

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 2:1

"(My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.) But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One." (NET Bible - used by permission)

Growth in Christlikeness

We know that the goal in our spiritual lives here on earth and on into eternity is to be changed more and more into the image of our Savior Jesus. We also are told in Scripture that it is **not** by works of the law that we do this (Gal. 2:19-21).

Often we get the message, however, that we just need to "try harder" to live up to some standard. We are told we need to make our lives conform to the law in order to become more Christlike. But that is dead wrong.

Instead Paul helps us understand it is by looking to Jesus, keeping our eyes on Him and not on ourselves, that we are changed:

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Cor. 3:18 (ESV)

Keep your eyes on Him by keeping them on His Word!

Fall Conference with Dr. Don Davis

"I Can See Clearly Now: Seeking First God's Kingdom" is the title of our Fall Conference this year on November 6, 2021 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita. Dr. Davis is Director of TUMI, The Urban Ministry Institute, which partners with the church to train leaders who minister in primarily urban settings.



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.

"During our time of interaction and study, we will explore the power of Kingdom perspectives and priorities, and their ability to transform us in our life challenges and opportunities, where we live, work and play. First we will discover Christ as our life and source, i.e., what it means to make Christ supreme and central in our discipleship and witness.

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.

While registration is closed as of October 29, walk-ins are still more than welcome to attend. (Unfortunately a boxed lunch will not be available for walk-ins.) Hope to see you November 6!

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Goads and Nails

Excerpt from Goads and Nails
Vol. 2, pp 15-17

"The Need is Not the Call"

We live in a needy world. Every day we are exposed to newspapers, mailings, and other stories of those with physical and spiritual needs... We continually come into relationships with those who have needs in their lives. I have seen a number of individuals who have seemingly responded to every need of which they heard. Some have done so with the result of failed relationships in their own family. Those with whom the Lord had given the most responsibility were neglected and in some cases, lost to the Kingdom of God. How do we discern what the Lord would have us to do?

Even the Lord Himself did not heal every sick person ...; injustice still reigned in the land ..., yet He always perfectly did the Father's will. He had a clear sense always of what His Father would have Him to do... In His time with the Father, the Lord Jesus clearly distinguished the need from the call."

- Richard Spann

Bartlesville Conference: "Making the Most of Your Time"

Navigator Elmo Joseph hosted a men's conference in Bartlesville, Oklahoma October 23, 2021 at Grace Community Church. About 25 men were able to attend.



Speakers were David Dennis, Chris Majors and Ryan Henderson. David spoke on how to manage competing time demands by recognizing what is **essential** to invest time in (the Word of God and the souls of men and women), that which is **necessary** (jobs, taking care of our homes, etc), that which is **good**, that which we can **delegate** and that which we must **eliminate**. Using this grid, we can be more effective in using our time for the Lord.

Chris spoke on the vital importance of margin in our lives by developing singlemindedness and focus (the "one thing" principle). He noted four areas where we need margin: physical, emotional, financial and time reserves. He reminded us to eliminate "hurry" from our lives by recognizing that "the urgent is seldom important and the important is seldom urgent."

Ryan spoke on "Priorities, Purpose, Perseverance - Living Out the Great Commission and Leading a Family." He had numerous very practical lessons that he shared, including the importance of "training up" a child, not "disciplining up." Also he shared a helpful tool to help us develop life goals with re-evaluation frequently. He noted the high importance of ministering to one's family first, while still reaching out to others, which is in and of itself a powerful witness to one's family.



We had great questions and comments from the men at the conference, as well as good interaction during breaks and

afterward. A big "thank you" goes to Elmo for his heart for individuals, his love for the Lord and his work in arranging this conference.

These talks and handouts are available on our website at kansasnavs.org/media or [here](#).

If you would like to host a mini-conference at your church or home, please contact us at office@kansasnavs.org.

At All Times ... (by Richard Spann)

"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."

The above statement summarizes the commitment of the Kansas Navigators team. There are different seasons of life, and in all of these this objective helps govern the purpose and passion of our lives. This is not something to put on hold because a career is just getting started, is at its busiest point, or retirement is in view. Each time of life has its peculiar demands, but none of them should prevent the opportunity to spiritually impact the lives of others. I have known some individuals who, when challenged to invest in the lives of others, declined to do so until their children were grown and had left home. I have also seen families whose lives were under the control of Little League coaches for a number of years, preventing them from investing in the lives of others. There are also other families, however, who were able to maintain a meaningful ministry with others while their children were small. One couple included their children in their home Bible studies with others. The children greeted others at the door, made name tags, and brought in the coffee, tea, and other treats for the group. As they grew up and became teenagers, they would babysit the children of those who came to weekly evangelistic Bible studies in the home. Not only did they participate in the family's outreach to others, this exposure served as a model for their own lives. When they were in graduate school, they began to reach out and develop Bible studies for their classmates. As we model "at all times" in our lives, those around us will begin to manifest this in their lives as well.

The Lord desires that we make disciples and develop laborers not only at all times, but also under any conditions as well. The Apostle Paul described his life in II Corinthians 4:8-9 as follows: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." The Macedonian churches were commended because "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." (II Corinthians 8:2) I recall Lorne Sanny mentioning once that most of the important things in life were accomplished by those who were tired or didn't feel well! Ecclesiastes 11:4 tells us "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." The Living Bible says this more clearly. "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Dr. Don Davis, a World Impact missionary in the inner city, developed a teaching syllabus for the purpose of training and preparing individuals to lead and pastor others in the inner cities of America. Not only has it spread throughout the U.S.A. and a number of other countries, but has been used extensively in a number of prisons. Inmates, once hardened criminals, are being brought to the Lord, disciplined and equipped to minister to others in the inner cities of America. Many of the future leaders of our inner cities are being prepared for their ministry by those who are working under any conditions in which they find themselves.

The objective of making disciples and developing laborers was never intended to be limited simply to those we interact with at church. It is to be accomplished in every place we go. This includes, of course, our workplaces and neighborhoods. Are we praying regularly for our co-workers and neighbors? Do we initiate interactions with them? Are we, at some point, identifying with Christ? Are we praying about opportunities and planning to invite them into our homes to look at the scriptures together? Every place we go also includes the periodic encounters we have with others. Some years ago I spent time with a new Christian who worked at a gas station. He had come to know the Lord through a customer who bought gas regularly at the station. The customer took an interest in him, and after a period of time, was able to help him come to faith in Christ. Another man whom I met a few years ago is a barber in our neighborhood. Soon after we met, I learned of those whom he knew and discovered that several of his customers had shared the Gospel with him. They were faithful to be involved with the ministry of the Lord in every place they went.

As we consider the objective of the Kansas Navigators Ministry, we do well to recall Paul's objective for his life as stated in Colossians 1:28-29. "So naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, 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." (Phillips Translation) God's grace was sufficient for Paul to accomplish this objective in his life. As Paul directed Timothy in II Timothy 2:1 to be "strong in this grace," so my prayer for you is that you may also be strong in His grace so that this objective would be accomplished in your life as well.

In Christ, Richard Spann

Spotlight on Online Resources

♦ **Kansas Navigators Conference: November 6, 2021 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church** will be our Wichita Fall Conference with speaker Dr. Don Davis. See article on page 1 for more information. Mark your calendars for our Spring Men's Retreat at Crosswind Conference Center April 1-2 with speaker Mike Treneer.



♦ **Kansas Navigators blogs: Lessons to be learned from those who failed** is a review of the lives of three kings in the Old Testament. We are reminded that we can learn and apply truths from Scripture, whether we are studying those who have been faithful or those who have failed. You can read the blog [here](#).

♦ Podcast "Making Disciples Naturally"

We are currently in a series of new interviews with Dr. Richard Spann. We asked Richard to review some of the key points from his devotional series "Goads and Nails." You won't want to miss these encouraging and practical podcasts. You can find these podcasts at <https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts> or subscribe via Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, etc.

Holidays

Are you looking forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years this time around? Or are you putting on a stiff upper lip, gritting your teeth and vowing to make the best of things? Holidays are often stressful times.

For some, they will be a bittersweet experience as they will be both reminded of better times in the past while greatly missing loved ones. For some they will be filled with work and stress as they will be relied upon to make the meals, buy gifts and still put on a happy face! For others they will have no warm place of "family" to celebrate because of broken relationships, travel, or other reasons.



Whatever our situation, let's resolve to "love well" during this time.

What does that mean? In part it means to listen well, slow down, and to make time for what is important — people. Invite someone into your home who has no place to go, if appropriate. Resolve to make the meal simple so you'll have more time to listen to others.

Remember that Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke on you and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and my load is not hard to carry."* Matthew 11:28-30 (NET)

(Click [here](#) if you want to be on the email list. We must have YOU sign up in order to add you to the list. Thank you.) Our next newsletter will be in January 2022.