

“We train disciplemakers...”



State Fair opportunity  
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No orphan left behind  
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# Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

## What kind of legacy will you leave?

Drew Peters

[Making Disciples Naturally Podcast](#)

**Join us at the Kansas State Fair!**

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**Don't wait for perfect conditions!**

[See the article on page 2 \(Goads and Nails\)](#)

**No Orphan Left Behind**

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

## Dave Hastings to speak at Fall conference

We are excited to host “A Praying Life” seminar this fall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, October 13-14, 2023. Our speaker will be Dave Hastings. This impactful seminar is based on the book by Paul Miller *A Praying Life*.

Dave discovered *A Praying Life* over a decade ago, and it has impacted his life and ministry more than any other book besides the Bible itself. Dave has served in many roles in pastoral ministry for 30 years, including Associate Pastor, Senior Pastor, and Church Planter. He currently serves as South Central Region Director for Standing Stone Ministry, which exists to guide ministry leaders into healthy ministry. He has earned degrees in Engineering, Christian Education, and Marriage and Family Counseling.



Many of us have benefitted from reading the book *A Praying Life* and have found it to be life-changing. Please spread the word and sign up to attend this Friday evening and Saturday morning conference. Registration will be open soon at [KansasNavs.org/conferences](http://KansasNavs.org/conferences).

Please see the PDF sent with this newsletter for more information on this excellent seminar.

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“Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.”

—Romans 12:12 (NET Bible)

## Join us at the State Fair!

Once again, the Kansas Navigators will host a booth at the Kansas State Fair, September 8-17 and YOU are invited to be a blessing to people who stop by. To sign up, just go to [KansasNavs.org](http://KansasNavs.org) and click on the link.

For many years, through the faithful efforts of Borchards, Truax and others, we have had a presence at the Fair in the air conditioned Meadowlark Building. But it takes many people to staff this booth as we must have several people there 9 am to 9 pm most days.

### Here are some FAQ's:

**What do the Navigators do at the booth?** We give out free, high-quality Christian books for both adults and children. These have been generously donated to us and we pass them along as a free/no obligation gift to bless people. We never ask for money nor require they sign up for our mailing list (that is optional). In addition, we've



been blessed to share Jesus and the Gospel with people, pray with people and just listen to folks share.

**How long are the shifts that we sign up for?** 2-3 hours. If you are unable to stay the entire shift, we understand. Just let us know on the sign up form.

**Will I be by myself at the booth?** No, there are always several people at the booth working together.

**But I'm not an "outgoing" person.**

**Won't I feel awkward?** Maybe, but it is amazing how God gives us the ability and courage to talk to others. Our job is to be *faithful*; His job is to speak to the hearts of people and be *successful*.

**What's in it for me?** The joy and blessing of serving others and especially the Lord Jesus! It is always such a time of blessing for all those who serve.

*Don't miss this opportunity to make an impact for the Lord! Sign up today for one or more shifts by going to [KansasNavs.org](http://KansasNavs.org) and clicking the link on the homepage. You will be blessed -thank you!*

# Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Ecc. 11:4 (Living Bible)

— Vol. 3 pages 35-38

*(Please see the original blog or devotion in Goads and Nails which discusses Hebrew poetry and parallelism in regard to this passage, Ecclesiastes 11:1-6. Today's excerpt picks up the story after that discussion.)*

I doubt that we ever experience perfect conditions for any type of ministry. Not only are they less than perfect; at times they seem to be barely adequate. I recall leading a Bible Study for Physicians at a local hospital in the early 1970's. One man who joined the study was a surgeon who showed an avid interest in pursuing discipleship. Due to his schedule, the only time available was for thirty to forty-five minutes prior to the weekly study... We would meet at six-fifteen just prior to our group study and explore some Scriptures together followed by a brief time in prayer. ...We met despite the limited conditions. As I think back over the last forty years, it is with gratitude to the Lord for the time we spent together. I have known of many people who have been disciplined through his life since that time.

I also recall an incident several years ago in which we were trying to help an inner city church establish a medical ministry in its neighborhood. Due to lack of funding, the van we used (supplied with medical equipment, the exam facilities, lab and pharmacy) were not available for several months over the summer. ...We decided to keep it going for the summer and use the church kitchen as the doctor's office and exam room. I discovered that you can diagnose and treat most things with the use of a flashlight, a stethoscope and a kitchen table! ...

Ecclesiastes 11:4 exhorts us not to wait for perfect conditions. If we do, we will never get anything done... Is the time you have to give to the ministry not as much as you like? Give the time you have anyway... Do you not feel up to the tasks you are called to do because you are tired or don't feel well? Lorne Sanny once remarked that most things accomplished in this world are done by those who are tired and don't feel entirely well! As followers of Christ, our task is to be continually vigilant in the work Christ has called us to do. Let us, then, not wait for perfect conditions to be involved in His work; for if we wait for perfect conditions, we will never get anything done. — In Christ, Richard Spann

## Discipleship: No Orphan Left Behind by Larry Beck

I was raised in a religious home and educated in religious schools. What little I retained from this upbringing was reference to the Old and New Testaments, the LORD's prayer, and the Apostle's creed, but only knowing few other words from scripture, specifically "Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and Isaiah". Due to my deliberate lack of church attendance, the religious system I grew up in taught that I had committed a sin so egregious that I was eternally condemned and beyond hope of redemption.

In viewing my high school and college years, no one could accuse me of being an upstanding moral citizen; there was no question as to my status as a sinner given my speech and actions, regardless of my lack of church attendance. Nevertheless, God did grant me repentance and saving faith during my senior year of college, initially motivated through the periodic reading of a Gideon's New Testament given to me on campus and a classmate who witnessed to me.

I was alone the day God saved me but knew something in me had changed. Accordingly, I attempted to relate the experience to my classmate, but he didn't discern what the LORD had done and unfortunately didn't follow up with me either. In retrospect I think of myself as a living definition of what I call an "orphaned Christian".

The next couple of years were difficult and my life didn't change considerably. I did however continue to pray, attend church, and read the Bible some, yet had no idea I needed to attend a Bible teaching church, needed Christian fellowship, much less a spiritual mentor or parent. Spiritually, I was extremely malnourished, walking aimlessly with no wisdom and in desperate need of help.

Eventually, one of my co-workers began to approach me about my spiritual life. He would often quote scripture and we did a basic Bible study together.



My relationship with him led to others, culminating in taking a scripture memory class (Memorize the Word), Bible study, being discipled (mentored) one-on-one, and ultimately to association with the Navigators who were committed to investing in the lives of individuals. What I experienced was someone devoted to helping me grow spiritually. Someone to lead and walk with me, teaching, challenging, holding me accountable to spiritual disciplines necessary to sustain and grow my relationship with God. He helped me learn how to study the Bible, warned of, and talked through false teachings

and worldly influences that would compromise my walk with Christ. Having a spiritual mentor was critical and invaluable.

(Continued on next page)

“What is the ‘need of the hour’? - an army of soldiers, dedicated to Jesus Christ, who believe not only that He is God, but that He can fulfill every promise He has ever made, and that there isn't anything too hard for Him.”

—Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators ©, in his talk *The Need of the Hour*

## Discipleship: No Orphan Left Behind (conclusion) by Larry Beck

For example, as a young Christian I was accused of being an apostate for leaving my religious upbringing. On another occasion I was encouraged I needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and be enabled to speak in what they believed to be the gift of languages (tongues), otherwise I wasn't a really empowered as a Christian and possibly not even born again. And it seemed I constantly wondered if I had lost or could lose my salvation given my ongoing struggle with sin. These events confused and concerned me but having a mentor to study and talk through these things with me was again, invaluable. I needed help to no longer be a child **"tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men..."** (Ephesians 4:14)

My experience is not unique from the standpoint of being "orphaned" spiritually. Until someone recognized my condition and was willing to invest some personal time with me, my life continued to be characterized by mostly sinful behavior and seeking the worlds methods to satisfy a longing that only God, His word and His people could.



Sadly, what I have seen in most churches is that few are as blessed as I was, having someone to walk with them. And I am committed to never knowingly neglect or leave someone spiritually stranded at birth nor orphaned like I was.

Despite the negative result of being orphaned, two tremendously encouraging realities have resulted: 1<sup>st</sup> – I am a living testament of **Philippians 1:6**, that the God who started a good work in me, continued it and will until He takes me home or Christ returns – He didn't leave me orphaned; and 2<sup>nd</sup> – although not as gifted or influential as many, God can use me to help someone else become established in their walk if I'm willing to invest in them what was invested in me.

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"We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure time, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, "Bring the books" — join in the cry."  
— Charles Haddon Spurgeon, English Preacher (1834-1892), quote found at [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/2876959.Charles\\_Haddon\\_Spurgeon](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/2876959.Charles_Haddon_Spurgeon)