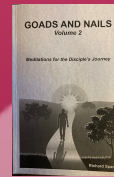


“We train disciplemakers...”



Kansas State Fair
update p. 2



What is “living by
faith”? p. 4

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Compelled by God’s Greatness

Hear Larry Beck’s interview
on Scripture memory
on our podcast July 16
[*Making Disciples
Naturally*](#)

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

Kansas State Fair
is coming up!
[*See the article
on page 2*](#)

**Mark your calendars to
help us represent
The Navigators® at the
Kansas State Fair
September 9-18, 2022!**



How to reach out and love your friends and family this summer!

Summer is often a time for
relaxing with friends and
family. It’s a time when we
take vacations and get out
of our normal routine.

(Sometimes it’s also filled with summer sports and other activities that make us long for the school year to begin!) However, rather than having a mindset of withdrawing from others and “doing our own thing,” have you considered it an excellent time to connect with those you don’t normally get to interact with? Perhaps God is calling you to make disciples, even during these “off season” months. But how do you do that? Do you need to start a Bible study with everyone you meet? (That wouldn’t be wrong!) No, but maybe there are ways we can encourage folks to consider spiritual things as we talk, play and travel with them. Here are a few thoughts ...

1. Invite them into your world. If you’re having a backyard cookout, why not invite that neighbor you barely know to join you? Meeting over a great burger or hot dog and just getting to know them would be a fantastic first step. But (someone might say), “I’m an introvert. I need my space.” I get that. But you don’t need to invite the whole neighborhood! (continued on p. 3)

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“Did not the Cushites and Libyans have a huge army with chariots and a very large number of horsemen? But when you relied on the Lord, he handed them over to you! Certainly the Lord watches the whole earth carefully and is ready to strengthen those who are devoted to him.” 2 Chronicles 16:8-9a (NET Bible)

Kansas Navigators and the Kansas State Fair

Did you know the Kansas Communities Ministry with The Navigators® has a booth at the Kansas State Fair? This year the Fair in Hutchinson runs from September 9-18, 2022. We are located in the nicely-air conditioned Meadowlark Building on the Fairgrounds.



What do we do there? We tell people about The Navigators®, about our Fall Conference in October, about our podcast and about the ministry in general. We also give away a LOT of free literature graciously provided to us. These are outstanding Christian books, including children's books that get God's Word into the homes of many people who might not otherwise hear.

Most importantly, however, we listen to people. Many stop by to share their hurts, their hopes and their lives. We've made contacts with college students which have allowed Bible studies to start on campuses in Kansas.

We need help! Won't you consider joining us? Free training is provided. Contact us at Newsletter@KansasNavs.org.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

"We belong to the Lord for Four Reasons" — Leroy Eims — Vol. 2, pages 41-44

"Many years ago, Leroy related a hypothetical story illustrating his statement as noted above. He told about a time in which he was driving around a new neighborhood with a friend who was an architect. As they drove through the streets, his friend pointed to one of the newer houses and stated, 'There, that is my house.' As they drove by, the architect explained in detail how each aspect of the house was designed, its reason for doing so, as well as its intended function. A few days later, he was in the same neighborhood with a builder. As they were driving past the same house, the builder, said, 'Look, there is one of my houses.' They left the car, and with the builder began looking through the rooms that were built. Within the next week, Leroy describes visiting the same neighborhood with a developer... 'There, the developer exclaimed, is one of my houses,' and pointed to the house previously described by the architect and builder. As they stopped the car, a little girl saw them from the sidewalk, got off her bicycle and said, 'Hi, this is my new house.' Leroy then asks the question, 'Whose house was it?' The answer, of course is that it was all four of their homes... In the same way, Leroy explained, we belong to our LORD because He designed us, He created us, He redeemed us, and He lives in us.

"He is our designer. Before the creation of the world, He had each cell of our bodies designed. He selected our height, the color of our eyes, our hair and every other part of our genetic makeup. This all comes from the hand of the One who framed us with His infinite love and perfect Wisdom.

"He is our builder. Psalm 139:13-16a states, 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...' He is also our Redeemer. At infinite cost, which we cannot fathom, He paid the ultimate price of Himself when it was declared that 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.' (II Corinthians 5:19 KJV) We are also His by means of His possession of our lives. He has taken up residence in us. It is His life that is lived through us (Galatians 2:20, John 14:23)."

In Christ, Richard Spann

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Reaching Out ... (continued from page 1)



2. Focus on truly listening — and loving — them. In John 4, Jesus interacts with the Samaritan woman. He asks her for a drink of water (vs. 7), then waits for her response. The request for water sounds mundane to our ears but to the first-century Samaritan woman it would have been rather shocking. A male Jew just didn't talk to a female Samaritan, yet Jesus did just that. But He didn't preach to her. He asked for a drink first. He then went on to probe about her life. Similarly, we should focus on the other person, asking a question here and there, then listening to their response. The writer of Proverbs 18:13 reminds us, “To answer before listening--that is folly and shame.” (NIV) Ask a question, then be quiet. Truly **listen**. Then **echo** back what you heard. “Joe,

what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?” Joe says, “I like to watch the Chiefs on TV. I really hope they have a good season this year.” You echo, “It is fun to watch professionals play well.” Echoing back tells the other person that you listened to them and that you care.

3. When the situation is right, ask them a more “penetrating” question. It's good to have some questions in mind — something that will require them to think just a bit before answering — and something that will allow them to share more deeply than the superficial stuff that we tend to focus on. We were introduced to a series of cards recently that have questions that allow us to go deeper. For example, one of the questions was, “Who was the most challenging boss you've ever had?” or “What do you miss about your 18-year-old body?” (“Questions for Humans” by Dr. John Delony). Also, I recently asked a group of guys I get together with, “What would you have done for a career had it not been your chosen profession?” It was very illuminating and helped us ask further questions to get to know each other better.

Hopefully these ideas have inspired you to take that first step this summer. Even though summer is a time for vacations, let's not take a vacation from making disciples! (Article to be continued next month.)



“We must believe that the world is really lost and that every non-Christian we meet is headed to hell. That determines our motives and whether to be a spectator or a participant. There are too many spectators.” — Bob Boardman, long-time Navigator, in his talk “God, Deepen My Vision”

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Living by Faith by Richard Spann (this is an excerpt from the complete blog found at KansasNavs.org/blog)

“We live by faith, not by sight.” (II Corinthians 5:7) Jesus Christ came into the world, living with perfect knowledge of the Father and perfect trust in the Father. His life was lived by faith from beginning to end. What was natural for Him is unnatural for us. I can only recall (dimly) one time in my life when I lived totally by faith. I was not worried about where my next meal would come from. There were no anxieties about what the next day would bring. The thought of worrying about school work, a career choice, eventual marriage and family responsibilities never crossed my mind. I lived a life of trust and dependence. Sadly, in some regards, these days of early childhood slipped away and I joined the rest of fallen adult humanity. Humanity assumes it must take responsibility for itself and find its own way in life. It is no wonder that Christ says we must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven! When our forefather (Adam) chose independence from God as a lifestyle he set himself up to be his own God. He said, in effect, “I know better how to run my own life than you do.” As David Benner notes, there are only two prayers offered by mankind. These are often unspoken, nonverbalized prayers expressing two alternative desires of mankind. One is supernatural, the other is natural. One is “Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” The natural one, the one we are born with is “Hallowed be my name, my kingdom come, my will be done!” (*Desiring God’s Will*, Intervarsity Press, 2015, pg 33) Jesus says to those who unconsciously or consciously pray the natural prayer, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Christ offers us His burden, the will of God, telling us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. (Matthew 11: 28-30)

Isaiah characterizes another aspect of living by faith. In his reply to the Lord in Isaiah 6:8 “Whom shall I send?”, and “Who will go for us?”, he says “Here am I. Send me.” G. Campbell Morgan describes this response as abandonment and readiness. Isaiah has abandoned himself to God! Oswald Chambers has these comments to say about what it means to abandon. “Are you prepared to abandon entirely and let go? The test of abandonment is in refusing to say—“Well, what about this?” Beware of suppositions. Immediately you allow — What about this?— It means you have not abandoned, you do not really trust God. ... Abandon means to refuse yourself the luxury of asking any questions.” To abandon is to live by faith. The opposite of this is to live by sight, as three men in Luke 9:57-62 demonstrate by their (hypothetical) questions. Where are we sleeping tonight? Can I bury my father first?

Finally, living by faith means that we have not yet attained that for which we were created. We continue to thirst and hunger for deeper knowledge of our Lord. We are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:18) Paul has this thought in view in Philippians 3:12-14. “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. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” We must always have the vision of the person of God before us. ... “As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness. I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.” (Psalm 17:15 KJV)

I am reminded of an illustration I heard a few years ago describing living by faith. Imagine a river flowing from His throne of grace. This river of grace flows throughout the whole world, touching and redeeming the lives of multitudes of people. Picture yourself going down to the river with an empty pail which you fill and then dispense to others throughout the day. You have carried His grace to minister to others. Now imagine going down to the river and actually jumping into the river! You are now allowing His grace to carry you! Do you appreciate the difference? Allowing His grace to carry you rather than you carrying His grace relinquishes your control, abandons yourself to Him, waits fully on Him, and has a clear vision of God and His glory before you! May His grace carry you as you live by faith in Him.

In Christ, Richard Spann

“Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

— C.S. Lewis