

# 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."*

## Psalm 11:3

"When the foundations are destroyed, what can the godly accomplish?" (NET Bible—used by permission)

## Discipleship

Paul commanded Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (NKJV). Paul goes on to encourage Timothy in his role as a disciplinemaker. He warns Timothy that he must act as a good soldier (enduring hardship, not getting entangled in this life in order to please his superiors), as an athlete (competing according to the rules) and as a hardworking farmer (partaking of the crops).

All of this tells us that being faithful in making disciples takes discipline and focus; discipline to function according to the rules and methods God has given us and discipline as a hardworking farmer, faithfully watering and tending the soil in order to see the fruit of his labors.

All three of these tell us that persistence, intentionality, discipline and work are needed in order to see the fruit of God's Spirit manifested in the lives of people we seek to encourage.

## Finding and Developing New Friendships by Jim T.

We may have the deep desire to reach people for Christ. We believe God is calling us to make friends for Him and help them grow. But how do we develop relationships with those who seem to be hard to reach? Here is a framework that I have developed and have found helpful:



Depending on how God's spirit works, things don't always go as planned or in order but each step is often important.

- **Close contact.** Maybe this is a neighbor, a fellow worker or business associate. It could be doing a hobby together. During this period trust and respect are developed.
- **A long period of time.** It could be several years or more or it could be very short. We are discussing "hard to reach" people so be willing to go the long haul.
- **Other people** getting in this mix really helps. Maybe others have a closer natural affinity. If they are really into computers, I definitely try to get them related to another believer who is also a computer expert. The more people they meet with an authentic faith the deeper the impact.
- **Bonding activities.** When people truly bond with each other no topic is taboo. You are really able to share deeply your own life's history and struggles. For me bonding activities have mostly included relatively safe outdoor activities like hiking up mountains, weeklong canoe fishing trips, hunting, camping, etc. I find the harder the activity often the deeper you bond. That is why soldiers and athletes often bond very deeply. The more you suffer together, the closer you get. (Continued on p. 3)

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## Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails*  
Vol. 1, pp 113-114

*"Expression Deepens Impression"*

I can see him now in my mind's eye, leaning over the podium in the Great Hall at Glen Eyrie... His first words were: 'The greatest threat to Christianity is not Communism, materialism, [nor] Islam. The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into Heaven incognito.' Howard Hendricks thus began his series of messages to us that summer with the above statement.

A clear demonstration of outward expression deepening inward impression is seen in John 9. When the blind man was first asked how his eyes were opened, he replied, 'The man they call Jesus.' [Later] when the Pharisees asked what he thought about Jesus, he replied, 'He is a prophet.' In verse 32 he notes Jesus was a 'man sent from God.'

Psalm 107:2: 'Let the redeemed of the LORD say so..' It is crucial for followers of Christ to tell others, which deepens our own walk as well." - Richard Spann

## Men's One-Day Conference: April 10

"When Life Isn't Working: Rebuilding Spiritual Foundations" based on Psalm 11:3 is the title for a series of messages at this spring's one-day conference for men, April 10, 2021 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Registration starts at 8:15 am with the first session at 9 am. The conference concludes by 4 pm.



Our special guest speaker is Mr. David Case. David is Founder and Director of Live Free Ministries in McPherson, Kansas ([www.livefreeministries.com](http://www.livefreeministries.com)). He ministers to those with dysfunction at any level. David's first book was *Going Deeper*. Ten books later he continues to minister practical and profound insights into the spiritual realm. These insights are transformational to the one who has been walking with Christ for years, as well as for the struggling addict who came in off the street.

David has over 30 years of experience pastoring and was in Christian school administration and board oversight for 19 years. He has pioneered and led the faith-based recovery program Live Free Ministries for 22 years. David and his wife Kelly have been married for 42 years. Kelly is a labor and delivery nurse. Their three adult children are all involved in ministry in various capacities.

Come learn how to effectively share the gospel in a post-Christian nation and what works today and what doesn't work. We'll discuss how we stay on message in a way that changes lives, where to start with folks who lack a foundation of Judeo-Christian heritage and how to bridge the gap in a culture where we often cannot hear each other well.

David will be teaching about the layers of spiritual development that are needed to grow a solid faith. He'll be discussing the fact that the brokenness we see in our world today is an incredible opportunity to touch people where we can facilitate growth and life.

This will be an interactive conference that you'll really enjoy and profit from. Register for yourself and invite others to come with you. Register online at [www.KansasNavs.org](http://www.KansasNavs.org). The fee is \$20/person (\$15 for first-time attendees, students and active duty military). We will also receive a free-will offering to help offset the costs of the conference. Space is limited so please sign up early!

(We'll be following Navigator and Eastminster Presbyterian guidelines regarding Covid precautions. Lunch will be on your own offsite as we are not allowed to bring food into the building. You can bring your own coffee; water bottles will be provided. Masks are required to be worn throughout the conference. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.)

## Finding and Developing New Friendships by Jim T. (continued from page 1)

- **In-depth Spiritual Discussion.** Often during or after the bonding more opportunities open up to share the good news. They also are able to see your imperfect life and see how God is enabling. Also, once you bond with someone most any activity can be used to spend time together.

**Example:** now let me share two activities I am currently doing to expand my number of natural relationships which is always necessary. It is easy to just be satisfied with the relationships I have but I need to always be sowing broadly and developing new friendships.

Currently I live on our home farm. When much younger, like grade school and high school I raised pigs. Now my wife and I try to exercise several times a week. After corn harvest, we get permission to glean (pick up corn left in the field after harvest). This counts for exercise. We give it to our few goats. It seems it is too easy to gather more than we actually need so the idea develops. Contact a few neighbors and friends and see if they want to raise pigs together very cheaply by them also gleaning. Three out of four neighbors or friends I contacted were positive about the idea if I raised them at my place. So now we have three families we are developing deeper relationships with and seeing them more often than before. We are also dreaming of a neighborhood pig roast. The pigs are providing what I need for a deeper natural relationship to develop. You might call it “pig friendship making.” Because of this we are also meeting other people outside our normal “circle of relationships.” Come over in four to six months and try some pork chops and see what God is doing!



The second example is using my hobby or outdoor activity.

Every summer since returning from Indonesia my wife and I take a canoe trip to the Boundary waters in Minnesota for one week. We have taken Boy Scouts, college contacts, and a variety of other people, all with the prayer God would bless them by this experience. Depending on the route one takes it can be very difficult which fits the principle of bonding through suffering quite well. I have two local men now in Bible study that a bond was formed in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Also, a college student and others I am mentoring.



The illustration I started with helps me think intentionally and stimulates me to do something to develop deeper relationships with people that God has laid on my heart to love, to pray for, and to invite into the kingdom. This I can do at a pace I can handle.

I am enjoying life, trying to advance the kingdom in any and every situation. (Phil 1:12)

Questions for application or reflection.

- Am I initiating activities where I can meet, get to know, and become friends with others? Or do I need to do this?
- What am I skilled at or like to do where I can figure out bonding activities with others?
- Who of my contacts could I introduce to someone I know that has similar interests?

## Spotlight on Online Resources

### ♦*Kansas Navigators Media:*

Dave Gresham spoke to us in April 2016 on “God’s Design for His New Creation.” He reminded us that “He is risen, He is Lord and you are not,” of “The disciple’s first ambition,” and the importance of seeking the “Lord of the Word.” Listen here: <https://kansasnavs.org/media/2016-spring-mens-retreat/> (You can also download these to listen to on other devices.)

### ♦*Kansas Navigators blogs:*

What fears do you struggle with? Fear of others? Fear of loss of the necessities of life? Fear that you are not recognized? Read a very encouraging blog about “Fear or Faith” by Richard Spann here: <https://kansasnavs.org/fear-or-faith/>

### ♦*Podcast “Making Disciples Naturally”*

Our 12-15 minute podcasts are published weekly on Saturday mornings. This month we’ll hear from David Case our speaker for the April Men’s Conference as well as Al Ewert with World Impact. <https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts> or subscribe via Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, etc.



## Should I attend the Men’s Conference this year? by David Dennis

It’s been a year and a half since the Kansas Navigators had a conference! I miss the fellowship, the encouragement, the enthusiasm I get from others as well as learning more about Our Lord and His Word. We need each other! Covid has interfered with so much of what we took for granted.



Yet we know that God is still at work. He has allowed us to use technology to connect. In many situations we’ve had to be more intentional about meeting with others and that’s a good thing! We grow through struggles and trials even though we don’t like it at the time (Hebrews 12:11: “No discipline seems pleasant at the time. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”)

Maybe you are hesitant to come because of Covid concerns. You wonder, “Is it safe to get together?” Or maybe you’re hesitant to come because we have to wear masks, etc. I get that. But I urge you to remember that 1 John 1:3 reminds us of the importance of fellowship with each other and with our

Master. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us not to forsake our assembling together. We recognize that each person’s circumstances and viewpoints are different and there are strong feelings on each side.

However, if at all possible won’t you join us this year (and bring friends)? We need each other. We need YOU!