

LIVING *Life2Life*

Re-imagining church through the power of relationships. Volume 1 | Issue 9

Life2life ministry is nestled in the quiet--everyday people in everyday routines having everyday conversations. An obscure and overlooked New Testament passage describes the ministry of the ordinary: "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life . . . so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders" (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). Here's an example of people living in the quiet.

A new neighbor moved into my parents' mobile home park. Stopping his lawnmower, my dad walked across the street to meet him. He soon discovered that the neighbor was a widower and had lung cancer. Over time, and in a natural way, my dad initiated a faith conversation with this new friend. Recognizing a need, my parents began taking over meals and doing odd jobs for him. They invited him to their home Bible study and then to church. He came once to both events. "I think he was self-conscious about coughing and spitting up stuff," my dad said. This neighbor came to faith before he passed away from cancer.

The neighbor wasn't a project to mom and dad. They didn't love him because of their church's witnessing program. They were good neighbors because they believed that's what Jesus' disciples do. In quiet ways and through everyday faith conversations, my parents' lives won the respect of this outsider. Eternity is richer because dad and mom lived and ministered in the quiet.

Real ministry is done in the quiet of our neighborhoods, workplaces, or family settings. Oswald Chambers knew this to be true: "One of the most amazing revelations of God comes when we learn that it is in the commonplace things that the Deity of Jesus Christ is realized." Packed auditoriums, dynamic preaching, or evangelism programs are not prerequisites for Jesus' disciples. God often starts with the small and works in the quiet.

"The metaphors Jesus used for the life of ministry are frequently images of the single, the small, and the quiet, which have effects far in excess of their appearance . . . Our culture publicizes the opposite emphasis: the big, the multitudinous, the noisy," writes Eugene Peterson. An insider's ministry is accomplished in the quiet of everyday routines and among everyday people. In my church, we work to promote this type of ministry.

Each month during a worship service, I interview someone who's ministering in the quiet. This may be a mother sharing with a neighbor, a friend who continued a faith correspondence with a college roommate, or a recent college graduate struggling to share his faith at work. Some are success stories, some are stories in process, and some are stories of lessons learned.

We must celebrate the person representing Jesus in the daily routines of life, relationships, and faith conversations. The effects of my parents' ministry was "far in excess of their appearance." They were everyday people living in the "splendor of the ordinary." May God multiply the influence of people living in the quiet.

Living Life2Life was crafted by Bill Mowry. Bill serves with The Church Discipleship Ministry of The Navigators. You can contact Bill at: Bmowry1@columbus.rr.com. Feel free to forward this message to others. Keep the conversation going!