

6 June 2019

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” -Hebrews 11:1, 6

Dear Friends,

Hebrews 11 is sometimes called God’s hall of faith. It reminds us of the Biblical characters (normal men and women) who just chose to take God at His Word. I don’t think God wants us to idolize them because they really weren’t special people in the sense of being something you and I could not attain to. What set them apart is that they knew God, God spoke to them and they took action beyond their personal abilities. In short, they just stepped out in faith when God presented the opportunity to trust Him. This is something God has called each of us to do.

A few weeks ago, while I was busy transitioning out of my former role as Operations leader and handing the reins over to Geoff Fajardo, a friend of Elaine and mine challenged us to join a different team. We initially said no because we really like the Global Technology team we have been serving on while also being the Ops leader for SE Asia. I have been doing operations roles for over 35 years and I like it and the people I get to minister with, but quite frankly, I think I am pretty good at it and don’t often need to step out in faith.

However, we said we would pray about the opportunity. Shortly after that, I left on a one month trip to Asia wrapping up some operations things and Elaine and I were talking and praying about this decision almost daily over Skype. Also, while on this trip, I celebrated my 65th birthday. The next day sitting in my guesthouse room and enjoying my quiet time, I felt God was speaking to me saying, “Mark, at what age do you think you need to be to not trust me anymore?” Ouch!!

Unexpectedly, we felt God was leading us to say yes to this new challenge. It took another 2 weeks for me to get back to Orlando and meet with our leadership and let them know that we were willing to be considered one of the candidates for this role. Elaine and I were at peace with the decision not because we really wanted the role (it will require a lot of faith to do the ministry of this team), but because we could say yes to them and if God chose another, we were just as content to stay on the team we were on. A few days later one of my friends in the Philippines asked “How do you know God’s will in your life?” Because of what God had been showing Elaine and I and it was fresh in our minds, I told him when you can trust God whichever direction He takes you, you know you are not being driven by your own desires. We all need to be able to say “Wherever you lead me Lord, I know You will be there.”



Our Southeast Asia Area staff team (the week of my last team meeting with them)

The end result is we were accepted to join the team of our vice president for global leadership. Our new team leader is Dela Adadevoh (originally from Ghana) and he is responsible for mentoring and coaching our Area team leaders. Campus Crusade divides the world into thirteen areas with which I have worked periodically for the past 15 years. SE Asia is the Area I was ministering in recently (and still am a little). Ironically, my former leader in the Philippines, Cris Uy, is one of the Area Team Leaders so Elaine and I still get to be a part of that ministry! Our role on the new team is helping with strategic leadership which involves helping our Area Team members plan and execute their plans for building movements around the world. Elaine and I are excited about joining this team and a little nervous as well. However, saying goodbye to our other teams has been difficult because it has been so rewarding ministering with them. I am pretty sure in the future we will still work closely together but from a little different direction.



Our new team (Dr. Dela is the tall one) along with Babs , Dela, Elizabeth, Susan, George, Anne and Greg and Cherry

So, changes. Change is a constant it seems and if we want to grow and be used by God, just like our brothers and sisters in Hebrews 11, we have to step out in faith and embrace that change, no matter what age or stage of life we are in. It looks like nothing has really changed in the last forty years!

What faith steps is God calling us to make? It's worth asking Him.

Thank you so much for ministering with us side by side in this journey!

Mark & Elaine