

# 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)

## Establishing/Equipping

When a person comes to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, they are like a baby in terms of spiritual knowledge and growth. (1 Corinthians 3:1 ff)

What are some characteristics of a newborn? A baby is vulnerable, impressionable and in need of food and personal care. Left to themselves, they would not mature, not grow as God has intended. They are vulnerable and impressionable – they don't have the maturity to know what to believe or what to do. They desperately need food to nourish them, the food of God's Word. God's Word must be ingested and incorporated into their hearts (Psalm 119:105).

Who will guide new believers? There may be folks who have been believers for years but are still babes in Christ. Who will invest in their lives? Is God calling you to invest in someone within your sphere of influence?



## Highlights of Men's Retreat

"Marks of a Committed Disciple" was the topic of four great messages by Reggie Coe at Cross Wind Conference Center April 26-27.

Forty-nine people attended this well-received conference for this year's Spring Men's Retreat. The men enjoyed excellent accommodations, great food and stimulating fellowship and worship along with digging in to God's Word to learn more about discipleship. Recordings will be available soon at [KansasNavs.org/media](http://KansasNavs.org/media).

The Friday evening session was focused on "An Incomparable Love for Christ." We looked at what hinders us from loving Christ to this degree. Busyness, lack of understanding Christ and His love for us and fear of fully trusting Him were mentioned by the group. We learned that the prerequisite to this love for Him is our need to receive His love first and live through Him (1 John 4:9). We can love Christ only by responding to His overwhelming love for us (1 John 4:7-11). We can love Him only by living by faith, abiding in Him (John 15:4-5, Hebrews 11:6).

On Saturday morning, we looked at "The Centrality of His Word in Our Lives." What hinders us from getting into the Word of God? Again, distractedness, other media and time were mentioned. Reggie noted that abiding in His Word is required in order to find spiritual freedom (John 8:31-36). Through His Word we train our senses (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Make plans to join us April 24-25, 2020 to hear Navigator Eddie Broussard at our next Men's Retreat.



## Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,  
Volume 1, pages 43-45*

*"Whatever is not of God that excites our fears, or stirs our efforts, or awakens our hopes, or makes us glad hinders us in our perfect waiting on Him" – Andrew Murray*

"I saw this notation written in the margin of my mother's Bible about eighteen years ago. I was visiting my brother in Seattle and he happened to ask me if I wanted to see her Bible... One of the recurring themes of her notes was that of waiting on God. Of all the notes she had written I found the statement by Andrew Murray to be the most arresting.

"There are so many things happening in our lives and in the world around us that may excite our fears. By recalling Andrew Murray's words, I am forced to ask myself, 'Is this of God?' If not, then my fears hinder my waiting on Him. Are my efforts stirred by other than Him? If so, then that, too, hinders my waiting on Him. Isaiah 40:31" – Richard Spann



## Simple Discipleship, Part 2

We started this book review in the April 1 Newsletter. 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. As we noted last time, it emphasizes the importance of the individual.

Last month we looked at the first of seven principles of discipleship mentioned by Rev. Allin which is "Jesus focused His efforts where His disciples needed to grow." The take-home message is to be disciple-focused, serving the person you are walking with rather than trying to meet your own needs or agenda.

The second principle is that Jesus ensured growth in His disciples was connected to the Gospel. This means that the approach should be "one that anchors any plan or motivation for spiritual growth to the joy people find in their identity in Christ." This is to be contrasted with anchoring spiritual growth to guilt or obligation.

This concept hits home to me. Do I tie my own growth (having a quiet time, praying, memorizing Scripture) to some idea that God will like me better if I do these activities and that He will like me less if I don't do them? Do I communicate to others that I/we have a "contractual" relationship with God? We don't earn extra points with God by doing things! This is definitely NOT being gospel-anchored!

Jesus did not use guilt or shame with people (note the woman at the well in John 4, or the woman caught in adultery). He instead was grace-filled and exuded that attitude. Yes, He was full of grace AND truth, but He knew exactly when to share truth and when to encourage by grace. We need to pray for that understanding as well.

Rom 8:5-6 NKJV - "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those [who live] according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace."

We ourselves need to keep our eyes on Jesus and find our identity in Him. Only by receiving His grace can we grow and help others grow.