

# 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 19:14

"May my words and my thoughts be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my sheltering rock and my redeemer." (NET Bible—used by permission)

## Evangelism

Faith stories, "God sightings," spiritual conversations – these are all helpful ideas when it comes to engaging someone on a deeper level. When you are excited about your faith and verbalize it, it naturally is attractive to others. When done "right," these comments will draw others deeper into relationship with Him. What are some examples and how do we "do it right"?

Faith stories: How have you seen God at work? For example, when my mother developed a malignancy, my dad was distraught and I didn't know what to do. However, over the course of the next weeks and months, our church came to our aid, providing meals and support. And God miraculously gave her another 24 years with us. I saw God at work.

How to "do it right": We don't want to come across "holier than thou" as though we know God better than others. Rather, in humility, we share simply how we've seen God work. And we leave the results up to Him!

## Fear or Faith? by Richard Spann

In my medical practice I once had a patient who described herself as a Christian. She was theologically sound, but her life was one characterized by constant worry about nearly everything. She

was not only overly concerned about her health but about her finances and the future of her family as well. Her life was one of continual anxiety rather than dependence upon God. Her husband, a non-believer, and I would have occasional talks together about Christ. At one point, he related that he was not interested in "religion" because of the absence of any effect it had on his wife. Although she knew the creed of Christianity, her life was one of fear rather than faith.



Born into a fallen sinful world, we exist in an atmosphere of fear. Having, as a race, rejected the governance of God, we have substituted our own governance for His. Since crowning ourselves as king, we regard self as pre-eminent and are in perpetual conflict with the rest of humanity, who, likewise, have enthroned self. Everyone looking out for "self" produces conflict in relationships, businesses, organizations and nations. The end product of this conflict is a pervading sense of fear. (Cont. on p. 3)

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## Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails  
Vol. 1, pp 119-121*

*"Success is Never Final. Failure is Never Fatal."*

The above statement, attributed to Winston Churchill, was quoted by Lorne Sanny...He related that it had significant truth spiritually.

Success is never final. We never "arrive" spiritually in this world. The apostle Paul expressed this in Philippians 3:12 where he stated, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Paul realized that it was a journey to be traveled, not a destination at which he had arrived.

Failure is never (seldom) fatal. Most of us can identify more with failures in our lives than we can success. This is the history of the human race. Our response to failure may be to retreat from others or from God. We may also try to work our way slowly back to God and others. [However] Hebrews 4:16 tells us the proper response to failure: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace..."-Richard Spann

## Ministering to the Heart by David Dennis

David Case, our speaker at this year's Men's Conference on April 10 spoke to us about the topic of "what to do when life isn't working." He noted that it is critical to rebuild the spiritual foundations. (You can watch the entire conference and download the workbook here: <https://kansasnavs.org/media/2021-spring-mens-conference/>) Here are some key thoughts I came away with:



1. We relate to each other with inescapable filters. These filters color the way we look at others and the way we look at life. Proverbs 23:6-7 NKJV - "Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies; For as he thinks in his heart, so [is] he. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, but his heart is not with you." What is your heart's true desire? What is your "driver"? What do you care about at the deepest level? This colors how we relate to others. If my deepest desire is to gain notoriety and to be loved and accepted by others, that will greatly impact how I disciple others. People may start to feel more like projects than like people who are deeply loved and are made in the image of God. As much as I can, I need to ask the Holy Spirit to teach me what my true desire is as I relate to others. Lord, purify my heart! 1Thess 2:4 NKJV - "But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts."
2. More and more, the battle for the hearts and minds of people is more than communicating a set body of facts. Truth is still key; it is still to be fought for, but increasingly we must minister on a deeper level than the level of information only. Truly we must pray for spiritual insight into where that person is on an emotional and spiritual level. Are they hurting? Are they under the domination of Satan? With Paul, we must say, "So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." 1 Thess. 2:8 (NKJV). This is true one-on-one ministry as we relate to folks emotionally and spiritually. It takes discernment, prayer, humility and time.
3. When life isn't working, people reach a place of brokenness. At that point, if they respond with humility, it is an opening for the Holy Spirit to minister deeply to them. What is our role? To be sensitive to where they are spiritually. A place of brokenness, be it a broken relationship, an illness, a financial hardship, etc, is an opportunity for the Lord to deeply impact that person's life. They are more open to receive from the Lord and from others. Our Lord Jesus taught, "Blessed [are] the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3 (NKJV). My job is to be in prayer for that person and to be ready to be used by the Lord in a deeply impactful way in their life.

## Fear or Faith? by Richard Spann (continued from page one)

If we do not have complete faith in what God has done and is doing for us in Christ, we replace this void in our relationship with Him with fear. This is not a reverential awe type of fear, but



rather a cringing fear which keeps us away from God rather than drawing us to Him. This fear looks to the inadequacies of self and feels guilt and shame. Rather than looking to Christ alone as our righteousness and holiness, it looks to the performance of self to some degree to find acceptance before Him. Faith in His perfect love for us is the only factor that will drive out this fear. "We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; his perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what he might do to us, and shows that we are not fully convinced that he really loves us." (I John 4:18) The Living Bible

Perhaps the most common fear of mankind, including followers of Christ, is the fear of the possible absence of the daily necessities of life. This is seen in the following statement by the Lord. "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them." (Matthew 6:31-32-NIV) The Lord has also told us the following. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) Fear, perpetually focused on self, will compete with others to meet its needs. It will also use others to meet its needs. The needs of self will never be fully met and it will then accuse God of not meeting its needs! Faith, on the other hand, realizes that God is meeting its needs. Since God is the one who is responsible for meeting its needs, it does not need to be concerned about them. That would be a duplication of effort! This realization frees us up to help meet the needs of others.

The question before us, then, is how do we replace fear with faith? The answer begins with the knowledge of God Himself. If we knew Him perfectly, we would trust Him perfectly. Thanks be to God, we have been given the One who has trusted Him perfectly! Christ Jesus came into the world manifesting perfect knowledge of the Father, perfect trust in Him, and delighting in His will. We have been given Him, not as a model to emulate, but as a life to be lived in our lives. He Himself is our life! "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:3-4-NIV) In our application of these words to our lives we must begin where the Apostle Paul did, with verse three. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14) KJV Since Christ is now our life, we must look to Him continually for our thoughts, our attitudes and our actions. He has already demonstrated that He is triumphant over fear! It is only in bringing the totality of our lives to Him that this transformation from fear to faith becomes complete. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (II Corinthians 3:18) KJV (This is an excerpt from the complete blog found at: <https://kansasnavs.org/fear-or-faith/>)



## Spotlight on Online Resources

### ◆*Kansas Navigators Media:*

David Case was our speaker for our April 2021 Men's Conference. He spoke on "When Life Isn't Working: Rebuilding the Spiritual Foundations." You can watch the entire conference and download the workbook (free) at <https://kansasnavs.org/media/2021-spring-mens-conference>



### ◆*Kansas Navigators blogs:*

Do you struggle with a certain unhelpful thought, attitude or behavior? "God does not tell us to break habits" is the intriguing title of Richard Spann's blog. Be encouraged as you read practical, Biblically-based advice at: <https://kansasnavs.org/god-does-not-tell-us-to-break-habits/>

### ◆*Podcast "Making Disciples Naturally"*

Our 12-15 minute podcasts are published weekly each Saturday morning. Do you want a practical way to love others? Listen well to understand them. Mark Oelze shares his insight on episodes 15-20. Find those podcasts at <https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts> or subscribe via Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, etc. (On our website you'll need to place your cursor in the list of podcasts and "slide" them down to find the correct episode number.)

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## Men's Conference Comments ... by David Dennis



We had 52 men at this year's Men's Conference. Typically we meet at Crosswind Conference Center in Hesston, but that was not available due to Covid. This was a great conference this year, despite Covid-related restrictions, and the men felt as though the day was well-spent. David Case is an excellent speaker and engaged each of the men quite well. Here are some comments:

"Excellent!" "Good subjects and presentation."

"Transparent, thoughtful, based on years of experience and applicable..." "Thanks so much for a great conference!"

"New perspective was helpful. He helped with understanding the human spirit."