

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"

2 Corinthians 12:9

"But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." So then, I will boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Becoming Like Christ

Romans 8:28-29 tells us that all things work together for good for those who love God and that ultimately it is our destiny to be conformed to the image of His Son. But, oh, how painful that conforming can be!

Today I heard a man speak who had lost his wife to cancer two years ago. He said that things were going great in his marriage, life and business. Then she had her first symptoms which led to the diagnosis. About the same time his business started struggling. "Why me?" he asked. He became very bitter and angry toward God.

Through really hard times, he became closer to God and ultimately more like Christ. We can become "bitter" or we can become "better" as we experience tough times. Let's lean in to Jesus!

Men's Retreat Speaker to address "Marks of a Committed Disciple"



Pastor Reggie Coe will speak at this spring's Men's Retreat, April 26-27, 2019 to be held at Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston, Kansas. Reggie will be bringing us practical Scriptural insights into the "Marks of a Committed Disciple." He is known for being an excellent expository preacher/teacher as well as for his warm, loving personality.

Reggie is Pastor/Elder at Grace Church in Wichita Falls, Texas and is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin College and Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.). He has pastored at Grace Church for over 40 years. His ministry focuses on families, men, pastoral care and teaching.

Discipleship involves knowing and loving the Savior better. Some disciples are "curious" — interested to hear about the Savior initially but ultimately do not continue (John 6:66). Others are "convinced" — believing in Jesus for eternal life. Growth from being "convinced" entails being "committed" to know our Lord better and better and serve Him more and more. Finally, disciples are "commissioned" to carry the good news to others, helping them grow in their faith and be able to reproduce in still others.

Early bird registration closes April 5. Cost is \$100 per person but increases thereafter. Brochure and registration: KansasNavs.org/conferences. (\$50 for students and active duty military)



Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 33-37*

*"Remember: God has called you
to be faithful, not successful" --
Pastor Frank N. Kik*

"I was late to church one Sunday, having seen more than the usual amount of patients ... that morning. I almost didn't come, but thought that I at least might be able to hear some part of the sermon. As I sat down, Frank concluded his sermon with the words as quoted above... Over the last 25 years ... I have observed the universal obsession that our world has with success... This mindset carries over into our Christian culture as well.

As I consider what it means to be successful, I also look at what the Lord has called me to do with individuals. Some are thankfully walking... with the Lord and making a difference... Some are struggling. The Lord has called us to be faithful, not successful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 says,
"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man should be found faithful." - Richard Spann

Bartlesville, Oklahoma Mini-retreat

Richard Spann, David
Dennis and others
traveled to Grace
Community Church in
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Sunday, February 24 to meet with Elmo Joseph and about 15 men to present a mini-conference. Elmo continues to faithfully minister wherever he goes, encouraging others and making disciples.

David spoke on "My Life's Objective." The Kansas Communities Ministry asks us to memorize this objective which 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." He noted that there is great value to having an objective for our life and that the Apostle Paul expressed his objective in Phil. 3:14: "with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." We are to major in knowing Christ by a daily walk with Him, intake of His Word, meditating upon and obeying it. Then, as exemplified by Elmo, we are to "make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20), develop laborers (Matt. 9:36-38) at all times, under conditions, in every place we go .

Richard spoke on the importance of the individual. He noted that a study of the Gospels shows that Jesus invested about 30% of His time with larger groups/crowds, another 30% with smaller groups and about 40% of His time with individuals. Repeatedly in Scripture, God relates that He seeks individuals: 2 Chronicles 16:9: "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him" and Ezekiel 22:30: "I looked for a man among them..." Richard urged us to spend personal time with individuals, sharing life on life, praying together, sharing the Word together. Look for four generations (2 Timothy 2:2) and find those who will reproduce their lives in others.

We appreciate Elmo's faithfulness and example over the years in investing in individuals, seeing many through to maturity who then reproduce in others.

