

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"

Romans 15:13

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (NET Bible, used by permission)

Evangelism

Are you a "sweet smelling aroma"? This term and concept is noted in the Old Testament as a sacrifice to God, who desired that sweet smelling aroma. The concept is carried over in the New Testament in several locations but perhaps most clearly in 2 Cor 2:15 "For we are a sweet aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing."

When you are around others who may not know Jesus yet, how do you come across? Eph. 5:1-2 tells us to imitate God, live in love just like Christ loved us and sacrificed for us. That sweet smelling aroma can be most clearly noted by others when we sacrifice for them.

Nothing speaks louder than when we give something costly of ourselves for others. That may be sacrificing time, energy, other pursuits, money, etc, in order to invest in someone else's spiritual growth. Let's be a sweet smelling aroma to others as Jesus was!



Men's Retreat is just around the corner

The early bird deadline for signing up for this year's men's retreat is April 5. 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.

This year's retreat promises to be a unique time of fellowship, worship and great teaching from a man who has committed his life to discipling others. His insights will be very much worth your investment to attend!

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)

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)

Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible® copyright © 1996-2018 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved.



Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,
Volume 1, pages 39-41*

*"Twas grace that taught my heart
to fear, and grace my fears
relieved." - John Newton*

"We are very familiar with the above words from the song 'Amazing Grace'... They relate to us that grace has two effects. One is to teach us to fear, and the other is to relieve our fears. His grace relieves fears of the known and the unknown, fears for today and for tomorrow, fears for others as well as for ourselves. Before we received His Grace, we are also fearful of God Himself, living in fear of His judgment... The grace that teaches our hearts to fear replaces this cringing fear of God with a reverential awe for our Lord. 1 John 4:18 relates to us that 'perfect love drives out fear.'

The grace that teaches our hearts to fear should produce in us a fear of having an *imperfect relationship* with Him. 2 Cor. 7:1 states '...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'" - Richard Spann

Simple Discipleship

This book by Dana Allin is subtitled "Grow your faith, Transform your community" (Pub.

Navpress, © 2018) and

seeks to provide a

framework for making disciples and being disciples for our Lord Jesus. One unique aspect of this book is its refreshing emphasis on the individual. From the back cover: "Most discipleship resources are designed as mass productions — efficient for touching many, but often failing to see individuals grow in Christ."

The Kansas Communities Ministry has long focused on one-on-one disciple-making relationships, while not ignoring the importance of small group Bible studies and larger gatherings. However, one-on-one has been our emphasis since the beginning, even though it is often slow, tedious and not necessarily glamorous.

In *Simple Discipleship* Rev. Allin notes that the core value of a disciple is Deut. 6:4-5 and Matthew 22:37-39: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind (or 'might')." He points out that we tend to emphasize one of these three facets over the others and in so doing we may get out of balance. For example, if we emphasize "heart" over the others, we tend toward emotionalism. If we emphasize "soul" (which he says deals with our actions), we become "doers" without as much mind and emotion. If we emphasize "mind," we may become doctrinal purists but lose our tenderness of our emotions and effectiveness of our actions. Balance is key.

He then goes on to list 7 principles of discipleship, of which we will mention one this month (continuing this book review next month). These can be very helpful to us as we minister to others. Principle One is "Jesus focused His efforts where His disciples needed to grow." The example he gives is the rich young ruler, to whom Jesus pointed out materialism because that apparently was his need at the time. This reminds us to focus on the person in whom we are investing and ask ourselves, "What are his/her needs at this time? What are they going through right now that the Lord may want me to address and encourage?" Be disciple-focused and not self-focused!

See next month's newsletter for a continued discussion of this helpful book.

