



SAMUEL'S Mantle

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Samuel's Mantle Newsletter Vol.1 Issue 8 July 15, 2007
Summer's Calling News Suggested Reading Are We There Yet?

SUMMER'S CALLING

Well, another school year is done. Our seventh year was memorable, and I think its somehow appropriate that this is the one we captured on film. Lots of changes are in the works, the most notable that we will only be doing three local classes next year. We are feeling like we need to be in position for the new things that God is calling Murray to, and freeing up time to travel and do conferences/teaching in places other than Langley & Abbotsford was a part of that.

For the summer, Murray is planning to get lots of writing done. He is trying to finish up his next book as well as a part 2 of If This Were A Dream. When I was thinking about what I would like to work on this summer, I found that the only thing that really excited me was the idea of finding a way to send my Dad, Eric McCooeye, on the Journey of Compassion with Impact Nations to the Phillippines in September.

As you may have read in the email I sent out last week, titled "Want to Make a Difference?", the area of Bicol was hit with a typhoon about 6 months ago and is still in desperate need of help. In the past, when I heard about things like this, my reaction has been that it is so overwhelming, I couldn't possibly help. After I met Steve Stewart, and heard about Impact Nations, I felt like I had finally found a way to really make a difference. Not only are they bringing in practical medical help and physical supplies, they are training people in businesses that can sustain families and save lives. The stories of physical healings are incredible!

We have so much training in the prophetic, so much of God's grace and blessing. Now its time to do more with it. Its time to change the world. Who's with me?

If you would like to send a donation to help send Eric with Impact Nations, please send cheques or money orders with **'Impact Nations'** in the memo, to **Freshwind, 2170 Maywood Crt., Abbotsford, BC V2S 4Z1 CA** For more information on Impact Nations, go to www.impactnations.com

Kelly Dueck, July 07

NEWS

Registration for fall local classes

is now open. All classes will be held at County Line Christian Centre.

1st year class will be Tues. @ 7-9pm

2nd year class will be Wed. @ 7-9pm

3rd year class will be Mon. @ 7-9pm

There will be no morning classes this year.

For more info, go to:

www.samuelsmantle.com

Samuel's Mantle Online

We have made significant price cuts in all packages for the webclass. We have also made some individual classes available at \$10 per session on DVD. This is a great deal! Grab it while you can!

SUGGESTED READING

We are so excited to announce the release of Mike Stewart first book,

"No Crowds Present"!

Murray says "Wonderfully written! A call to friendship with God. Mike has captured with a brilliance of clarity what all true children of God long for. To be able to turn and see God reaching out for us, calling out for us, saying 'Come close, my friend.'"

Ron Dart says, "...exquisite, probing and evocative...threads together the ancient and classical vision of contemplation and friendship. The sights seen from such a summit are well worth the ascent."

"No Crowds Present" is available at

www.samuelsmantle.com

ARE WE THERE YET?

The classic summer statement. Everyone wants to get somewhere that is away from here. Why is that? What is wrong with 'here,' and better with 'there?' Now that is a good question! Did you know that Jesus also asked the question, 'Are we there yet?' and worked very hard at moving away from 'here' and getting to 'there?' It's true!

It is fascinating how often Jesus seemed to make the statement, "Let's get out of here!" (would Jesus use an exclamation mark or a period after a sentence like that? WWJD?) Jesus would be in the middle of healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the desperate, and then turn to his disciples and seem to say, 'Let's get out of here!' In fact in Matthew chapter fourteen Jesus had just revealed his glory by feeding the five thousand (which occurred as he was trying to get away from people by the way (vs.13)) when he gets up to go...and had to force his disciples to leave, as he had to make them get into the boat (vs.22). The Greek word translated 'made' in the NIV is Anagkazo, the NKJ translates it as 'constrained.' The word means:

1. to necessitate, compel, drive to, constrain
 - a. by force, threats, etc.
 - b. by permission

Why would Jesus want to so urgently leave the scene of one of his greatest miracles? A miracle that was so great we still celebrate it today?

Sometimes Jesus went from 'here to there' because he had a mission somewhere else.

Matt 4:1

Sometimes Jesus went from 'here to there' because he was training his disciples.

Mark 9:30-31

Sometimes Jesus went from 'here to there' because He wanted to pray.

Matt 14:23, 26:36, Mark 1:35, Mark 6:46, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12,

Sometimes Jesus went from 'here to there' because he wanted to recharge.

Mark 6:31, Luke 4:42

Sometimes Jesus went from 'here to there' because he just wanted to be alone with his friends.

Matt 14:13, Mark 1:45, Mark 6:31, Luke 9:28, Luke 11:1

For these reasons, (and for many more I am sure) 'here,' was not always the place to be in the center of God's will. Often God's will was better performed 'there.' I am sure that you have a 'here.' You are more than likely sitting in your 'here' right now. But do you have any 'there's'?

Here

Our culture has built into us the necessity of here. 'Here,' is where the action is; it is where stuff gets done. We train our kids, we minister to people who need help, we earn our living to support ourselves and the work of the ministry, 'here' ...but if this is to be all encompassing in the Christian walk why then did our master put so much time into 'get out of here!' Why did he constrain his disciples to get out of 'here,' and get to 'there' so urgently?

The book of Mark clearly tells us why Jesus constrained his disciples after the feeding of the five thousand to get out of 'here' and to go to 'there':

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6:31

Did you know that Jesus cares about your level of energy and that you get recharged; that you are not always in 'go' mode?

Bill Hybels, the Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, wrote an interesting article a number of years ago that deals with the 'recharging' reason for the need to go from 'here,' to 'there.'

The Gauges

In his article Pastor Hybels discusses his life long belief that he had two gauges on his dashboard of life, gauges that would give him an indication as to how he was doing. If things weren't going well Pastor Hybels had a 'physical gauge' that he would check; was he eating right, sleeping right, getting enough exercise, etc? Sometimes when things weren't going well he checked this gauge, found the problem, and made the necessary changes.

Pastor Hybels also had a spiritual gauge: was he spending enough time in prayer, worship, fasting, etc? Sometimes when things weren't going well Pastor Hybels would check this gauge and find the changes he needed to make.

This was all fine and good but there was another gauge that Pastor Hybels had that he wasn't checking; his emotional gauge. Was he taking time for him, did he have significant relationships outside of work, was he doing anything that brought personal growth or that he enjoyed? In other words was he recharging emotionally?

A time came, I believe it was during a building project, (which can be a very stressful time for a Pastor) when Pastor Hybels found himself driving by the church and not even being able to go into planning meetings. He couldn't figure out why, he just 'needed to get out of here.' He checked his physical gauge and it told him he was doing fine, he checked his spiritual gauge and it also told him he was doing fine. What was wrong with him, why was he doing so poorly? Pastor Hybels was discovering something that wasn't just happening to him but to leaders throughout the church in North America:

“Thousands of spiritual leaders are barely hanging on from day to day. Our surveys indicated that 80 percent of pastors and 84 percent of their spouses are discouraged or are dealing with depression. More than 40 percent of pastors and 47 percent of their spouses report that they are suffering from burnout, frantic schedules and unrealistic expectations. We estimate that approximately 1,500 pastors leave their assignments each month, due to moral failure, spiritual burnout or contention within their local congregations.”¹

There is a way through this pressure of ministry and life and Pastor Hybels had discovered that way with the words of Jesus:

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6:31

In a driven society that is almost solely focused on success and fulfilling the needs in front of us, 'here,' we need to re-evaluate our priorities and come back in line with Jesus. Sometimes we need to be 'constrained,' to take a break and recharge. I discovered, after burnout unfortunately, that it can take years to recharge your emotional energy if you don't learn to watch that emotional gauge on the dashboard of life:

- do have a 'there' place you go just for you? a coffee shop? a park, a walk, a room?
- do you have something you do just for you that you can unhook from 'here,' need, and success. Do you journal, paint, exercise, dance, write, etc?
- are you taking time to laugh, rest, be with friends?
- are you growing outside of work, church, family?

Good questions, maybe hard questions for some people...but you are not what you do...you are a child of God, someone he wants to spend time with, someone that he wants to go from 'here' to 'there,' with.

“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

Luke 5:15-16

To be his friend first, to be whole, to enjoy this walk with him in health and with life means allowing Jesus to constrain you sometimes, to force you into the boat, and to hear Jesus say, with needs all around, “Let's get out of here!” I hope that this summer you have planned for some 'there,' time. Let it not be for just for this summer though, let it be just like Jesus...let it be often.

Mur :)

1. Family News from Dr. James Dobson, Colorado Springs: Focus On The Family, Issue #8, August, 1998