Who Is Your Neighbor?

A few years ago I was in a discussion with someone on what it means to walk with Christ and what that looks like personally. I talked with that person about the men that we minister to. I was explaining how long it takes for a man to go from using drugs or alcohol to walking in freedom and becoming a productive citizen in God’s kingdom. I mentioned that too often we, the Body of Christ, focus on numbers more than the people and their individual lives and problems that come with them. I stated to this individual that it takes about 5 years for a man to walk into that place of being productive for God. This is a difficult and tedious and sometimes painful work speaking as one who has mentored many men.

Isaiah 58 and what it means to you and me.

The call of Jesus in the City comes out of Isaiah 58:6-12

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: “Here am I.” If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

When we mentor a man or woman into the understanding of what it means to walk with Christ, we are spending ourselves into others, we are pouring into their lives. At times this can be painful, but in the end we will experience the joy of the Lord as it speaks about in Isaiah. Read the whole passage and notice how many ifs are used in this chapter. It is a presupposition on how blessed you will be if you reach out to others. In this case it’s the people living in the inner cities.

Do you know your neighbor? This is now the name of our outreach and partnership campaign that we feel God has imparted to us. This comes out of Luke chapter 10 and the Good Samaritan. He was the one looked down upon by the religious leaders and yet he was the one who stopped and bandaged up the man who was attacked by robbers on a very dangerous road. This is the call of the church to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

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Please playfully consider joining with us in prayer and financial partnership on this campaign to acquire the Oliver Ministry Center so we can continue with the training and equipping of the next generation of leaders for urban ministry.

This month we have many opportunities for you to partner with us. We are currently looking for more mentors for men that we minister to at Jesus in the City.

On May 8th, 2013, Wed at 11am to 1pm we are going to host our 4th luncheon, called WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR, at the Oliver Ministry Center on 2647 Bloomington Ave South Minneapolis, 55407.

We would like you to join us for this luncheon, please rsvp us 612-730-3390 or email me at michaelangelo@pclink.com.

We hope that you can join us for these discussions, if you have questions please call me. Again read through the information on the inside of this newsletter and let us know what you think.

Thank you so much for your awesome partnership with us this past year. I thank God for you. Let us know how we can pray for you. Have a blessed spring!

I remain your servant in Christ,

Rev Michael Angelo Pilla
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michaelangelo@pclink.com
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