

Working on the Margins...



CPC IE HILL' NEWSLETTER

April 25th, 2013

Meeting Folks Where They're At...

One of the hardest things I have had to deal with as a church planter is the pressure I put on myself to be successful. The problem is how ambiguous it is to define 'success'. What does success look like? Numbers in the pews? Money in the plate? What is it? But perhaps the more insidious aspect of this burden is that we begin to see the people we serve as a project.

It is easy to unconsciously create hoops that we expect God's people to jump through so that our 'project' looks good; or more honestly, so that the pastor looks good. So instead of seeing God's flock as venerable, wounded, and lost creatures in need of the direction of the Lord, we can begin to

treat people as pieces on a chess board, instead of as God's children, who need to be touched by the Great Shepherd in very specific ways. They are people who need to be met right where they are at, not where I want them to be.

It is this reality that has shifted much of our focus of ministry. We continue to focus on God-honoring worship, consistent outreach, and various bible studies throughout the church and city, but I have been convicted by the truth that there are many folks on the fringes of our church who are simply not able to get into the life of our church yet, who still need the healing touch of Jesus to bring them to His feet.

For instance, a young woman of 22 years, who had been a foster child since she was 2 weeks old, has been on her own since she was 16, and is currently homeless. Or, the 34 year old father of 4, husband, and who is going to college, working full-time, and continually battles with the effects of Bi-Polar disorder. Both of these folks carry around wounds in their soul which makes trusting and becoming a part of 'the group' very difficult. There are no quick fixes for these folks. Instead, by the presence of Christ, working through the members of the church, they are touched by the gospel and **'Inch'** their way to deeper communion with Him through His Body.

These are just a few examples of the many souls in the inner city of New Haven, who have been begun the long, and sometimes tortuous, journey to union, communion, and maturity in Christ. Much like the Israelites of old, what should on paper be a relatively easy and short journey, is actually a trip of many fits and starts.

Without a doubt, patience, grace, humility, and at times, tough love, are the common ingredients needed to help us in the 'hood' make it back to a state of responsibility, dignity, and dependence upon Almighty God.



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Summer Pursuits & Prayer Requests



“IF OUR YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH, THEN WE SHOULD PUT OUR BEST PEOPLE ON THE TASK OF THEIR DISCIPLESHIP. INSTEAD IT’S ALWAYS THE OTHER WAY AROUND!”

**-DR. WALTER KAISER
PRESIDENT EMERITUS
AT GORDON-
CONWELL
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**

In an effort to continue to work on the margins of people's lives, we have a full tablet of activities planned for the summer. **First**, as always, we will continue to partner with sister churches in the hosting of a variety of camps. We have expanded our reach beyond our soccer camp to include an Art Camp, and a newly developed Voice Camp. These camps, along with various work projects around the city of New Haven will take place July 6th—13th. **Please be in prayer for the Spirit to move in an Awakening & Revival way this summer throughout the CPC Movement family.**

Secondly, the Lord provided

us an additional opportunity for our youth this summer. Back in March, Sam and I were gifted a weekend away at the beautiful Camp Spofford, which is a gorgeous Christian camp in the foothills of Mt. Washington in Spofford, NH. The Lord created an automatic bond with us and the camp director. As a result, he invited us to bring up some of our youth for a weekend retreat and work camp. We were able to bring up 10 of our youth and 3 adults. Simply put, we had an amazing time; we worked, played, prayed, and dreamed about how the Lord could use the camp to help them grow in Christ.

Saturday evening the kids

were shown a video about camp and the Lord did the rest; following the video, Peter, the director, laid out a vision and invitation to the kids to join them this summer for a week of camp. Later, after dinner, we sat around tables dreaming of ways to raise money to pay for the camp! The innovation that came out of the kids was simply amazing! As of last week, a couple kids had made a \$100 in 2 hours by selling candy bars around the neighborhood. As of May 3rd, we have approximately 23 kids going to their first ever overnight camp. The Lord is definitely moving in the kids and their families lives. **Please pray for the Lord to move in these kids lives this summer.**



Stay Tuned at www.cpcinthehill.weebly.com, where you can learn about our **'1000 at 100'** focus for 2013-2014. God bless you all and thanks for partnering with us for the glory of Christ and the Joy of His people!

