

Folsom, El Dorado Hills, and Sacramento Area

Bringing The Church to the needs of the community



newsletter

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

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Would You Hire This Guy?

It seems like a really BAD way to end a job interview! He may have known it, and I don't think he cared! You see, after you are offered a job you are supposed to be thankful... accept it... ask to think about it... or something along those lines. But when you are offered a high level management job you are NOT supposed to make excuses as to why you can NOT do the job... it just isn't done that way! And IF you do... don't expect to get the job after all. THIS guy was offered a job... and then made FOUR different excuses as to why he should NOT get it! And still GOT the job!

WHO DOES THAT???

Moses... that's who! He was told by God (through a burning bush no less!) to lead his chosen people out of slavery and into the Promise Land.

His response? Who am I God?! What have I ever done? Are you kidding me?! Ever been there? Ever felt so inadequate? under qualified? Like God would NEVER want to use little old you? God's response is classic: **"I will be with you."** (Ex 3:12) It is just 5 words... five amazingly comforting words!

Moses is not done with excuses... he then asks God.. Who are YOU?! Then, I am not a good speaker,(I don't have the right gifts... you need someone with some REAL gifts and talents!). And then finally he says: **"O Lord, please send someone else to do it."** (Ex. 4:13)

Seriously, who would hire this guy?! Ummm.... God.

Ever been there? Have you ever wanted God to choose someone else, or give you some really COOL ministry, or just do it himself? Let's face it, we can have lots of reasons God should not use us... but after all he IS God, and he knows what he is doing!

And we can take comfort in God's unchanging message: **"I will be with you."** And in the words of Paul: **"If God is for us, who can be against us?"** (Rom 8:31) The same God who was with Moses as he led his people out of slavery, through the Red Sea, and on the road to the Promise Land is also with YOU!

God had *another* high level leader he was trying to get in place, and for this interview God asked two questions: **"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"** And Isaiah (who was not the *only* one in this panel interview) answered **"Here am I. Send me!"**(Is 6:8) And God said: **"Go!"** No second interview, no checking references, no need for follow up... God tells faithful people to go... but they never go alone... He is with us!

He wants you, to use "you"... will you let him? Will you have a "send me" attitude? How will you answer his call?

So what if you are nervous... others have been too. And maybe you have good reason. God can ask you to do some wacky stuff! Look at the jobs he has asked people to do: remain a virgin... but give birth, thankfully Mary said yes! He had one guy go into a town and tell them to repent... not one person repented for years. Thankfully Jeremiah said yes! He has asked people to: wrestle an angel (talk about tough competition!), heal a leper (talk about a gross task!), speak in front of hostile crowds (this he seems to ask a lot!), go to an island and write down an account of the end of times (talk about lonely... and people thought he was crazy!) and... well, you get the idea.

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A Call From The Summit

God's call can be heard from the lowest valley to the highest summit. Sometimes His voice is loud and clear, and other times it is a small still whisper. This is a story of how God spoke to Jeff Headrick, the General Manager of Expert Design and Construction, through the 2010 Global Leadership Summit.



In an effort to gain valuable leadership skills I was interested in attending an annual leadership conference held at Lakeside Church in Folsom called The Global Leadership Summit.

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A Call From the Summit ... continued

This conference presented various successful leaders in the business and Christian communities across the country who shared valuable insights that helped them reach their current levels of success. Some of the speakers were CEOs, some were pastors and most were authors, but one speaker to me stood out from all the rest. His name was Blake Mycoskie. Blake was unique for a number of reasons. The most obvious was that he was the youngest among all the speakers presented that day. Currently in his mid-thirties, he had started five internet companies by the time he was thirty. Although this in itself was an impressive feat, it wasn't until I heard his business model that I was blown away.

During a vacation to Venezuela Blake had traveled off the beaten path into some very poor neighborhoods where he saw many children without shoes. Many of them had painful cuts and sores and the sight of this reality had a profound impact on Blake. As he left this town he immediately started asking himself how he could have an impact on these children. His idea was to gather fifteen of his friends and family, purchase numerous pairs of shoes and travel back to Venezuela to give them to these children. This gracious act had an incredible impact on everyone involved and once again the wheels in Blake's mind started turning. In his view, there had to be a way to utilize his business success to generate an even greater impact on the children of these villages. The result was the creation of a business called TOMS Shoes. Using the capital from the sale of one of his internet companies, Blake started a shoe company with the business model being for every pair of shoes sold one pair will be donated. This unheard of concept has become so popular that to date TOMS Shoes has now donated over 400,000 pairs of shoes to children in need. Blake calls this concept "conscious capitalism".

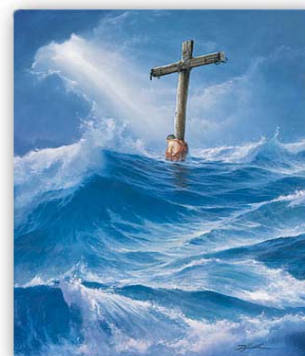
As I sat in this conference listening to Blake tell of his experience and the impact it's had on countless lives the Lord was starting to speak to my heart. I immediately started questioning my life and the type of impact I've had thus far. Initially I was discouraged, because I realized my efforts were few, but the Holy Spirit soon started to plant a vision in my heart. He brought an excitement that I can say I've never had before. Before I left the conference that day He had me questioning not what I could do on a global level, but what type of impact I could have on a local level through the General Manager position He's put me in.

The excitement I felt grew as I started to realize the possibilities of what could be accomplished. As I left the conference that day I couldn't wait to call my brother, Harry, to tell him Blake's story and how his efforts made such an incredible difference. Harry and his wife, Jennifer, are the owners of Expert Design and Construction. Over the next few days we discussed the conference more and I felt the Lord's guidance to propose an idea to Harry using his company. The idea was simple- let's provide a Master bath remodel free of charge to someone in need. Harry

pondered the idea for three seconds and responded, "No, we'll do a kitchen, and we'll call it ***Kitchen for Christmas.***" Our plan was to have the kitchen complete two weeks before Christmas. Knowing this project would be a sacrifice to him and Jennifer- financially and otherwise- I couldn't believe how quick he was to increase the scope of work. I do remember feeling a rush of emotion as the Lord immediately confirmed in my heart that this was His plan. We continued talking for an hour and a half that afternoon about the logistics of the project and how it could be accomplished. I would need to approach each of our sub contractors and vendors and ask them to donate their time and materials. To my knowledge many of these individuals weren't believers, not to mention the state of the economy, but the Lord gave me an incredible assurance that this plan was His plan.

Over the next two weeks I interviewed each of our sub contractors and vendors individually and proposed the ***Kitchen for Christmas*** idea to them. The responses were amazing! Every person I spoke with wanted to be a part of it. This was the Lord's way of teaching me to trust His voice and rely on Him. I soon learned the Lord had bigger plans for this project. My idea was to help a family, or individual in need, but the Lord used one of the pastors at Lakeside Church to expand our vision. His idea was to find a kitchen that served more than one family. Soon I was introduced to Steve McGee of Assist Local ministries and through his efforts I met Shannon Bezak, the Director of Hope House ministries.

Hope House is a residential facility that provides food and shelter for homeless and abused women. Our Cabinet maker, Chris, and I went there to meet Shannon and see the kitchen that serves from five to twenty women and their children. Once we were there Chris and I knew this was



where the Lord wanted us. One of our designers has now completed the new kitchen design and we'll be starting demo in the next two weeks. Through this process the Lord is teaching me to appreciate not only what I have, but the responsibility I have to move out of my comfort zone and respond when He calls. This project couldn't be done without the sacrifice and generosity of Harry and Jennifer, and all those willing to give of their time and resources. It's obvious to me that the Lord showers his blessings on us not just for us to enjoy, but also to pass along to others.

-Jeff Headrick,
member of Lakeside Church, Folsom

Incoming Call: It's for You!

I have had the privilege of being in full-time ministry for over 30 years - Campus Crusade, Promise Keepers, First Baptist Church of Elk Grove and directing Metro CareLink, a ministry to help churches become salt and light in their communities. Through the years people ask how I was called into ministry. I knew while I was in college that God had a specific purpose for my life.



But what would have happened if I wasn't "called" into full-time work? Does God have a call for those who work for the state, raise kids, hold down jobs in the corporate world or own their own businesses?

I believe that as we read through the Bible and talk to "professional" Christian workers there is a tendency to see those called by God as something special, that there must be a set of special circumstances or traits that led them into ministry. I think that for the most part it is true - God does call some to invest their entire life in the ministry of the gospel.

But the truth is that everyone is "called", maybe not to the same extent, but each of us is a part of God's redemptive plan for the world and as a child of God I have a responsibility to fulfill His purpose for my life. No Christian can pass on that responsibility to the full-time ministers - the mission of God is far too big for so small a number! It requires every believer to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Think of it this way: If God did not have an eternal purpose and mission for your life here on the earth he would just take you home! As a follower of Jesus Christ it is my responsibility to discover what calling on my life is. Going to church, being in a small group or Bible study, attending the men's or women's ministry, being in a Sunday School class all are for the purpose of discovering and carrying out my mission. We have mistakenly made those things primarily for our own benefit, but in God's plan they are to guide and equip us for the specific mission God has designed for us.

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A Call To Give Hope ... Hope House

When opportunity knocks not everyone listens. At Hope House we have found that there are a number of reasons for this...some people don't hear the knocking, some people hear but don't bother to answer and some desire to answer but aren't sure how.

Hope House is a transitional housing program for women with children in crisis. Each crisis looks different; each family has a unique story. Yet, without a doubt an underlying truth remains: every family that comes to Hope House is ready to

choose opportunity. The Hope House program gives opportunity for life change, through structured mentoring, life skills training and an abundance of encouragement. Each family is given the opportunity to move forward towards independence.

Shelli is just one of the moms that have moved on from the Hope House program. Coming into the home with Hep-C, one year of sobriety, a number of felonies and twin infant boys, she was ready to have some stability, security and love. She struggled with accepting opportunities but she had a willing spirit. Throughout Shelli's stay a number of volunteers answered the call to invest in her life. Whether they helped her prepare a budget, navigate the court system, watch her boys, teach her a new skill, listen to her hurts, assist her in finding a job or acknowledging her sobriety, they were all a part of her becoming independent. Today, after graduating Shelli lives on her own with her 4 year old twin boys. She has recently been granted liberal visitation with her oldest son who has been living with her grandparents for the past 7 years. Shelli is a changed woman and her boys have stability and all the opportunity in the world.

Different people answer the call for different reasons but the bottom line is that each volunteer and each donation makes a difference in a life. Within the Hope House program we recognize that it takes a variety of experiences to make a ministry work. We treasure each resident as an individual and the family as a unit and we are blessed by the wonderful volunteers that make this program work.

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Good News This Issue:

- **IMPACT Folsom - Theodore Judah Elementary School.** Saturday, September 11, 2010, over 50 People attended the IMPACT event. They included volunteers from local churches, the PTA, teachers, and students. The materials for the project were provided by a grant from Lowe's Home Improvements of Folsom. A Free lunch was provided by Lakeside Church. We want to thank all the volunteers that work so hard to beautify the school campus. It was awesome to see neighborhood children join us as we worked on their school. More information about IMPACT events can be found at www.AssistLocal.org.

Incoming Call: It's For You! ... continued

Because God made us unique individuals, everyone is called to something different. But there are some overarching principles that guide in the discernment of God's personal call to each of us. From the scriptures there are several things that are in God's will for all of us:

Salvation (2 Peter 3:9) – our own and those around us. Our call must include the purpose of seeing individuals come into a saving relationship with Jesus. How am I including as a part of my Christian life the seeking and saving of the lost? It may not mean you will be the next Billy Graham, but God has placed you where you are to help those around you move one step closer to the cross.

Spirit-Filled (Ephesians 5:17-18) – it is God's desire for you to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in your own strength. To truly accomplish God's call you will need to be on the edge of faith, which requires daily surrender to His will and living every moment under His lordship. Is my Christian life comfortable and self-controlled? Or is it a daily walk of faith?

Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7) – God's call involves living a life that is set apart. It is not removing ourselves physically from the world and its influences. It is a Christian life that reflects the character of God being lived out in the everyday world. Am I a living example of what it means to be wholly devoted to Jesus or am I hard to distinguish from the rest of the world?

Servanthood (Mark 10:42-45) – My call should reflect the life of Jesus, who came as a servant. Is my Christian life self-serving or is it based on giving myself away in service to others inside and outside the faith?

Suffering (1 Peter 4:18) – Yes, the "S" word is part of God's will! My call should include some hardship. As I choose to walk with Jesus it will come in direct opposition to the way the world tells me to live. To fulfill my calling means swimming against the current, to choose to endure suffering in order to see the Kingdom of God come (just like Jesus).

Show the Kingdom (Matthew 10:7-8) – My calling as a Christian should visibly show people what the Kingdom looks like. Jesus' life was a constant example: when he fed the 5000 He showed them that there is no hunger or want in the Kingdom; when he healed lepers and the sick He showed that there is no sickness in the Kingdom; when he brought people back from the dead He showed that there is no death in the Kingdom. The same is true with every Christian's calling: as we feed the homeless, care for the person dying from AIDS, build a Habitat for Humanity home, tutor and mentor a child, we are showing them what the Kingdom looks like. Is my life currently showing people the Kingdom?

Sacrifice (John 15:12-14) – My call involves dying – to myself. It means laying down my life for the greater purpose of God. How am I seeing that in my life? Or am I choosing to save my life for the here and now?

God's call is upon all of us and he has laid down many tracks upon which we can run on in discovering it. The call is there . . . will you answer it?

-Keith Young,
member of Oak Tree Community Church, Elk Grove



The Prayer Room:

- Pray for our country, our leaders, our economy, and those who have lost their jobs. Pray that God will provide our needs out of His abundance.
- Pray for the upcoming elections. Pray that God will guide those elected for His eternal purposes.
- Pray for the soldiers that serve our country. Pray that God will keep them safe, and let them know that they are not forgotten for their sacrifice to keep us safe.
- Pray for the food banks, and the people they serve.
- Pray for the unchurched, unengaged, unreached, unlovely and uninterested people of our world.
- Pray for the youth in our community, and that God would protect them from drugs and violence.
- Pray for Alternatives Pregnancy Center, and that God would continue to bless the Folsom center.
- Pray for the people that are served by the Hope House and Freed Inside Ministries in Placerville.

Would You Hire This Guy? ... continued

When God asks... he knows what he needs, and he wants YOU to be faithful... and he will be with you in whatever he asks. And you'd better believe that when God calls, he checks out your qualifications... and often ignores them! The truth is that he looks at your potential. He looks ahead, not behind.

Are you worried that your past, your family or your character will disqualify you? Look at this cast of characters and their character flaws: David was a murderer and a liar... and yet he was later known as "a man after God's own heart", Peter denied Jesus in his time of need... and yet helped convert 2000 people with his first sermon (I think I put 200 to sleep with MY first sermon!), Paul went door to door to persecute the church... and later wrote most of the New Testament. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and then lied about him being killed (talk about your dysfunctional family... Jerry Springer could do a whole week on these guys!). He wants to use YOU... after all he used prostitutes, fishermen, guards, children, out casts, outsiders, outspoken people, slaves, women, foreigners, people with disabilities, people that were sick, people with mental and physical limitations and even used a man's donkey... all to do God-honoring jobs, to build his kingdom.

I mean, honestly, would YOU hire those guys to work in your church or in your ministry???

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Would You Hire This Guy? ... continued

I doubt it! Yet, with God's direction, power and grace they did amazing things! **"For nothing is impossible with God."** (Luke 1:37) And when we get to heaven we will get to hear first hand that NONE of them ever regretted serving Jesus!

And neither will you! He wants to use *you*... in spite of your past, in spite of your qualifications and in spite of your excuses, anxieties and fears.

God has probably been stirring something in you even as you read this article. And as you read through this newsletter you will see other opportunities to serve him, and his people. Go ahead, answer the call, you won't go alone!

God has a job for you. God is just waiting to hear you say the only thing that qualifies you for his work: **"Here am I. Send me!"**

-Steve McNitt,
member of Bayside Church, Granite Bay

A Call To Give Hope ... Hope House ... continued

Each year numerous people give of their time, talents and resources. These volunteers include:

- the 10 volunteers committed to watching Hope House children weekly during house meetings,
- the 6 volunteers committed to walk along side Hope House families during and after the duration of their program,
- the 20 volunteers committed to yard cleanup in order to better the Hope House environment for the families,
- the 5 volunteers committed to sharing their testimonies and life experiences in order to support the Hope House moms in life change,
- the 2 volunteers committed to providing financial planning for Hope House moms,
- the 8 volunteers committed monthly to meet and act as an advisory committee for the Hope House program as a whole...providing the accountability piece of the program,
- the 5 volunteers committed to serve on the Hope House Board of Directors in turn pledging to help manage the program in terms of finances and direction as a non-profit,
- the 40 volunteers committed to help put on the 1st ever Apple Blossom trail Run benefiting the Hope House program,
- the 140 volunteers committed to playing in or serving at the Golf Tournament benefiting Hope House,



- the 5 volunteers committed to supporting Hope House moms in court,
- the 1 volunteer committed to perform random drug testing at the house,
- the 2 volunteers committed to providing technical computer support at the house,
- the 4 volunteers committed to handy-man and construction projects at the house and
- the incredible organization of Assist Local which connected us with the amazing group of contractors and craftsmen that have committed to remodeling the Hope House kitchen.

We get overwhelmed at all the people who invest themselves in the program, it is inspiring and yet I know that each volunteer is all the more blessed by answering the call. Being obedient to God is a beautiful thing - without which Hope House would not exist.

To date we have 3 families residing at the house and 2 new residents moving in...which adds up to 5 moms and 8 children. The house is, needless to say, busy and many times loud and chaotic but always filled with hope and the encouragement of volunteers. If you would like to find out how you can help support the Hope House program through time, talent or resources please contact Shannon at (530) 622-3231 extension 242 or visit www.emerginghope.info.

-Shannon Bezak,
member of Green Valley Community Church, Placerville

God's Voice Isn't What You Think

I am fascinated by the fact that our thoughts, feelings, and opinions can make so much sense to us, and yet they can end up being surprisingly far from reality. We work so hard to build our values and principles, forging a road map of rules by which to navigate a sensible way into the future, only to find that our two-dimensional map doesn't fully describe life's 3-D terrain. My own detours in life have ranged from comedy of errors, to self-doubt, to questioning God. Detours are often a part of life, both on the individual level, and as a race. As individuals, and as mankind, we are faced with the seemingly contradictory challenge of listening to the Lord, and also thinking for ourselves. How do we find the balance?

Some people seem to be born with their life's direction already figured out. I am not one of those people. I began my college career with a declared major in electronics engineering. Began. In my first semester, at a community college, I met a person who would become my best buddy, John. I admired John's love for the Bible; we would talk for hours about how good God is. Those conversations never got old. Eventually, we decided to go to Bible college together. So, I settled for a two-year degree in mathematics and physical science, and left electronics behind. I felt a strong calling into the ministry, and knew I was supposed to make this change. Alright, change is not easy, but good.

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Community Needs List:

Twin Lakes Food Bank

- **Food donations.** Non-perishable food items. For a list of specific needs, please call Tammy at (916) 985-6232 .

MOST NEEDED FOOD LIST:

- Tuna
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Soup
- Fruit
- Cereal
- Pasta

God's Voice Isn't What You Think ...

continued

After two years of Bible college, I returned to community college to take music theory. John's influence rubbed off on me, and his piano playing played a part in building an insatiable thirst within me. It made little sense, but change is good, right?

Long story short, I ended up working in various fields: church ministry, behavior specialist, counselor, software programmer, computer/network technician, and volunteering as a lay pastor and a chaplain. A lot of us experience transitions, so why do I mention these? I mention them for contrast, because amidst all these and many other situations, God has used an obscure alleyway to get my attention. Sure, we can definitely learn from the bigger picture, but sometimes the smaller picture best frames the subject. A simple happening over a one week period spoke volumes to me. This low-key event has helped me possibly as much as any other to color in the regions of my map, and it was not difficult or complicated. Maybe it will also be a blessing to you; you may have had a similar experience. I pray that its power is not lost in its simplicity, but instead enhanced.

One day at Bible college, I stepped into the office and overheard the Principal ending a phone call by saying he knew someone who might like to check out some opportunity. I looked forward to the day when an opportunity for ministry would present itself, and wondered if he would get more calls like this, or if I would have to pound the pavement to enter the ministry. He came around the corner and, upon seeing me, was surprised. "I was just telling someone about you!" he said. I got more excited by the minute as he handed me the number of a person to contact about working at a Christian ranch for boys.

I made the call, liked the situation, and drove three hours to meet the owner and see the home. We hit it off great, and he waited for me to call back if I was willing to move nearby, and spend most of my nights working there, and some days—a big life change. How to decide? I was torn, but thrilled at the prospect. Not knowing how to decide, I prayed something like this:

"Lord, if it pleases you, I will take this opportunity to serve you. But I don't have any way to know what I'm really choosing, so I need your help. In my wisdom, this seems good. So I will pursue it. But if this is not what you want, either speak to me, or close the door. I will take either as a sign."

Well, I called back, and he was very excited... except... there was a problem. My experience was insufficient to acquire a state license, therefore... I could not be a site administrator, therefore... I could not stay overnight, therefore... the decision was out of our hands. We tried to find a workaround, but could not.

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To Ask or Follow – That Is The Question

The story in Luke 9:57-62 might contain the most cryptic and thought provoking response from the mouth of Jesus in all of Scripture. A man comes to Jesus and says he will follow Jesus wherever he goes. Jesus stops, looks at this man and says, "Foxes have holes and birds have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." What did He say? Essentially he told him he had to leave his home, to abandon the comforts he knew, and give up his standard of living.

I bring this up because if we are going to discover the answer to God's calling in our lives we must first know what it means to follow Jesus.

Following Jesus requires a repeated willingness to continually ask and answer, "What is God's call for my life?" It is not a question that should be addressed only once in our lives. It is much more than that. If all we do is pose the question one time, then we have failed and missed a greater opportunity in following Jesus to new, exciting, and challenging places that form and mold us into people who mirror the image of Jesus.

I have a close friend who is extremely gifted in the areas of music and arts. For over 20 years she has been a catalyst in the church in the Sacramento region when it comes to these areas. Due to a season of change, she no longer finds herself working in those ministries like as she once did. Has she missed her calling? Is she a failure for not currently answering the call for her life? Quite the contrary! All you need to do is talk to the terminally ill pastor and his wife, or the quadriplegic who recently moved out of her house to understand the many many blessings that were passed on because of one person's choice to follow Jesus. In both situations, my friend was presented with an opportunity to serve and assist a household that was in desperate need of some love and compassion. My friend entered each situation knowing full well the amount of time and energy that was needed. It was time and energy that she could have focused elsewhere, but she didn't. You see, she choose to follow Jesus and as a result placed "her calling" on the back burner.

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God's Voice Isn't What You Think ... *continued*

Then, I remembered my prayer, and told the gentleman. He thanked me, we praised God that the person he wants was still to be found, and we both had a great peace. I was just as excited as I was when I first heard about the opportunity.

Life might be filled with what we call detours, but God's still small voice speaks through the most turbulent storm, when we lean on him. What we call detours, to him is a straight line. Our thoughts are not his voice—only his voice is his voice. Profound, isn't it? His voice is not what we think, but is simply what he speaks. Take the detours with joy; they are not punishment, nor are they divine teasing. They are the natural result of an infinite God patiently directing finite people, who live in a sin-touched world. Live each day with joy, because his purpose will be accomplished—just remember to stop and fill your tank, and of course, ask for directions!

**“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”**
-Isaiah 55:9

**“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”**
-Isaiah 55:11

-Jeff Moon
member of Lakehills Church, El Dorado Hills

To Ask Or Follow – That Is The Question ... *continued*

I talked to my friend recently and asked her about some of her choices. Do you know what she told me? “If I were busy answering and pursuing God's call for my life I would have missed these opportunities to serve. That doesn't sound right to me.”

You may think the two statements (answering the call vs. following Jesus) are one in the same, but they are not.

I may be focusing too much on the definition of these two phrases and playing a game of semantics, but then again I might not be. You see, I am convinced that many people perceive them to be one in the same. This is sad to me, let me tell you what I mean.

“Answering the call” is often thought of as just a vocational obligation. “The call” reduces a person to becoming consumed and inwardly focused. The result of discovering “the call” often results in extreme focus and determination no matter what the circumstances. We tend to ignore what is going on around us because we are too consumed with answering “the call”. I don't know about you, but this seems like selfish ambition camouflaged by Christian motive.

On the other hand, a follower of Jesus is more concerned about others instead of themselves. A follower of Jesus recognizes the countless opportunities to serve and assist those in need. A follower is willing to count the cost, even if it means stopping the pursuit of God's call for their life. A follower of Jesus meditates on the words of Jesus and focuses himself on the ways of Jesus.

I am convinced that many of us have been taught that God has a specific plan (or call) for us (you and I) and those plans are clearly written in black and white in the Bible. We have been told that all we need to do is read the Bible and pray continually and God will reveal to us what exactly “it” is. I am afraid that while we were too busy studying the Bible and praying for direction to “the call” we missed ample opportunity follow Jesus.

Instead of focusing on ourselves and our call we should have been more willing to follow Jesus. In so doing, we would have recognized: the elderly couple next store in need of some home repair, the fatherless children down the street waiting aimlessly for their hardworking mother to come home only to drop on the sofa in exhaustion from working multiple jobs just to stay afloat, and the “party” house in back with visitors at all times of the day and night.

It seems to me that if we were more tuned into what it means to follow Jesus we would have been prepared to serve and assist the elderly couple next store, mentor and guide the fatherless children while offering a message of hope and purpose to the hardworking mother, all the while extending grace and speaking truth into the lives of the “party people” face to face in a cordial manner instead of the other words you normally holler from behind the fence.

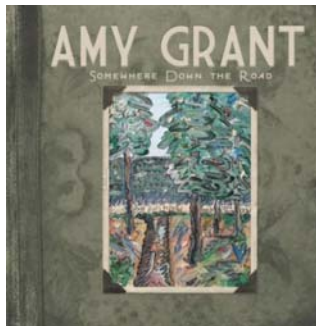
-Mark Harris,
Pastor of Tessera Community Church, Folsom

Upcoming Events:

- **Hope House Ministries October 19, 2010.** Hope House Golf Classic - Charity Tournament Event. 9am Shotgun Start Apple Mountain Golf Course, Camino, CA. For Info contact Shannon Bezak at (530) 622-3231 extension 242.
- **Outreach to Orphans in Africa October 23, 2010.** Caregiver Kit & Promise Pack Build event sponsored by Lakeside Church. 9:30am - 12:30pm Caregiver Kits are filled with medical and hygienic supplies used in caring for the sick in Africa. Promise Packs are filled with educational and hygiene items are distributed to orphans in Africa. Info or register on-line at www.lakesidechurch.com.
- **Twin Lakes Food Bank November 6, 2010.** The Twin Lakes Food Bank is in need of Sponsors for their Dinner Auction 2010. This annual event will be held on Saturday, at Oak Hills Auditorium. For more information please call (916) 985-6232 .

Better Than a Hallelujah,

Lyrics by Amy Grant



God loves a lullaby
In a mothers tears in the dead of night
Better than a Hallelujah sometimes.
God loves a drunkards cry,
The soldiers plea not to let him die
Better than a Hallelujah sometimes.

We pour out our miseries
God just hears a melody
Beautiful the mess we are
The honest cries of breaking hearts
Are better than a Hallelujah

The woman holding on for life,
The dying man giving up the fight
Are better than a Hallelujah sometimes
The tears of shame for what's been done,
The silence when the words won't come
Are better than a Hallelujah sometimes.

We pour out our miseries
God just hears a melody
Find More lyrics at www.sweetslyrics.com
Beautiful the mess we are
The honest cries of breaking hearts
Are better than a Hallelujah

Better than a church bell ringing,
Better than a choir singing out,singing out.

We pour out our miseries
God just hears a melody
Beautiful the mess we are
The honest cries of breaking hearts
Are better than a Hallelujah

For more information about Amy Grant's music visit her website at www.amygrant.com .

About The Assist Local Network

The Assist Local Network is a Christian organization whose purpose is to provide support through recruiting volunteers to serve local organizations and charities, and connect the various members of local churches to the needs within their local communities. All services the Assist Local Network provides to churches, members, and those they serve are FREE of charge.

The vision of The Assist Local Network is to promote, facilitate, and lead high quality community service events at which the not yet believing community would experience the reality and relevance of Jesus through the service of Christ Followers. Through their efforts participants have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus by serving the community. These community service events are structured so that participants may invite their not yet believing friends to experience authentic Christian community by serving along side them. Through this type of relational evangelism authentic Christ-honoring relationships are formed, transforming those who participate into passionate and productive followers of Jesus.

The mission of The Assist Local Network is to connect various members of local churches to work together as ONE BODY to meet needs within our communities such as:

- Poverty, Homelessness and Hunger
- AIDS and Cancer
- Orphans and Foster Children
- Elderly and Widowed
- Imprisoned
- Handicapped and Disadvantaged
- Oppressed
- Emergency response
- community support

Last year over 500 volunteers served the local communities for Jesus. The community service events are usually completed on a single Saturday and include a variety of projects that encompass all ages. These projects include cleaning, weeding, planting flowers and trees, building things, taking convalescent home seniors on field trips, and more. Some of the projects we completed have served:

- Blanche Sprentz Elementary School, Folsom
- Twin Lakes Elementary School, Orangevale
- Theodore Judah Elementary School, Folsom
- Powerhouse Ministries, Folsom
- Folsom Convalescent Home, Folsom
- Twin Lakes Food bank, Folsom
- Grace Foundation Animal Rescue, El Dorado Hills
- Folsom City Zoo, Folsom
- Parks and Recreation, Folsom

Community service events can be designed to accommodate, youth groups, small groups and single or multiple churches. If you are interested in participating in one of these events, or you are interested supporting community service work, your donations would be appreciated. The Assist Local Network is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit Christian public charity. All donations are tax deductible in full or in part.

More information available at www.AssistLocal.org .



Support 4 Soldiers Joins Assist Local



Support 4 Soldiers has joined the Assist Local Network, and as a ministry of Assist Local now has it's non-profit status.

Support 4 Soldiers fills a particular and very important role, and that is helping on a day to day basis our Servicemen and women serving overseas. We don't question the reasons for them being there, we simply do our very best for them and their families.

It should never be under estimated what difference a care package or thank you note can make to a soldier thousands of miles away from home.

Through Support 4 Soldiers you can let our brave men and women know just how proud you are of them and thank them for the dedication, commitment and sacrifices which they make for us.

For more information on Support 4 Soldiers please contact info@Support4Soldiers.org

Freed Inside Jail Ministry Joins Assist Local



Freed Inside Jail Ministry formerly Free on the Inside has joined the Assist Local Network, and as a ministry of Assist Local now has it's non-profit status.

Assist Local has been working with the Free on the Inside jail ministry of Placerville over the past year to help bring attention to the fantastic work that they have been doing in El Dorado County Jail located in Placerville, CA.

Free on the Inside has been doing ministry for some 18 years in El Dorado County, and has become a stable presence in the Placerville jail over the years, with the participation of multiple churches.

The ministry is in a season of growing to have greater influence in the jail, and is always looking for new volunteers and supporters who are interested in jail and prison ministry. If you want more information on Freed Inside Jail Ministry please contact Rich Whelan at chaplainrich@gmail.com.

Assist Local Newsletters available at www.AssistLocal.org/newsletter

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The Assist Local Network is part of the Assist Local Foundation. The Assist Local Foundation, Inc is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit Christian public charity. All donations are tax deductible in full or in part. For more information on how you can partner with the Assist Local Network, please email s.mcgee@AssistLocal.org. Source citations at www.AssistLocal.org/newsletter.