

“We train disciplemakers...”



A great gift for students  
— p. 2



“Herman” who?  
— p. 3

# Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

## *Making Disciples Naturally* Podcast

*How does God want to use me in the lives of others?*

June 1, 8, 15

An inspiring discussion with “Bill”

## The Fuel and the Flame

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## On developing laborers

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## Hearing from God through His Word

See the article by Larry Beck on page 3

Mark your calendars for our Fall Conference October 5, 2024

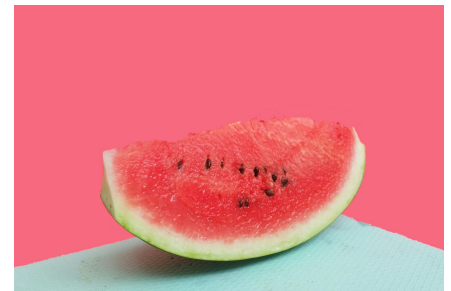
Special guest speaker: Bill Mowry, Navigator and author of “The Way of the Alongsider,” “Walk with Me” and other books and resources.

## Summer: A time to connect!

Summer is a time when people are often outside more. In general it has become increasingly rare for us to interact much with our neighborhood. I still remember taking walks with my parents in the evenings and stopping to visit with friends on their porches. It was a good time of fellowship and getting to know folks, as well as hearing about any concerns or challenges they were facing. Plus, if we were lucky, we got to share a dessert or two with them!

How might we redeem summer this year? Here are some ideas:

- \*Is your neighbor outside working in their yard or on their car? If so, why not offer to help them in whatever project they are doing?
- \*Invite one or two neighbors for dessert.
- \*Join others in sponsoring a neighborhood potluck or cook out.
- \*Have a neighborhood garage sale or yard sale.



We are not able to minister to others if we don't know them and their needs. We must not do this with ulterior motives or hidden agenda. The goal must be to simply get to know them and love them. Let's pray together for the Lord to show us how we can be salt and light in our neighborhoods this summer!

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“So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Be quiet! Calm down!’ Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm. And he said to them, ‘Why are you cowardly? Do you still not have faith?’ They were overwhelmed by fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!’”

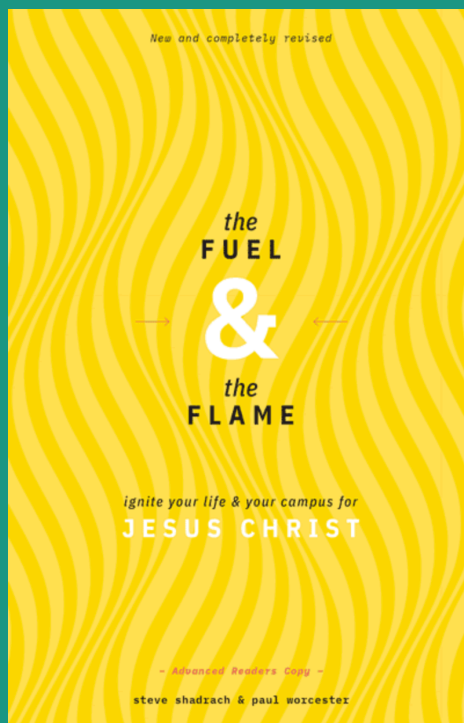
—Mark 4:39-41 (NET Bible)

## The Fuel and the Flame: Ignite your life and your campus for Jesus Christ

by Steve Shadrach and Paul  
Worcester, Pub. by the Center for  
Mission Mobilization

This excellent book would make a great gift for your student who is going off to college or is already in college. While college students are the target audience, anyone and everyone can learn and be inspired to follow Jesus in making disciples by reading this.

The first part (“The Fuel”) deals with the basics of discipleship and emphasizes being sold out for Jesus and His priorities. So often our college experience is focused on “me” and what I can get out of this time. However, the authors make a powerful case for living those college years intentionally and looking at the campus as a mission field. This is such a refreshing perspective on



a time that often is wasted from a spiritual standpoint.

The authors emphasize the critical importance of a daily, intimate walk with our Lord through a quiet time, prayer and Bible study. Multiple Navigator illustrations are used, including the Hand Illustration and the Wheel.

The second half of the book deals with “The Flame” — how our faith works itself out in mission for the Lord. The authors challenge the reader to be bold for Christ, to make friends intentionally and to share the Gospel message. They provide ample practical resources to utilize, including not only the Bridge Illustration but also ideas for doing an investigative (evangelistic) Bible study.

We highly recommend this book to the college student who is ready to be challenged to put Christ first and start evangelizing, establishing and equipping.

## Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“To know Christ in my own life ... and DEVELOP LABORERS at all times, under any conditions...” — Kansas Communities Objective  
— Vol. 3 pages 71-74

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.

The statement above is the personal objective of the Kansas Navigators Ministry teams. It emphasizes the need for a deep knowledge of the Lord and a commitment to his work. His desire for us is not only that we make disciples, but that laborers are developed as well. At the end of the Lord's ministry here on earth there were, no doubt, countless believers who had placed their trust in Him. ... These were those who had the mark of discipleship as characterized by their love for one another (John 13:34-35), who had denied self, taken up the cross and followed Him (Luke 9:23), and who had continued in His word (John 8:31). But there was another category of people referred to in the Gospels as “laborers” (Luke 10:1-17). The Lord appointed these 72 individuals and sent them to tell others that the Kingdom of God was near. They were to be personally involved with others in their journey of faith leading to discipleship...

Disciples do not gradually evolve into laborers. It requires intentionality on the part of those helping others in this process, as well as intentionality on the part of those who desire to be laborers. As the Lord calls us to work with others to a point where they are actively involved in the harvest, the most important thing to remember is prayer. Prayer is vital to the accomplishment of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives...

As we labor for others in His Kingdom we have the confidence that we are called into fellowship with Christ (I Corinthians 1:9). G. Campbell Morgan explains this word fellowship (Koinonia) as meaning that we have all things in common with our Lord. He uses the two words “resources” and “responsibilities” to describe the impact of this in our lives. In fellowship with Christ, then, all His resources are made available to me to meet my responsibilities. Likewise, all my resources are to be made available to Him to meet His responsibilities. It is in this fellowship that we may have the confidence that His laborers are being developed through our lives.

In Christ, Richard Spann

## Hearing from God through His Word: The Science and Art of Hermeneutics, Part 1 by Larry Beck

I was a Christian for approximately 20 years before I ever heard the word “hermeneutics” and had no idea what it meant nor the importance of it.

A basic definition of “hermeneutics” is “the science of Bible interpretation.” The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines the term as “the study of the methodological principles of interpretation (as of the Bible).” Another definition states that “Hermeneutics is the science and art of Biblical interpretation” and it is “a science because there are laws that guide it.” (This reference is from the website [www.austinbiblechurch.com](http://www.austinbiblechurch.com); a web address for a PDF file is listed under Part III as a resource.) The critical matter to note is that accurate interpretation of scripture requires a disciplined approach using certain rules or methods which enable the Bible student to understand the scriptures and deduce truthful applications that can be determined from the text despite, and perhaps contrary to, preconceptions.



As a young Christian I was blessed to have had the disciplines of daily quiet time, scripture memory and meditation well ingrained in me, but was never really taught how to study the Bible in a disciplined manner. I was encouraged to look up cross references and picked up a Vines Expository Dictionary which did help in my understanding, especially of certain words translated from Greek to English in the New Testament that were misunderstood and wrongly applied by some in the churches I attended.

Exposure to commentators like Matthew Henry and John MacArthur and their commentaries are excellent resources, but that still did not enable me to approach bible study in a disciplined manner. And it wasn't until I started teaching the bible, verse for verse, and word for word through a book, like I Peter, Galatians, and Colossians that I began to realize there was much more work to do.

It became apparent very quickly that there were words in the text that created some significant theological challenge to my understanding. This awareness came with the exceedingly uncomfortable conclusion I had been in error in some of my prior interpretations and beliefs. And likewise, that I had communicated error to some I had ministered to, in person, small groups and in Sunday school classes. I had unwittingly violated II Timothy 2:15 and was very humbled to realize I had not taught my fellow Christians with the degree of accuracy that God expects from teachers, but far worse, I had misrepresented God.

It's valuable to consider that because God gave us His word in human language, Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, which have been translated into English, it should be interpreted understanding this. Languages contain rules of grammar, whether we like it or not, and contain things like metaphors, verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. The Bible was also scripted in different literary forms like historical narrative, poetry, straight forward didactic instruction (teaching) and apocalyptic type language most often associated with prophecy. Thus, understanding the language of a book can be important as it will determine in some cases whether the text should be interpreted “literally” or “literarily.”

(continued on next page)

“I know less about prayer today than I did [when I was young]... I have prayed for over 60 years for several of my family members to come to faith and God has not answered those prayers, and I do not know why...All I know now, after all these years, is that prayer is ... talking to God. I don't know how it works. I do know that God has asked me to do it, and I've always benefited when I've obeyed God. I have been changed by prayer, ... but I don't know how that happens.” — Lorne Sanny, former President of The Navigators © . Quote found at <https://www.navigators.org/blog/a-heritage-of-prayer-lessons-from-lorne-sanny/>

## Biblical Interpretation (continued)

Perhaps an example or two would be helpful. The word “Thousand” or “Thousands” is used in the singular and plural in phrases like “Thousands of Ten Thousands” (Genesis 24:60) in regard to a blessing spoken to Rebekah; to “thousands” (Exodus 20:6) in reference to God’s blessing to the descendants of those who are obedient to Him; in reference to time as Peter writes “...with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day”.

Other examples appear in the poetry books, like Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon which contain numerous metaphors and similes to express the writers’ thoughts. For example, Psalm 50:10 speaks to the Lord’s ownership of His creation as “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.” Or note Song of Solomon (verses 4:1; 6:5) where the writer states “...Your hair is like a flock of goats that have descended from Gilead” describing the hair of the woman he loved.

With these references in mind, consider that some have suggested that the Bible should be interpreted “literally” in every instance. However, if someone were to take the foregoing scripture references literally, significant theological issues would instantly emerge revealing the necessity of additional or more effective study methods.

Similar to the above, understanding figurative language becomes much more difficult when interpreting prophetic books like Daniel and Revelation. These books contain apocalyptic language containing numerous symbolic terms which in some cases require additional study or research to determine the exact meaning of the words and intent of the author.

Anyone who prayerfully reads and meditatively considers the truths of scripture as available in a good translation from the original languages (i.e., KJV, NKJV, ESV, NASB, LSB), will glean enough truth to understand the most essential doctrines (i.e., the gospel) and commands in scripture sufficiently to please God if obedient to what they understand.

And with reference to English translations or versions of the Bible, I would not encourage the use of paraphrase versions like the Living Bible or the Message for study purposes. These are somewhat more like commentaries than actual translations, representing the author(s) interpretation of the text. And while it’s possible to glean some beneficial truth from these resources, I do not recommend them for use in study.

In Parts II and III of this series, several suggested rules of hermeneutics will be provided. These rules are profitable for all Bible students but are essential for those who endeavor to teach and preach scripture; specifically Elders who must be able to teach (I Timothy 3:2).

In closing, consider that we have far more biblically based resources available to us today than the first century church and more than most Christians have had until relatively recently. And even with such an abundance available to us, both in books and online, Godliness is more of a matter of the mind, heart and will in fighting the battle of our sin than insufficient biblical information. And while increasingly accurate knowledge is of great value, we all still struggle to obey what we can easily know from scripture, and we know more than we would want to give an account for anyway. I share this so as not to give the impression that all Bible readers and students must be hermeneutical experts in order to obey and please God, but the rules and methods will profit anyone who applies them.

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"We have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. Our attitude is everything." ~ Charles R. Swindoll, Pastor and Author, Quote found at [https://www.azquotes.com/author/14373-Charles\\_R\\_Swindoll#google\\_vignette](https://www.azquotes.com/author/14373-Charles_R_Swindoll#google_vignette)