

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"

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Listen, Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength" (NET Bible, used by permission)

Discipleship

How do we encourage spiritual growth in ourselves or in others? There are times when we sense the great importance of walking closer to the Lord, but our quiet times are cold, lifeless. As Robert Boyd Munger wrote in "My Heart Christ's Home" concerning the Living Room of our lives, it is a quiet intimate place to meet Christ every morning. We often don't realize it, but the Lord is delighted, even "looks forward" to meeting us there for a time of fellowship. But we get busy with our lives and often this special time is crowded out by other activities.

And what about encouraging a closer walk in others? How do we motivate someone to grow? The truth I have come to understand is that we don't motivate. It is only the Holy Spirit who convicts and encourages. John 16:8.

We must remember that prayer **is** the ministry as we pray for ourselves and others to grow.



If I had my life to live over again

Our "classic message" this month is a talk given by Bob Boardman, "The Marine Who Only Whispers." The talk was given a number of years ago and was intriguingly titled, "If I had my life to live over again." Boardman was nearly killed in WW II when a bullet entered his neck, almost severing his major vessels. As a result of that war injury his voice was forever affected and hence he "only whispered" when he spoke. Bob Boardman was a Marine who fought in the Pacific in World War II with the First Tank Battalion of the famed First Marine Division. He was wounded on Peleliu and again, gravely, on Okinawa and was decorated with the Silver Star for gallantry in action." (read more about his story here: http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com/pdfs/bob_boardman_more.pdf)

However, his injuries did not prevent the Lord from using him greatly in the lives of many people.

What would you say if you gave a talk, "If I had my life to live over again"? What would you do differently? Here are some thoughts from Boardman from this message: (cont on next page)

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Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 29-31*

*Sow a thought; reap an act.
Sow an act; reap a habit.
Sow a habit; reap a character.
Sow a character; reap a destiny.*

"The thoughts of our hearts have a dominating influence upon our actions, which become habits issuing in the formation of character. We are admonished in Philippians 4:8: 'Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are pure ... if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.' (KJV). I recall LeRoy Eims suggesting that we use this verse to help us determine which movies to watch at the theater. ...[Satan's] lie to us is that we must stop gratifying the thoughts that are a part of our sinful nature in order to live by the Spirit. Scripture says just the opposite. Gal. 5:16 says, 'So I say, live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.' By immersing our minds continually in the Scriptures and in prayer, the Holy Spirit forms a barrier to that which would assail our thoughts." - Richard Spann

Reggie Coe to speak at April Men's Retreat

Mark your calendars for our men's retreat April 26-27 at Crosswind Conference Center in Hesston, KS. The theme is "Marks of a Committed Disciple." Reggie is pastor of Grace Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. He is known for his great expository teaching from the pulpit as well as being a very loving, caring and vulnerable person. You will not want to miss this retreat, men! Make plans now to attend. Be watching Facebook or your email for registration information as time gets closer.



Boardman (Cont.)

1. **I would stand more boldly upon my God-given calling and not be so fearful.** He states that he would have been more kingdom-minded, remembering the admonitions and promises in Isaiah 54:17.
2. **While they were young, I would spend more time with my children in worship, in spiritual disciplines, and in just enjoying life.** Our temptation at times is to think that what we do with our young children is not as important as outside "ministry." This is a fallacy.
3. **I would ask God for greater blessings and victories, claiming his mighty promises.** He says he would claim more promises from God's Word, and especially pray for the nations as Dawson Trotman did.
4. **By God's grace, I would be quicker to turn from temptation and sin.** We have an enemy who is far more clever than we. We tend to play with fire and hope we don't get burned.
5. **I would be more systematic and single-minded in following a lifetime of personal Bible study and Scripture memory program.** Boardman reminds us that the supernatural word of the living God melts and breaks out hard hearts. Jeremiah 23:29.

Be sure to check out Bob Boardman's message at <http://turret2.discipleshiplibrary.com/N268.mp3>. You'll be blessed!