

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"

James 1:2-4

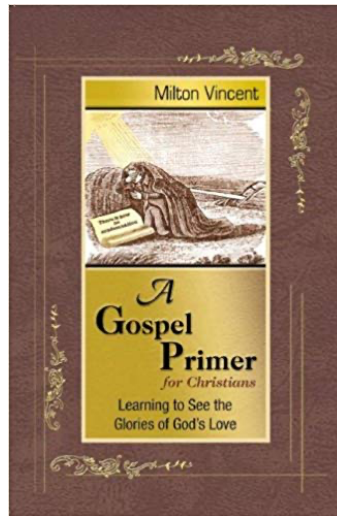
"My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Establishing/Equipping

Where do you start if someone expresses a desire to grow in their faith, but has been a believer for many years? They may have heard countless sermons and been in many Sunday School classes and Bible Studies. The dilemma sometimes arises as to whether to start "at the beginning" or somewhere "more advanced."

The tendency is to assume they know all the "right answers" and start at some more esoteric (perhaps theological) place. However, many veteran disciplinators have pointed out that someone will tend to lead others as they themselves were taught. Therefore it is best to start at the beginning - perhaps the five assurance verses, or the 13 week "Growing in Christ" booklet from the Navigators.

Also, tell them you are teaching them how to disciple others. That is motivating for them!



A Gospel Primer for Christians

This fall many of the Kansas Navigator Teams have been focusing on passages of Scripture which relate to "A Gospel Primer" by Milton Vincent. From the author (p. 6): "This book is written partly as a result of the influence of Jerry Bridges' excellent book entitled The Disciplines of Grace (NavPress 1994), for it was through this book that I first heard the challenge to preach the gospel to myself every day."

The author indicates that the New Testament model is that Christians need to hear the Gospel preached just as much as those who have yet to believe. This concept of "preaching the Gospel to myself everyday" is the basis for this book. He goes through multiple ways we can do this. For example, we must recall that the Gospel is the power of God (Romans 1:16), it is my daily protection as the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-13) and it reminds me that I am being transformed by glory into glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

One of the most helpful (among many) concepts is that the Gospel is my cure for distrust. When I am tempted to not believe God loves me or has my best interests in His mind and plan when He commands me to do something, I must then recall that the Gospel changes my view of God's commandments and His love. I can trust Him because He loved me enough to send His Son to die for me! (John 3:16) I can trust Him because He loves me that much. That is my real cure for distrust!

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Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 67-70*

God is Our Shield

"After 34 years of medical practice, I was asked by the hospital to help support a new program designed to improve the level of care in the intensive care units. I agreed to do so, but this required closing my practice...Three years later I received a letter in the mail stating that my services were no longer needed...This notice came without apology [and] without explanation. I was offended, and in my mind I composed several letters to the CEO of the hospital. None were written or sent, however, and the tone of the imagined replies gradually softened. ...I began to listen for the Lord's response... and began writing His scriptural answers on the top of the letter itself. [Several] verses came to mind: Matthew 4:4, Psalm 16:5, Proverbs 3:5-6. Gen. 15:1 says: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.' The Lord Himself is my security (shield) and significance (reward)."— Richard Spann



Podcast update

The first series of seven podcast episodes are complete, with the last one to be posted December 7. Over 50 people have listened to them to date. These first seven episodes are compiled from an interview with Dr. Richard Spann.

The next series will start December 14 and will include portions of an inspiring interview with Ron and Mary Bennett. We get to hear their heart about their nearly 50 years of Navigator ministry, what they learned from a difficult health issue in their family and what thoughts they have about ministering to young families.

Topics they discuss are: How do we encourage discipleship in the church setting? What are some motivations for continuing in the business of encouraging others to grow? What are some ways to look at discipling others in various stages of growth (child, adolescent, adult, parent)? What is the Hebrew model for making disciples (vs the Greek model)? What does discipling or discipleship look like for the very busy young man or woman just starting out, perhaps building a career and raising a family?

Ron and Mary are the authors of the popular discipling tools "High Quest" and "Women of Distinction" which focus on growing deeper in the Word and in Christ. They have also authored Intentional Disciplemaking (a blueprint for making disciples in the church or ministry), The Adventure of Discipling Others, Design for Discovery (for outreach), Beginning the Walk and Fire Resistant Parenting.