

“WRCC’s Mission = Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus” [1. 28. 07]

(R) Acts 1: 6 – 11 or p. 830 in pew Bible

Different picture of Jesus saying goodbye to His disciples;
It’s never easy to say goodbye ☹

Do you remember the 1st time you were left on your own? It was hard going in those early days!

- I was really never on my own until after college.
 - When I was [18] I was dropped off @ college w/my suitcase & Bible.
 - I felt alone for the 1st time; but I was only alone for a short period of time.
- College provided me with...
 - A dorm room equipped w/two beds, dresser, desk, & closet.
 - A cafeteria w/three hot meals (at least I could say that)
 - All of the essentials – library, gym & lots of new friends
- The 1st time I was really alone came after graduation from college
 - Graduated May 8th, Ordained on May 10th & began my 1st ministry on May 15th in 1987.
 - I showed up in Nashville, TN w/everything I owned in the world...
 - Clothes, books, sleeping bag packed tightly into my 79’ 280zx
 - To my dismay; my apartment did not come with a bed, dresser or hangers for the closet; nor was there a cafeteria that had hot food.
 - Quickly learned that eating out was too expensive, so I learned to cook! Learning to cook was an adventure for my stomach ☺
 - 1st meal I learned to cook was a broccoli – cheese - & rice casserole; not bad for minute rice, frozen broccoli & processed cheese.
 - Leftovers, decided to freeze the meal until the next time I was @ home.
 - The next night I went to get my meal but it was frozen solid. These were the days before an affordable microwave.
 - So I put it in the oven – after 15 minutes; still frozen solid.
 - Quick on my feet; knew it needed moisture to hasten the process; so I got out my vegetable oil & soaked the casserole dish.
 - It worked; the casserole heated up very quickly & I dug in ☺
 - Went down pretty easy; all that oil made me deathly ill for the next 2 days.
 - The next 48 hours I was reminded how much I would miss mom’s cooking ☺

(R) Acts 1: 9 – 11 - back to the text

Can you imagine how homesick the disciples must have been as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds?

Jesus’ mission was now solely upon their shoulders; they were left to literally become the extension of Jesus’ hands & feet!

The Apostles understood Jesus strategy involved much more than just teaching; it had to translate into everyday life by how they would treat others!

As a church family, WRCC has adopted in practice the apostle's strategy of influencing others in Jesus' name as found in Acts 4.

As a church family = WRCC; let's celebrate how God is choosing to use your time, talents & treasures to fulfill Jesus' mission.

I. Apostle's strategy = WRCC's Mission

- (R) Acts 4: 32 – 35
- v. 32 "...they shared everything they had."
- Early church shared everything = time – talents - & treasures!
- Understood in practice – James 1: 17 "Every good & perfect gift is from above, comes down to us from God our Father."
- WRCC; I've come to understand, if there is a viable need that is placed before you that you will sacrifice until it is met.
- Thank you for developing & sharing your generous ♥'s.
- Volunteer Ministry speaking of those who share everything
Just last weekend = 1.21.07
 - Last Friday Night's 5th – 8th grade Lock - in
 - 325 students attended the lock in
 - 35 brave volunteers
 - [Unmentioned sacrifices] one good volunteer got up @ his normal time of 5:00 am & went to work as usual – got to church @ 6:00 pm for all the excitement & finally got home to bed the next morning after Men's Bible Study!
 - [unmentioned sacrifices] two volunteers came in @ 3: 30 am to mop & clean up the gymnasium floors in order to be ready for Upward Sports basketball outreach!

We could not do church w/out these good people; literally being the hands & feet of Jesus!

- Last weekend as well = Upward Sports Ministry
 - [389 players] & cheerleaders
 - 106 coaches & squad leaders w/25 – 30 referee's
 - It takes 150 volunteers every week to make this outreach possible;
 - These good people put in over 300 hours of service per week; literally being the extension of Jesus' hands & feet!
 - Just an FYI - on any given Saturday; anywhere from 1500 – 2000 people come to this outreach ministry to cheer on their loved ones involved in Upwards!
- Last weekend as well it also snowed early Sunday morning

- We are blessed w/a special family that has made snow removal part of their regular service to God for the last several years; free of charge!
- I'm grateful for this family literally being the extension of Jesus' hands & feet!
- Last weekend as well we were blessed once again to have 3 services dedicated to honoring our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Every Sunday we have good people who literally become the hands & feet of Jesus in order for others to experience a fresh moment w/God!
 - Greeters, child-care providers, Sunday School Teachers, ushers, coffee makers, & guest services [wow!]
 - Every Sunday we are blessed to receive 578 volunteers hours from good people who give in order for others to receive.
 - THANK YOU for sharing your time – talent - & treasures; it's making an eternal difference!

Back to the text = (R) Acts 4: 33

“God's great favor was upon them all” [anointed results]

- Disclaimer from the senior leadership;
 - If you attended annual business meeting (1.7.07) you heard Tom Roberts quote what has become our eldership's steadfast mantra:
 - Anything good that happens is a result of God's gracious hand!
 - Anything stupid that happens; your Sr. leadership will take credit for that!
 - Anything good that has happened during the last year is unequivocally because of God's gracious hand!

(R) Acts 4: 32 - 35 - “There were no needy people among them.”

- Thank you for sharing your time – talent – treasures!
- WRCC continues to be blessed to meet needs above & beyond themselves!

Here's a short list that is by no means comprehensive!

- August = 220 children received shoes, backpacks & school supplies because of your sacrifices in being the hands and feet of Jesus!
- November – December literally hundreds received warm delicious meals, gifts for Christmas in the name of Jesus because of your sacrifices in being the hands & feet of Jesus!
- Financial assistance was given to multiple families in our community
 - Budget = 9% to missions & 2% to local benevolence

Well over \$205, 000 in Jesus' name

- @ Christmas time you joined your elders & paid for 6 new homes that will be built by God's grace this coming August for 6 single parents!
- Every Thursday night we offer a soup kitchen for those in our community w/out during the course of the year!

- Global missions were blessed once more because of your sacrifices!
 - Just in Panama alone; your treasures help build a new school building & (8) new homes in the village of Kinanai.
 - A 4th medical clinic was also built
 - Just this week; Dan Crosley is leading a group of doctors from the U.S. went to Panama. They expect to treat as many as 3000 people this week!

Because of your generosity; literally hundreds of lives have changed just this last year as a result of you being the literal hands & feet of Jesus!

Learned this summer; they can refute our doctrine but they can't deny our actions in Jesus' name!

← ← Article entitled, 'Atheist Admires Christians

II. Launching of Community Works Ministry

- Elder's believe that we should follow the apostle's strategy of influencing the community & our global community in the name of Jesus!
 - We launching a ministry effort that will begin in two parts this summer that will empower, equip, & train God's people to become the hands & feet of Jesus in central Indiana!
- Prayerfully we are going to attempt something that is terribly counter-cultural!
 - A reversal of the 80 / 20 rule
 - Whereby 20% of the people do 80% of the work
 - WRCC is blessed to be well ahead of national averages!
 - 2006 our adult average was 1199
 - For our Celebration of the Stars event for volunteers we sent out 710 individual invitations.
 - 59% of our adults are volunteering
 - We pray that in the days in front the 80 / 20 rule which is now 41 / 59 @ WRCC will become 100 / 100 rule!
 - Literally showing people Jesus' love as we attempt to become His hands & feet in central Indiana.

Closing;

- (R) Matthew 25: 31 – 40
- Pray for us as we attempt to fulfill Jesus' mission of...
 - Evangelizing the lost
 - Building mature disciples
 - & being the hands & feet of Jesus

Please don't miss your opportunity to...

- Confess your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord of your life
- To join WRCC and help us to accomplice Jesus' mission to our community & world!