

“What do you think about those gas prices?” is our number one conversation today. Governments are scrambling to discover and tap into new reserves of oil. The search is on to find the wealth hidden just below the surface. The potential of the insider ministry is like this subterranean oil reserve.

The church sits on top of an untapped resource for advancing the gospel. This reserve is the vocational and life skills of an army of insiders. What if we harnessed people’s vocational skills for the gospel’s sake? Solomon saw this potential, “Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings and not obscure men” (Proverbs 22:29).

My friends, Drs. Steve and Ken, are insiders who’ve tapped the wealth of their vocations for the gospel. Through their church, they’ve launched a free medical clinic. For them, healthcare is not only treating the body but it’s also healing the soul. Each clinic volunteer, from physician to receptionist, is trained to pray with and share Christ with patients. These two physicians are using their medical training as a platform for the gospel.

Serving our communities shouldn’t be unusual. Jeremiah instructed the exiles to “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:7). Instead of retreating from this pagan culture to protect their identity and preserve their holiness, God asked Israel to serve the culture. What happens when we choose to serve a community?

My friend Rob is a police chief in a mid-sized city. His church publicly ordained him to this vocation. They believed that the Kingdom would be advanced through Rob’s vocational skills. As an insider, Rob is setting standards of justice, compassion, and fairness that’s permeating a police force and impacting a community. Along the way, he’s engaging in faith conversations.

How can we tap into this wealth of vocational and life skills? First, let’s follow the example of Rob’s church and commission people to their vocations. When we exalt only vocational ministry, we do disservice to the plan of God. He wants the church to coach and release everyone to ministry. Let’s ordain people to their callings as professors and plumbers, housewives and healthcare providers.

Second, let’s help people intentionally identify their vocational and life skills and explore with them how these talents can be unleashed. Accountants could serve as financial officers for community nonprofits. People who’ve suffered through divorce could lead divorce recovery groups. Those in the construction trades could contribute to urban development. All along the way, faith conversations can happen.

When we release the wealth of insiders’ lives, we become the yeast of the Kingdom, permeating culture with the gospel. Imagine the impact of people starting faith conversations as they use their vocational skills. The church sits on top of a rich reservoir of talents. Let’s trust God to tap into this reserve to fuel the advancement of the gospel. This is living life2life.

