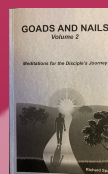


“We train disciplemakers...”



Discipleship is
more caught
than taught
— p. 3



Embraced by the
infinite love of God
— p. 4

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Seeing God's Hand at Work

Check out both an interview
with “Bill” and subsequently
with Mike Treneer on our
podcast

***Making Disciples
Naturally***

Mark your calendars for our
Fall Conference
with Mike Treneer
***October 29, 2022 at
Eastminster Presbyterian
Church, Wichita***

What can you learn
from a move?

***See the article
on page 3***

Do you sense the
infinite love of God?

***See the article
on page 4***

Mike Treneer to speak at Fall Conference



We are honored to welcome Mr. Mike Treneer as our speaker for the October 29 Fall Conference at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita. Mr. Treneer is a long-time friend of the Kansas Navigators and is a popular speaker as he brings a combination of thoughtful Biblical exposition combined with a lifetime of practical wisdom.

Mike was born in England and through a rather miraculous chain of events came to know the Lord at college through a newly-established Navigator campus ministry. He and his wife Chris went on to pioneer the

Navigator work in Nigeria for a number of years. Most recently, he served as International President of the worldwide Navigator work.

His topic is “Learning how to advance the Gospel from the Apostle Paul: A Study of 1 Thessalonians.” This conference will be a bit different as we will also have a series of workshops you can choose to attend. For more information and to sign up, go to <https://kansasnavs.org/conferences>.

Registration is required so please invite others and sign up today!

The current podcast series on *Making Disciples Naturally* (starting October 8) features an interview with Mike. This is a great way to introduce others to our ministry, so please pass this information on to others so they can get to know him and so they too can sign up for the conference.

A big “Thank you”...

The 2022 Kansas State Fair is “in the books” and the Kansas Navigators gave away a lot of books! Thanks to the efforts of Jim and Carrie Truax, Betty Borchard and over 22 other volunteer workers, many, many fair-goers received good Christian literature at our booth. In addition, people were ministered to by being listened to, prayed with and just by being encouraged.

Some statistics from this year:

- Number of high school students indicating an interest in a Bible study: 25
- Number of college students indicating an interest in a Bible study: 60
- Number of adults indicating an interest in a Bible study: 110
- Number of adults total who signed up for a chance to win a stay at the Castle (Glen Eyrie): 325
- Number of Fall Conference brochures given away: 125
- Number of lives impacted by the love of Jesus through talking/listening and literature giveaway: unknowable!

Pray for the follow-up of these folks!

Photos (clockwise from top): Jim Truax, Kirk Schleichter, Dennis Woodworth, Brian Kinney from Navigator Headquarters, Betty Borchard, Steve Carmichael and Jim Truax



Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Live your life based on God’s promises to you, not your promises to God” — Mike Treneer— Vol. 3, pages 1-3

A number of those involved in our Kansas ministry were at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where we heard Mike make this statement. He illustrated the necessity for this in his own life and called our attention to the importance of living our life based on His promises to us. All of us are able to remember a time in our lives when our spiritual walk seemed to be dependent on fulfilling our promises to Him. It may have been the promise that we would cease from a certain activity only to find ourselves repeating that activity in a few weeks. Perhaps it was a recurring attitude of resentment, jealousy, or an impure thought life about which we made promises to God that we would overcome. On the other hand, our promises to Him may have been that we would finally become consistent in our devotional life. Whatever the promises were, our experience eventually would be failure which led to guilt and the accusations of our enemy the devil...

In the Old Testament, it is recorded in a number of instances that the people of Israel made promises to God, promises that they could not keep. One of these is recorded in Exodus 19:8. “The people all responded together, ‘We will do everything the LORD has said.’” Their history after this statement revealed many centuries of broken promises...

What, then, should our response be to these promises? How do we live life based on His promises to us? Paul answers these questions in II Corinthians 7:1. “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” Paul describes two steps in our response to these promises. The first is to purify ourselves, which is confession. I John 1:9 states, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” The second is to perfect holiness, which is always by faith. Romans 1:17 relates, “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’” It is by faith that we claim these promises and live by them.

What are the promises that the Lord has given you to live by? I would encourage you to write them down, memorize them and daily affirm His promises to you that you may live on the basis of His promises to you, not your promises to Him.

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Lessons learned from a move ... by David Dennis

To be closer to two of our adult children, my wife Karla and I recently endured a move to the Kansas City area. I say “endured” because we found out that moving from a home where we have lived for some 34 years is a lot of work!



However, in the process of the move we determined to look for God’s blessing and hand at work as we made this transition. While there are many lessons we’ve learned, there is one that seems particularly applicable to disciple-making: *Making disciples must be relational, not merely passing along information.* What do I mean by that?

The Lord blessed us by putting us next to a retired contractor, who loves to help people fix things and do things around the house. Being a bit lacking in the area of being a home handyman, I was thankful to learn from his expertise. Plus it does save a lot of money when you do things yourself (assuming you don’t burn the house down or do something else stupid!).



My neighbor friend could have handed me a description of how to install new outlets and how to remove and replace the backsplash. He is a very detailed guy and I’m sure could write up a clear explanation of how to remove the old sheetrock, cut and install the new sheetrock, cut the individual pieces of backsplash, attach it to the sheetrock, then put in the grout followed by the caulk along the edge. But how would my kitchen turn out?

Instead my friend was there all the way with me. He told me several times, “I won’t do it **for** you, but I will do it **with** you.” I would try to do it one way and my friend would correct me. He was there and invested a ton of time with me.

Truly, “*discipleship is more caught than taught*”! This is shown over and over in Scripture:

- Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1
- I encourage you, then, be imitators of me. 1 Cor. 14:16
- Be imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and watch carefully those who are living this way, just as you have us as an example. Phil. 3:17
- And you became imitators of us and of the Lord ... 1 Thess. 1:6a

As one of our Kansas Navigator leadership team members says, to really impact someone for Christ, we need to have (1) close contact, (2) over a long period of time, (3) involving others, (4) doing hard things together. How appealing it is to just make a list of “what I want to teach” someone and “dump” it on them. Instead, I need to major on investing my **time**, my **self**, my **very life** with someone I want to help.



“What is ‘man-to-man’? It is meeting another, individually - eyeball to eyeball - face to face. It involves sharing your whole life and ministry with him, so he, by the grace of God, will progress from spiritual immaturity in Christ to spiritual maturity in Christ.”

— Jack Griffin, Navy Veteran and Navigator who started the Navigator work in Australia. (Quote found at <http://discipleshiplibrary.com/pdfs/R1000.pdf>)

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Embraced by the Infinite Love of God by Richard Spann

[Note: This is a very brief excerpt from this excellent longer blog which we urge you to review on our website at: <https://kansasnavs.org/embraced-by-the-infinite-love-of-god>]

It was nearly twenty years ago that the Lord miraculously demonstrated His infinite love in a manner I will never forget. I remember it daily and it is a constant reminder of who He is as El Roi, El Elyon, and El Shaddai. Every Friday morning that Spring began with a 6 AM meeting for Bible study and prayer with a close friend, followed by a men's study at 7 AM that we led together. At 8 AM I would meet my wife Bev for breakfast at McDonald's and go to the hospital for rounds and then to the office at 10 AM. My friend did not come that morning, which had never happened before. I went into the church library and “happened” to pick up a book entitled *To Know Him by Name* written by Kay Arthur. I was deeply moved by her description of the Lord through these three names, El Roi (The God who Sees), El Elyon (God Most High, Who is in control of each aspect of my life) and El Shaddai (the All-Sufficient One). 7 AM came and went and the four men who were regular attendees were also absent that day. This also was most unusual! I read and prayed through those pages until time to meet Bev at 8 AM. Following hospital rounds I went to my office where I found an envelope on my desk. After opening and reading the letter enclosed, I immediately understood, not only the unusual events of the day but of the entire week. Four days earlier I had a strong impression as I sat down to breakfast that I should not eat, but rather get some lab tests. (It had been two-three years since any routine test had been done.) I dismissed the mental impression I had been given that morning and had my usual McDonald's egg and biscuit. The next day, as I was entering McDonald's, the same impression was implanted in my mind but only much stronger than before. As a result, I had water only and ate following the lab test drawn in the office. Until I opened the letter, I had forgotten all about the tests! Enclosed with the normal results was a slightly elevated PSA, indicative of a possibility of prostate cancer. Subsequent biopsies confirmed its presence. At surgery it was found to be plastered against the outer lining of the prostate poised to break through and spread through the body at any moment. El Roi saw all this, El Elyon impressed me strongly to get a test, and prepared me the morning I saw the lab test by canceling my morning activities, leading me to Kay Arthur's book and revealing Himself to me as El Roi, El Elyon and El Shaddai. The significance of that day in retrospect is largely in the revelation gained of God's infinite love and secondarily of the healing from prostate cancer. It was a day given to me by His loving hand to reveal who He is, the depth of His knowledge concerning me, and His unlimited ability to pour forth His healing and blessing in my life...

“The point of God's love is to remake us in his image of love. God wants to make his life ours, his heart ours, his love ours. He wants us to be -like him- characterized by love.” *Surrender to Love-Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality* Intervarsity Press, Expanded Edition 2015, Pages 76-77, 85.

This, then, is the purpose for which we are embraced by the infinite love of our Lord, to be remade in His image of love. He wants to make his life ours, his heart ours, and his love ours. May the Lord progressively fulfill this purpose in your lives as you follow Him.

In Christ, Richard Spann

“What is the single most important practical skill I've ever learned as a Christian? Here it is: Never read a Bible verse. That's right, never read a Bible verse. Instead, always read a paragraph at least.”

— Greg Koukl, Author, Apologist, Stand to Reason, (STR.org)