

“We train disciplemakers...”



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See you at our Fall Conference:
October 5, 2024
Special guest speaker:
Bill Mowry, Navigator and author of “The Way of the Alongsider,” “Walk with Me” and other books and resources.

Be inspired to make disciples at Fall Conference



There is still time to attend our statewide Fall Conference, Saturday, October 5 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita! Our speaker is Mr. Bill Mowry. Bill is the author of many resources the Kansas Communities Ministry has used over the years, including *The Ways of the Alongsider*, *Crockpot Discipling*, *The Ways of the Leader* and *Walk With Me*.

Bill lives in Ohio with his wife Peggy who is a certified Life Coach and teacher as well. He has an MA from The Ohio State University with an emphasis on adult education. He has over 40 years of discipling experience. His website is alongsider.com. He has been on Navigator staff since 1975.

Bill’s messages to us will be focused on the concept that every believer can (and should) be making disciples. His goal is to “de-professionalize” the discipling process.

Even though official registration is currently closed, we welcome walk-ins the morning of the conference. The fee is only \$25.00 for walk-ins (\$15 for first-time attendees, students and active duty military). Please note that walk-ins will not receive a box lunch that day.

Won’t you consider joining us October 5 to hear this dynamic and encouraging speaker? Bring your pastor or another friend with you!

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“They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world. Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

—John 17:16-18 (NET Bible)

The Forge Movie

Kendrick Brothers

The recent movie “The Forge” is a beautiful picture of mentorship and discipleship. It is likely no longer in theaters by the time this is published, but hopefully you can catch it online streaming or by renting or purchasing it.

From the website: *“Isaiah Wright has some growing up to do. A year out of high school with no plans for his future, Isaiah is challenged by his single mom and a successful businessman to start charting a better course for his life. Through the biblical discipleship from his new mentor, prayers of his mother and a prayer warrior named Miss Clara, Isaiah begins to discover God’s purpose for his life is so much more than he could hope for or imagine.”*



Not only is this movie inspiring and encouraging, it is a great image of what generational spiritual reproduction is all about. Isaac’s mentor, Joshua, the president of the company, takes time out of his busy day to invest in Isaiah’s young life. At first Isaiah is reluctant to participate, but when he sees how much Joshua is sacrificing to invest in him, he willingly goes along.

Joshua teaches Isaiah not only practical things about relating to other people (for example, the proper way to introduce oneself), he also emphasizes the importance of a personal walk with the Lord. In addition he introduces Isaiah to other men who are investing in the next generation.

This would be a great movie to show to a home group, a discipleship group (particularly a men’s discipleship group or men’s fellowship) and others to help them catch the vision of life-on-life

discipleship. We highly recommend watching this movie!

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Everybody can help somebody”

— Jim Morris

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 91-94)

When our youngest daughter was in her third year of Medical School, an Internal Medicine Resident demonstrated how to put in a central line ... A few weeks later, a teaching professor asked her class if anyone knew how to put in a central line. After she raised her hand, she was instructed to put in a line for the next patient. A few months later ... during hospital rounds the first week, the group of students was asked if anyone knew how to put in a central line. When she answered “Yes,” she was instructed to begin teaching the other students.

In some aspects of medical care, the statement “see one, do one, teach one” is a common practice... Why is it, then, so seldom seen in our Christian communities? Many need help in learning how to study the Bible, how to pray, how to begin memorizing scripture, how to apply the scriptures to their lives, and how to share their faith... Do we assume that these things just naturally become a part of our lives if we simply attend church and sit in a pew once a week? Or, are we content to let the “professionals,” the “pastoral staff,” do these things while we simply observe them doing their work? In the thinking of some, “Isn’t that why they were hired?”...

We are all given seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Should we not bring this time to the Lord daily, asking Him how He wants to use it for His Kingdom? He came to seek and to save the lost. As His disciples, He desires that we be involved with the lives of others, bringing them to Him that they may know Him as their Lord and Savior, establishing them in the faith and equipping them for their ministry... II Corinthians 5:10 states, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” It is His desire to reward us for our availability to His Spirit so that his work through our lives in the lives of others will be evident on that Day. It is my prayer that He will see and be pleased with the choices that you have made, knowing that, indeed, everybody can help somebody.

In Christ, Richard Spann

The Longest Journey by Richard Spann

When we think of long journeys, our minds may go back to the Lewis and Clark expedition, or perhaps Magellan or Captain Cook. We will most likely never take any of those journeys!

The longest journey that each of will take is not measured in miles, but rather in time. It is the length of time that it takes information about what God has done for us in Christ to travel two feet, from our heads to our hearts. The scriptures are clear in the information given to us, that we are one with Him, seated in Heaven, while He is one with us in our lives. The lives we live are not lived by us, but rather by Christ (Galatians 2:20). We can look forward each day, not to what Christ *would* do, but to what He *will* do, in and through us. Every sin is forgiven, the old man is crucified and buried with Him, our lives are now hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3-4), He abides with us and we abide with Him (John 15:4), and we are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10).



The Apostle Paul, well into his years of ministry, expressed this realization when he stated these words in Philippians 3:12. "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 was conscious of this journey and pressed on to close the gap between his head and his heart.

Some of us, like Paul, are conscious of this gap and desire to close that gap by the daily appropriation of all that Christ has done for us. Others, although aware of the gap, have grown to settle for less than they were given in Christ. They may have made efforts in the past to change, but these attempts may have been ineffective due to self-effort. Some may have given up hope of progress, seeing little immediate change. The enemy may have convinced them that there is no more to appropriate than what they have already experienced. They have settled for a "mediocre" relationship with Christ, which is not satisfying to them or to Christ.

Still others, although born-again by the Holy Spirit, may not be aware of all that the Lord has done for them. They think that their current experience of being accepted by God through Christ is all they need to know and are experiencing but a small fraction of what God has made available to them.

Regardless of which group of the above three we find ourselves in, we can be assured of God's promise in Philippians 1:6. "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." To those who need the light of His word, He will instruct them. To those who need hope for the journey, He will supply hope. To those who earnestly desire, like Paul, to have the daily experience of seeing Christ be manifested fully in their lives, He brings the encouragement that it will come to pass in His time. We may grow impatient, however, wanting to speed up the Lord's process. We forget that He works from eternity and for eternity. This is His process and we cannot speed it up. The Holy Spirit uses the means of Grace, which include the written word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers to accomplish His work. He also uses circumstances in our lives to produce the transformation of our lives. As we set our hearts to follow Him and seek the experiential oneness with Him, we are prone to suffer discouragement because of the slowness of change which we experience. Habakkuk 2:3, however, reminds us of God's promise. "But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. It it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!" (TLB) (continued on next page)

"Every day is important for us because it is a day ordained by God. If we are bored with life there is something wrong with our concept of God and His involvement in our daily lives. Even the most dull and tedious days of our lives are ordained by God and ought to be used by us to glorify Him." ~ Jerry Bridges, *Navigator*, author, speaker. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/1899-Jerry_Bridges

The Longest Journey (continued)

Although we are not able to speed up the work of God in our lives we have the capacity to slow it down. The Holy Spirit's use of the word, prayer and fellowship with others is dependent upon availing ourselves of these means of Grace. They are the Lord's chosen methods of instruction about all we have in Christ and our neglect of them hinders His work. As Dallas Willard once remarked, "God is not opposed to effort, He is opposed to earning."

Our maximum growth can be attained in experiencing oneness with Christ by fully availing ourselves of the means of Grace: memorizing, meditating, reading, hearing, and studying the word of God, along with prayer and fellowship with other believers.

It is not only the exposure to the means of Grace that is important. The critical element in our growth is our response to the means of Grace! Paul describes the response needed in the following passage. "All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained." (Philippians 3:15-16)

If we are to appropriate fully our oneness with Christ, we need to live up by faith to what we have attained by God's Grace in Christ. We need to, by faith, appropriate what has already been attained for us by the Cross, Resurrection and the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Belief, as referred to in the scriptures, is always accompanied by the Greek word, "eis," which refers to an action that accompanies belief. This indicates that faith is not intellectual understanding only, but it involves activity. It is a response to truth, an application of understanding received, and progress made by an accompanying effect on our lives. The faith that lays hold upon all that we have been granted in Christ is described well in the five following statements by G. Campbell Morgan:

"The faith that saves is the answer of the will to the truth of which the reason is convinced."

"Faith is the handing over of the life to the claim of truth."

"That belief saves which compels the surrender of the whole life to the conviction of truth."

"The following of light is the faith that saves a man."

"Unbelief is the refusal to obey that truth of which I am convinced intellectually."

If we apply this type of faith to our continued exposure to His means of Grace, we will be able to claim His promise to the Psalmist in Psalm 138:8. "The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever — do not abandon the works of your hands." We can rest assured that the journey from our head to our heart will not be prolonged, not even by one day!

In Christ, Richard Spann



"The duties God requires of us are not in proportion to the strength we possess in ourselves. Rather, they are proportional to the resources available to us in Christ. We do not have the ability in ourselves to accomplish the least of God's tasks. This is the law of grace. When we recognize it is impossible for us to perform a duty in our own strength, we will discover the secret of its accomplishment." ~ John Owen, English Puritan theologian. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/11195-John_Owen