

“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:7-8

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Dear Friends,

In my 40 plus years in ministry, I have had the pleasure of serving with some of the most godly and humble people I have ever known. Many of these people have held high positions in a large organization where they could have easily abused those positions. I am not saying they have not made mistakes or they do not falter in any way, but they have bucked the trend of the world and not lost focus on who they are in relation to the God of the universe. I guess I expect that from them but I also know that is not the norm for leaders, especially as I look around at our world today. For clarity, humility is not thinking down about yourself, it is seeing reality from God’s perspective on who we are in relation to Him and who others are that He created. If we see ourselves accurately, we will love others and walk humbly with Him.

Jesus (as always) set the example in an amazing way and at a time when leaders at that time looked like some of our worldly leaders today. I like to think I am like Jesus but I am pretty sure instead of coming to earth poor and in very humble environs, I probably would have said something like “I have had it with you all! You don’t show the respect you should so, everybody out of the pool!!” Not Jesus. The God of the universe came as a servant, loved people to death and gave them a hope and promise for eternity. He set the example and the expectation for us, His children.

During the summer I had the privilege of attending a gathering of our South and Southeast Asian leaders. As you know, Elaine and I served with many of those leaders for almost 25 years. It was a little bit of a homecoming for me. We have many young leaders whom I don’t know personally but I was amazed that I had served with over half of the leaders in the room. I was excited to see these friends still serving the Lord after all these years and to see their disciples taking up the mantle of leadership as well. You and I probably don’t think too much about the results of relationships long term but I encourage you to because this is what the family of God looks like and a small glimpse of what I envision heaven will look like as well. I also want to encourage you in knowing that you had a significant part in the expansion of God’s family.



Ricky, Damodar, Yulius, Gijumone and Geoff – Men we’ve served closely with

In a few days, I will be making a trip to Kenya to join our African leaders as we consider the scope of reaching the unreached on that continent. You might be encouraged to know that we have ministries in all fifty of the countries! I was amazed to find that out this summer as I was working on a project involving next steps. Please pray for my travel and health and as always for Elaine, April and Westley while I am away. And that we would walk humbly with our God.

Mark & Elaine