our home. The kids haven't been obedient. We think we deserve whatever treat or escape we can find.



He shared with me that all too common feeling that if he could just get that one thing to "fill" him up, he'd be satisfied. He will be tempted to fill that emptiness with things that aren't really wrong in and of themselves. It's not wrong to watch a movie (usually!). It's not wrong to grab a snack. It's not wrong to do a million other things that we are accustomed to doing in 21st century living.

But then he related that the Lord reminded him of the woman at the well, described in John 4. The Samaritan woman was evidently not looked upon with favor by the other women in Sychar as she came to draw water at noon, the hottest time of the day. Jesus says to her, "...If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10).

Ah yes. Living water. That's what I really want when I am thirsty and empty. But how do I appropriate that? (Continued on p. 3)

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Goads and Nails

Excerpt from *Goads and Nails*
Vol. 1, pp 101-104

"Emotion is no substitute for activity. Activity is no substitute for production. (Production is no substitute for reproduction.)" - Dawson Trotman

"The first two phrases above have been well known and applied to a number of situations. Dawson Trotman, viewing them from a spiritual point of view, added the third phrase. In his mind, not only emotion and activity, but production also falls short of what Christ desires of us as His followers.

An emotional response ... all too often may be the predominant response to a spiritual message... Emotions come quickly and leave just as quickly.

LeRoy Eims describes activity without production in "The Lost Art of Disciplemaking." [Despite] investing much money ... if no shoes are made in the shoe factory then [we have failed]. [Sadly, this may represent a church with much activity but no production of disciples.]"

— Richard Spann

Honey in the Rock

by Marvin Soliah

Psalm 81:16: "...and with honey from the rock, I have satisfied you."

Frederic Graves, who wrote this inspirational and delightful hymn in 1895 was orphaned at age nine and was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 14. Later in life it appeared that he was healed from seizures. This was such an inspiration for him that he started writing gospel music.

We remember how Moses was told to ***"strike the rock"*** for water as explained in **Exodus 17:6, "I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink. So, Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel."**

An additional interpretation of this expression is when we obey the Lord, we could even have **Honey from the Rock** - *not just water!* Consider the spiritual blessings in this hymn,

"Honey in the Rock"

Oh my brother, do you know the Savior,
Who is wondrous, kind, and true?
He is the Rock of your salvation!
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Oh, there's honey in the Rock,
my brother;
There's honey in the Rock for you;
Leave your sins for the blood to cover;
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious?
Do you walk in the way that's new?
Have you drunk from the living fountain?
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Remember that in Bible times, honey was highly valued because there was no sugar as we know it today. The following verses explain the wonderful blessings of honey which are illustrated as word pictures of honey in the Bible. (continued on page 4)



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Do you pray unto God the Father,
"What wilt Thou have me to do?"
Never fear, He will surely answer,
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Then go out through the streets and byways,
Preach the Word to the many or few;
Say to every fallen brother,
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Thirsting for living water (continued from page one)

My friend shared that when he has these feelings of emptiness and aimlessness (and who doesn't experience that?), he was reminded to say to himself and the Lord, "I'm thirsty. I need a drink of living water." That which I think will fill me, doesn't. That which I really need is intimacy with the Lord. I need living water that only Jesus provides.

What does it look like to take a drink of living water?

We often correctly use this story of the woman at the well as an example of evangelism, of how Jesus reached this woman and many more in the city of Sychar with the good news of salvation (John 4:39). That is all true. However, can we apply the story also to our daily lives?

Jesus said in verses 13 and 14 "...Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." What is eternal life? Jesus tells us in John 17:3, "Now this is eternal life—that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent." Knowing God the Father and Jesus His only Son in greater depth seems to be the essence of eternal life, or truly *living*.

So how do we practically apply this truth? My friend suggested that when he feels that emptiness in his inner being and recognizes that he is trying to fill it with a mindless movie, another snack, a temptation to look at that illicit image on the computer, or whatever, he reminds himself of his ultimate thirst for Jesus, for intimacy with Him. To fill that void, he stops whatever he is doing and invests in a time with the Lord. He will lay down, close his eyes and spend time in prayer. Or he will pull out his Bible and meditate on some verses. Or he will review Scripture memory verses and meditate on different words in the passage and how the Lord might be speaking to Him through that verse or verses.



I took my friend's words as a challenge to me. At times everything in me screams "find relief from stress" or "find meaning ... somewhere." Nothing in me wants to seek the Lord. But when my mind wonders, when I try to seek fulfillment in other things (good or bad, uplifting or not), that is a clue to me that "I am thirsty." I need to spend time in prayer, maybe briefly or maybe for a more prolonged time. I seek that "living water" that only intimacy with Christ can give.

We must build upon our daily time with the Lord. Let's not forget that He seeks fellowship with us. He wants us to know Him better. Let's continue to make our daily quiet time with the Lord the highest priority for our daily schedule. "No Bible — No Breakfast!" Let's pursue Him first and foremost.

Just like a warning light on the dashboard of our car, these times when we seek that extra snack, that movie or whatever, can serve as a warning light to us that we are needing to spend time with the Lord. We are alerted to the fact that we need Him and we need that Living Water that only He provides.

Dear friends, let us seek not that which can never fill us. Let us seek Him who provides true Living Water.

Spotlight on Online Resources

♦*Kansas Navigators Media:*

Scott Morton shared “Secrets for Experiencing God More Deeply” at a men’s retreat in Wichita in March 2017. These [three recorded messages](#) are very impactful. Check them out!



♦*Kansas Navigators blogs:*

Fear ... or Faith? In these admittedly tumultuous times, we can choose to live in fear or in trust and dependence on the Lord. Check out Dr. Spann’s [recent blog here](#). These blogs are all found on our www.kansasnavs.org website.

♦*Podcast “Making Disciples Naturally”*

Starting November 7, we’ll be publishing a series of insightful and encouraging podcasts with Rev. Philip Wood. Philip has a real heart for evangelism and discipleship and you won’t want to miss this series. A complete index to all our podcasts is found [here on our website](#). We think you’ll be encouraged by these podcasts found on Apple Podcasts, iTunes, Overdrive, Spotify and [on our website](#).

Honey from the Rock (cont. from page two)

Numbers 14:8 is when the children of Israel are about to go into the promised land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. Another beautiful verse is Deuteronomy 26:9 where the Lord has “brought the people of Israel to this place, and given it to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

In Psalm 19:9-10 “...the decrees (laws) of the Lord - ***They are more precious than gold, they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.***

Honey denotes delight because it is sweet, and it is pleasant in the spiritual world. I believe that the sweetness of honey represents our eternal salvation. This delight comes from the goodness and truth of God’s word - the Bible.

Proverbs 16: 24: Pleasant words are like honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones...
Medically speaking, these words are actually therapeutic - the art and science of healing!

Most important of all – each person must answer this **critical question** from the hymn: ***Oh my brother (and sister) - Do you Know the Savior?***

Remember, there is “Honey in the Rock “ for you my brother...and sister too !