

“We train disciplemakers...”



Sent as
Christ was
sent
— p. 3



No man left
behind
— p. 3

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Hear Dave Hastings
on

*Making Disciples
Naturally Podcast*

**Who was Sabina
Wurmbrand?**

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**We are sent as
Jesus was sent**

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No man left behind

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*Sign up today for our Fall
Conference October 13-14
(Friday night and
Saturday morning) on
“A Praying Life” with guest
speaker Dave Hastings*

Dave Hastings to present “A Praying Life”



Deadline for registration is soon approaching for our October 13-14, 2023 Fall Conference at Eastminster Presbyterian Church on the topic “A Praying Life.” Dave Hastings is our guest speaker. You can hear Dave share about his life and his thoughts about the seminar on the podcast “Making Disciples Naturally.”

This extremely practical and Biblically-based conference has the potential to transform your walk

with the Lord as well as impact your ministry, your life and your world. Among many topics Dave will address will be

- *How do you stay focused when you are distracted with so much to do?*
- *How do you pray longer than five minutes?*
- *How do you pray when you own life is messed up?*
- *How do you ask when you’ve tried it before and it doesn’t work?*

Sign up today to hold your place at the conference for yourself and a friend at KansasNavs.org/conferences. Both online and mail-in registration are available. This is going to be life-changing!

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“In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried out to my God. From His heavenly temple he heard my voice; he listened to my cry for help.” —Psalms 18:6 (NET Bible)

Sabina (movie on RedeemTV.com)

This is an intriguing, educational, inspirational and challenging film about the founders of the “Voice of the Martyrs” ministry, Richard (1909-2001) and Sabina Wurmbrand (died 2000) from Romania. The story is told from Sabina’s viewpoint as she relates her and her husband’s life story to some Nazi men she is trying to help.

She and her husband Richard were Jews who came to faith in Jesus in the 1930’s. Prior to that time, they lived a life of carefree abandonment, enjoying all the pleasures this world has to offer. Richard came to faith first, then Sabina as she read Scripture. Richard became an evangelical Lutheran priest and both were outspoken critics of communism and atheism. As a result they both suffered multiple years of imprisonment and torture.

They subsequently devoted their lives to ministry to persecuted Christians around the world.

The overriding theme of this movie is that forgiveness is the key to the Gospel. God has greatly forgiven us through Jesus’s death on the cross. Because He has so greatly loved and forgiven us, we can thus forgive others. At one point in the movie, Sabina is confronted with a man who likely was involved in the deaths of her

own parents and siblings. However, she demonstrates Jesus’s love through her by forgiving him. This is a very poignant moment in the movie.

If you are like us, you’ve heard of the ministry Voice of the Martyrs but didn’t know much about it. We highly recommend this very thoughtful and impactful movie for teenagers and above (probably not appropriate for the younger folks).

“While others are bent on revenge, on ways of doing more evil than their neighbor, God gives the ability to return good for evil.” — Sabina Wurmbrand



(A word about Redeemtv.com: redeemtv.com is from the Christian History Institute. The service is free although does require giving them your email to login. The Kansas Communities Ministry does not sanction every film on this site, but we do offer suggestions as to those which seem to be helpful and consistent with our mission.)

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” John 17:18

— Vol. 3 pages 39-42

The seventeenth chapter of John comprises what is termed the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. In this chapter He prayed as a co-equal with God the Father. Our prayers are as a pauper, asking for His grace. The prayers of Christ to the Father were always on a different level than ours. On this basis of oneness with God, our Lord asked for our protection, our joy, our being set apart by His word, our complete unity, and the sharing of His glory. Among these requests there is included His desire that we should be sent, even as He was sent. To be sent as He was sent opens many avenues of thought...

The first of these is to realize that the same power that enabled Christ to live His life is made available to us. Each word He spoke, every activity He undertook, and every miracle performed was done by the power of the Holy Spirit manifesting the Father through His life. The Lord Jesus did not speak on His own. “So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” (John 12:50) He did not act on His own. “Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work.” (John 14:10) At one point, our Lord stated the following, “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself’” (John 5:19) The same Holy Spirit that manifested the life of the Father in the Son has been given to us to manifest the life of the Son in and through our lives. We have the same relationship with the Son through the Spirit that the Son had with the Father. This is why our Lord says to us in John 15:5, “apart from me you can do nothing.” And in John 16:14 He states, “He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” These are the truths that enabled Paul to write in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” ...

We are sent as our Lord was sent. We share the same power (Holy Spirit), to accomplish the same purpose (The Will of God). It is a life lived by faith, dependent upon the Spirit to manifest the life of Christ through us in such a way that the will of the Father is accomplished through our lives. In this manner we come to realize in our lives the fulfillment of the statement of Christ in John 17:18. “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

In Christ, Richard Spann

Discipleship - No Man Left Behind by Larry Beck

Scripture often uses military expressions to describe elements of the Christian life (**Ephesians 6:11-17**). One expression or creed from the American military is illustrative in this regard. In the fifth paragraph of the army ranger creed, it is written “I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy.” A shorter version might read “no man left behind,” ultimately indicating that the life of a soldier is worth risking, to recover another who is wounded in battle.



Perhaps the critical element to a willingness to risk one’s life for that of another is being of the same mind and intent on one purpose (**Philippians 2:2**); a sense of oneness with others. In **John 17:20-21** Jesus prayed for His disciples and those who would come to faith through them “...**that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.**” In **Acts 4:32**, we read “**And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul...**” The apostle Paul echoed a similar principle in

Philippians 2:2 as he writes to the church saying, “**make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**”

Commitment to singular cause and to fellow combatants is requisite to survival and victory in war. And to be certain, the Christian’s life is a war, with on-going conflict from within oneself and from without. The Christian’s warfare is not one fought with worldly means or methods (**II Corinthians 10:4**), but with spiritual ones and it takes individuals with varying gifts, skills and experience working together to be successful.

Unfortunately, as in physical wars, there will be those who are injured in battle. And all Christians can identify with being wounded in their walk with Christ, whether by their own sin, difficult circumstances, worldly people and their influence, or from friendly fire from other Christians.

But where the one wounded is surrounded by like-minded Believers, someone is more likely to come in search of and rescue the metaphorical “man down”. And I’ve noticed that this seems particularly truer of those who are committed to a ministry of one-to-one discipleship carried into the concept of a team environment where many are of the same mind toward the ministry and each other.

(Continued on next page)

“I praise You that Christ is not a weak person outside me, but a tremendous power inside me...that through Him I am competent to cope with life, to do Your will, to love with Your love, to be more than a conqueror.”

—Ruth Myers, in *31 Days of Praise*, p. 71, Pub. by Multnomah Publishers, 1994. Ruth and her husband Warren Myers were Navigators in Asia for nearly 50 years.

Discipleship - No Man Left Behind by Larry Beck (conclusion)

Lloyd Wilson, the team leader of the Navigator team I was invited to join, would frequently quote **II Timothy 2:2** and encourage our team that faithful men were hard to find. Often in conjunction with **Proverbs 20:6** confirming his point which says, **“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”** And he would comment that “if you find such men, hang on to them and forgive them when necessary, because they’re rare.”

As a member of Lloyd’s Navigator team, he once commented that he was comforted in the belief that if he ever began to stray away from the Lord and by default the team, that someone would come after him to restore him. Just knowing that there are others who would love you enough to come in search of you, to counsel and perhaps confront you if you were overtaken in sin, is comforting. I’ve never had to have a team member come in search for me, but I’ve been richly blessed to have been in the company of like-minded men where I could safely come to one of them for counsel and confess my sins or struggles and know they wouldn’t reject me. I’ve experienced the grace that is necessary for the wounded to rehabilitate and get back in the fight.

In **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** Solomon speaks to the value of oneness and being like-minded as he writes, **“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”** There is much to learn from this text but note specifically that **“if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion...and if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him.”** The value of two or more together carries a synergistic benefit that one alone doesn’t possess.

Without sounding overly dramatic, God has shown great kindness to me in providing Navigator influence and fellowship. This influence, and associated instruction, has kept me moving forward through nearly 40 years of battles of temptation and of faith. And likewise encouraged me to remain focused on man-to-man ministry, praying, and looking for faithful men to minister to and fellowship with. And this influence has and will continue to have eternal implications, not just for me, but to others God has privileged me to walk with in this life.

“Less than two years after we were married, my hitch in the Marine Corps resulted in my spending more than sixteen months apart from my wife on ... Okinawa... Thanks to a man named Bob Newark, a representative of the Navigators, I dug deeper into my understanding of God’s Word... As a result, it became clear to me that I should pursue... seminary.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll in *Searching the Scriptures*, Pub. by Tyndall House, 2016, preface p. x. Pastor Swindoll went on to minister to millions over the years.

Confessions of a (semi) reluctant State Fair worker ... by David Dennis

The Kansas Communities Ministry has hosted a booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson for more than 13 years, thanks to the untiring efforts of Dick and Betty Borchard and Jim and Carrie Truax. Each year I was offered the opportunity to work there and for many years I didn't see how I could do that as I was working every day and sometimes on weekends. Besides, I didn't see the great benefit of having a "Navigator booth" at the Fair.



I am so thankful that the Borchards and Truax as well as others persevered over the years and had the vision and foresight to make this ministry a priority. It wasn't easy. The Fair requires a significant financial fee to have a booth there. In addition it is mandatory to staff the booth 12 hours for most days of the Fair. That is a huge commitment. Then arrangements have to be made to have the books shipped to the Fair, unpack them, categorize them and then organize them to be given away. It's a big job!

This year we gave away around 1500 books, both for children and adults. We were blessed to have 17 workers staff the booth over the 10 days of the Fair. We were able to bless 10 high school and college students with Amazon gift cards and one couple who won a stay at the Glen Eyrie Castle.

This year, Karla and I made a commitment to work at the booth. Upon reflection of that experience, it struck me that there are many benefits to working at the booth, benefits to the visitors who stop by, to the Kansas Communities Ministry and to us as individuals. Here are a few:

Benefits to those who stop by:

- ◆ They have an opportunity to share concerns, thoughts and ask for prayer. Multiple people were prayed with this year at the Fair. God's love and concern was shared.
- ◆ They can get high quality Christian literature that is encouraging and draws people closer to the Lord. For many, these books may be the first Christian books they have seen, especially for children. Who knows how many lives are impacted by parents reading these books to their children over and over and learning themselves about Jesus for the first time?
- ◆ Some may even come to know the Lord for the first time (this year, a person placed their faith in Jesus at the booth!)

- ◆ Students are shown love by registering for a free Amazon gift card. This year 167 senior high school and college students signed up for a chance to win. One adult couple is blessed to win a two-night stay at Glen Eyrie.
- ◆ They have opportunity to hear about the work of the Kansas Navigators and are invited to attend the Fall Conference, Spring Men's Retreat and to hear about our ministry.
- ◆ High school seniors and those in college are connected to campus Navigator ministries if they desire to get involved in a Bible study. *This year twenty-five contacts interested in Bible study were sent to Kansas Navigator Collegiate Ministries on various campuses!* Other students stopped by to pick up Christian books.

Benefits to the Kansas Communities Ministry:

- ◆ We get our "name" in front of the public, not for our glory, but for encouragement of others. It is amazing what a positive image The Navigators® has and many people respond favorably to our presence. Through this, we hope to continually expand the ministry to those who are open.
- ◆ We are able to promote *Every Man a Warrior*, one-on-one discipleship, the *Making Disciples Naturally* Podcast, our monthly newsletter, our Fall Conference and Spring Men's Retreat and other tools that the Lord is using to help people grow.

Benefits to us as workers in the booth:

- ◆ We are blessed to represent the Lord to the public and to other booths. As we are there for 10 days, it is an opportunity to interact with other booth workers around us. A young man who was hosting a booth near us this year shared that he was a believer and was looking for a study. We told him about *Every Man a Warrior* and he took down the information to take back to his church and men's group.
- ◆ We have an opportunity to overcome our fear in speaking up about our faith. I confess that I initially secretly wondered "what will they think of me?" when I identify myself as a believer. I know that seems silly, but it was really a hurdle I had to overcome! It helped me overcome some of my fear about sharing my faith in public. And I was blessed for it.
- ◆ We are blessed ourselves as we share more deeply with people who stop by, talking about their concerns and being able to pray with them.
- ◆ It develops great bonding and fellowship with other Navigators and believers as we worked together in this "mission" of outreach and love to others.

So, I learned there were many benefits from volunteering to work at the Kansas Navigator Booth at the State Fair. We know that not everyone can help out by being there, but we are thankful for those who can. Is it tiring? Yes. Does it take time away from other obligations or even other fun things to do? Yes. Is it a sacrifice? Yes. Is it worth it? YES! I only regret we didn't spend more time there!

