



MEN'S MINISTRY

Encouraging the men of Foothills to be Godly leaders, building a strong and growing relationship with the Lord, with their families, with each other and in service to the Body of Christ.

December 23, 2010

A bi-monthly publication of Foothills Men's Ministry

Men of FCC - We need your feedback – See Pastor Don's article on "Why Men Hate Going to Church" below.

Gary Barkalow's Blog and My Response

By Randy Luce

Part I by Gary Barkalow:

Over the years I have met many gifted, aware, devoted people who felt lost, stuck or paralyzed in the pursuit of their calling. Then, of course, I have my own paralysis. Every story and conversation about this issue has caused me to ask "why".

We have all acted out of what we have believed (be it falsehood or truth) or what we have owned about ourselves at a deep heart level. So, I have scribbled down a few ideas that I will think will help to counter the debilitating ideas that float around concerning the issue of calling.

Go with what you know. You are only responsible for what you currently know, keeping in mind that what you know is partial and incomplete. Walk in the clarity that God has given you – only then will He give you more.

Let go of what you don't love. Coming to grips with what you don't love is valuable – it's not wasted time. We waste a lot of time and energy feeling guilty and condemned over the things that we are not passionate about.

Live like an artist. Develop and create your art simply because you love it, not for a paycheck, approval or promotion.

Keep income and calling separate in your thinking. Don't complicate things by putting these two together. At some point, they may merge, but one must not be dependent on the other.

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."-John Wooden. Start creating and offering what God has put in you with whatever resources you have in terms available time, technology, contacts, and opportunities. Don't wait for someone to endorse or "anoint" you, for "large" audiences, a paycheck, position, title or a degree.

God is simply asking us to live honestly and generously in the place we are already in. We must offer the brilliance, strength, beauty, abundance, and splendor God has given us. Walking in our calling does not often require a big transition or life change like quitting a job, starting something new, or living somewhere else.

The development of the weightiness of our life is of utmost importance. Growth always includes knowledge, experience/experimentation, being mentored / coached / modeled, time for assimilation and maturing (fermentation).

Don't wait for things to be "ideal" – Don't wait for a job or position offer, endorsements, a certain amount in savings or an inheritance, or a close community of friends and allies to begin walking out your call.

God is comfortable with your trying. God is not afraid and you are not in great danger...if your idea has passed the "moral" and "ethical" filter and you understand your role (husband / wife, father / mother, employee, etc.). Get the perspective of others. Just ask – people are always willing to lend their insight to you.

1 Samuel 10:6, 7 The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power...and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

There is a difference between waiting on God and procrastination, between moving in faith with an assurance of God's love and striving.

Trying to understand the difference and living on the right side,

Gary

Part II by Randy Luce:

I was recently reading, and re-reading Larry Crabb's "The Safest Place on Earth." I have been really moved by the first chapter and how it fits in with my getting used to the idea of God's mystery, a sort of excitement/expectation over what he is up to. I was stirred by how practical Gary's above suggestions were, and how they give me/us something to hold onto or be grounded in during times of confusion about the other areas of our lives. You know, sometimes the idea of waiting on the mystery of what God is up to can easily seem like confusion and often seems to have no end. The blessing of Gary's words just seemed to speak to me about how important it is to hold onto the basis of my faith and the truth he has already spoken to me, both about Himself and about me, so that I can really focus on what He is asking from or teaching me now.

What Larry Crabb has done for me is to point out in his first chapter the benefits from both confusion and disappointment. He says that (page 5);

"...the upside of confusion is openness. Confused people listen better, not always, but more often than people whose minds are made up. Those folks listen only in order to critique, to see if someone else is on the right track, namely theirs. Confused people are more likely to combine kindness with whatever convictions emerge out of their confusion. And, because of their eagerness for meaningful dialogue with honest people, the convictions they develop tend to speak to the realities of life as it really is lived.

Disappointment has an upside as well. It inspires hope by making hope necessary. And the hope it inspires need not be the soul-numbing opiate Marxists warn against, or the wish-fulfilling fantasies Freudians interpret away.

Once you grant the un-confusing and thoroughly non-disappointing fact that Christ's atonement guarantees the Spirit's ceaseless work in our lives-from conception through death and on into eternity-then disappointment brings forth better dreams, the longing for a larger hope, without which we are intolerably miserable. Soul-crushing struggle supplies the energy that nudges us along in the process of shifting from *token hope*, the kind that generates pleasant feelings, to the real thing that anchors us through life's storms."

Like Crabb admits, confusion and disappointment seem to be doing their work in me. I am still excited to see what God is up to, and know that at the bottom of it all He is most after relationship with me, and after character in me that reflects Him. I could not ask for more.

And in regard to character, He has been working on the area of my "performance." He recently allowed me to see how I actually look forward to getting sick (how sick is that!!!?). But what He pointed out at the same time was the realization that it is one of the few times that I stop judging my performance...i.e. condemn myself for not getting it right, based on the lack of success (or at least more success) in work. That got me to thinking of the times that I am truly able to find rest in Him. I can see that classical music or being in the mountains or the seashore bring a taste of that rest. Ultimate rest has become a time when the self judgment stops. There is also a peace and rest that comes from hearing his word to me when I am journaling.

This performance issue was even brought more home to me while reading Tim Keller's "The Prodigal God." Keller identifies the message of the prodigal son story, as it was addressed to the audience Luke identifies at the beginning of the story, both sinners (who would identify with the lost brother) and the Pharisees (who were to identify with the older brother). I have always identified with the older brother in this story, and learned a while ago that it was because much of my life had been lived like him, a life of duty and performance that just might (or should) get God's blessing. Keller says:

"The elder brother in the parable illustrates the way of moral conformity. The Pharisees of Jesus' day believed that, while they were a people chosen by God, they could only maintain their place in his blessing and receive final salvation through strict obedience to the Bible. There are innumerable varieties of this paradigm, but they all believe in putting the will of God and the standards of the community ahead of individual fulfillment. In this view, we only attain happiness and a world made right by achieving moral rectitude. We may fall at times, of course, but then we will be judged by how abject and intense our regret is. In this view, **even in our failures we must always measure up.**"

God help me, for truly performance to earn my way has been inescapable. It has also been self defeating, and John Eldredge's pointing out that maybe there is someone else involved in this seeming self judgment has opened the recognition of spiritual warfare and the enemy's awareness of this weakness in my belief about the true character of God. The familiar refrain, "our greatest strengths can be our greatest weakness" comes to mind, from the standpoint that our enemy doesn't want us to realize he is there, and that he knows/fears what we could be (unless he can weaken us in the area of a true strength). This opens the possibility that a new/revived strength may open up in me when I can stop

trying to earn God's favor and just accept my position in Him...and move ahead in gratitude for what he has already given me.

In conclusion and to restate ideas in my first paragraph, in order for me to concentrate on what God is after, I must also remember what he has already done and taught me. And the truths Gary has offered give me great rest to move forward, and help to take away the enemy's ability to distract me from my current walk with God.

SO YOU'RE OUT OF WORK AND CAN'T FIND A JOB

By Alex Goodman

Are you willing to listen to an old man who has been out of work many times? If so read on.

First, ask God for Guidance because He has a plan for you. *Jeremiah 29:11-14 "...For I know the plans I have for you," declares the lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future..."*

Spend daily time in the Word. That's always important but now even more so. When you are in the Word, ask God to speak into your life then listen. He will direct you in many ways. It could be through your choice of scripture; through a thought entering your head; the Word itself may be directly applicable to your situation and an unlimited array of communications. Just open your heart and the Lord will find a way to communicate with you. If you're unsure or confused about something you hear or perceive, take it to another believer who you trust.

The process that I am about to describe depends on your working hard to develop a personal relationship with God. If you're not sure how to do that, contact your Home Fellowship Pastor or any other leader in the church.

(I'm going to get to the job suggestions in just a moment).

Next, include your wife in the process and minister to her needs. There is so much insecurity that surfaces in face of financial struggles. Your wife needs more attention and more love during this time. Be understanding and forgiving and overlook a lot of little hurts. She needs you and you both need God. Take this advice seriously. It could save your marriage.

FINDING A JOB

Now I'm going to blow your mind. Your purpose is not to get a job. Your purpose is to build relationships. Sound crazy?

80% or more of job openings are not advertised. If you're sitting at your computer filling out applications you're competing with millions of applicants for 20% of the jobs. What are your chances of finding something? You need to spend a small percentage of your time sending resumes and applications, but 80% of your time should be invested in networking - building relationships, because it's through relationships that you are likely to be hired.

Ask employers in the church. Ask them what they look for in a candidate. It's likely they will answer; good character, good personal habits, good work ethic - all very difficult information to determine from a resume. Employers prefer to hire on a referral from someone they trust, someone who knows you or at least knows of you.

THE "HUMAN WEB"

The "Human Web" refers to the idea that everybody on this planet is separated by only six or less other people. I heard a perfect example of this the other day right here at Foothills. You know that we have a very successful ministry to Cuba. In the process of conducting the ministry we found we had a need to go way above the levels of authority that we normally deal with. A friend of the ministry leader told the story of our ministry and the good we do for the Cuban people to one of his employees. He told him of our need to appeal to a much higher authority. He said he knew a man who played chess with Fidel Castro. He told the chess playing friend about our need and we are awaiting the results.

So from the ministry leader to Fidel Castro there were only four contacts - the friend of the ministry leader, his employee, the man who played chess with Castro and Castro himself.

It's obvious that the Holy Spirit did the work of finding the necessary people. But at the same time, the networking, or simply sharing what you know, was an essential part of the connections. You can employ the same technique to finding a job. Commit yourself to developing a relationship with God and you will see the same process work for you.

Building a network is creating links from people we know to people they know, in an organized way, for a specific purpose, while remaining committed to doing our part which is to love and serve. So how do you go about building a network?

Sign up on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. If you don't know what those social networks are or how to use them, find someone to tell you. You want to use every resource that's available to you and these networks have the potential to spread your message far and wide. Join network groups like Experience Unlimited, Execunet, LeTip and many others both in person and on line. You should be going in person - face to face - to one or two networking meetings every week.

Your purpose can't be *what's in it for me*. Your attitude has to be one of serving and loving others. Not easy when you're out of work. But you don't have a choice. If you want your network to work for you, your purpose has to be, "What can I do for others?" The job - the outcome - is God's responsibility.

So here are some specific steps to take:

1. Determine your skills and talents. If you're not sure, go to an E.D.D. office and take one of their free classes on skills assessment or take a test. In other words, assess your own interests, skills, knowledge areas, and personal attributes. Take stock so you can speak about yourself with enthusiasm.
2. Write a resume and a cover letter for it. Again, E.D.D. has free classes on preparing a resume and cover letters.
3. Develop a business card. You can do it at home on your own computer. You may have to borrow some card stock.
4. Many industries have free vendor seminars, for example Microsoft and Cisco in the computer industry. Attend these and pass out and collect business cards.
5. Look into taking night classes; a good place to meet contacts and instructors who may be working days in your field and be aware of employment opportunities.

6. Now it's time to contact all the people you know from every aspect of your life - past and present. The more people you contact the better. Contact anybody that knows you or used to know you.

Spread the word, even if you can't think of any way they could contribute to your networking efforts. Again, go out of your way to reestablish *personal* contact if possible. Ask if you can serve them in any way. If the Holy Spirit makes an opportunity, tell them what you do and what you're looking for. If the Spirit does not make an opportunity, don't bring the subject up.

Contact family, friends, friends of family, family of friends, neighbors, friends of neighbors, classmates and friends of classmates - no matter how long ago, alumni, contacts from special interest groups e.g., Sorority, Fraternity, student organizations, members of the Foothills congregation and their friends and relatives, people dependant upon networking that you may have had contact with, e.g., realtors, insurance agents, multilevel marketing contacts, almost anybody in sales, former employers and their friends, co-workers and their friends and relatives, former HR employees, recruiters, other job candidates, professional associations, former teachers.

These are just a few of the people you can contact. Every person knows at least 250 people. Each of their contacts knows at least 250 people. So that's 62,500 at your 2nd level. Each of your 2nd level contacts knows 250 people - that's over 15,000,000! It is typically not your first level contact that eventually hires you - in fact you'll probably find that the hiring contact may be 2, 3 or 4 levels deep.

Research information about your potential network contact and his/her family, work, church or other relationships before you reach out to them. Do not ask for a job - ask for advice, information, and other contacts. People love to give advice.

Ask them to be part of your personal network for: advice and input, to recommend their tips for getting a foot in the door or to refer you to others who might be able to assist and give advice. Ask for specific information, only if the Spirit leads.

There is much more I could say on networking, but consider Luke 5:4-11 (para) *the fishermen worked hard all night trying to catch fish. But it wasn't until they listened to the Master and cast their nets where He told them, that they became successful.*

One last thing - once you get a job, don't stop networking. You're looking for opportunities to serve, to minister to people. God loves a giver. Build and maintain your network for life. God will use it in extraordinary ways.

Sources: Internet articles; "The Strength of Weak Ties" by Mark Granovetter and Laquetta Franz - the most dynamic networker I know.

A Message from the Men's Ministry Director

Why Men Hate Going to Church

David Murrow wrote a book with that title in 2005. Now, of course, this doesn't apply to The Men of Foothills, but speaking of those "other" churches.....

As examples, some of the eye opening numbers are:

*The average church draws a crowd of 61% female and 39% male.

*25% of women worship without their husbands (called Sunday widows).

*75% of church volunteers are female

*75% of Christian products are purchased by females

Studies show: Women out-lead, out-pray, out-disciple, out-witness, out-study and out-give men.

Also very concerning is that young single men are practically an endangered species in church today:

*Less than 5% of a typical congregation are male ages 18-35. That's our future generation!

*70% of boys being raised in the church today will drop out after their teen years and into their 20's. (Certainly a portion of those return later).

This appears to be a "Christian church" issue, as most all other world religions do not have a drop off in their male attendance. As example, the Muslim faith maintains a strong and passionate male participation throughout all age ranges.

Why is that? And more importantly – What can we do to change that in our churches?

*90% of men surveyed in the U.S. believe in God. Five in six say they are Christian, but only one in six are found in church on Sunday. Men love church, but don't want to go.

Why?

There is a long list of reasons David Murrow points to as reasons men don't like to go to church, but I'd like to hear from the Men of Foothills on what you believe the problem is. If you believe there is a problem:

1. Why do you think men stay away from church?
2. What can we do to make church more appealing to men?
3. What can we do to appeal to the younger male generation
 - A. Pre-teen & Teens
 - B. Post College - 20's & 30's - Married and Single

Please send your responses to my email: DonBastrom@FoothillsChurch.org

- Pastor Don Bastrom

Men's Ministry Leadership Team

Dave Marlatt, Chuck Hicks, Brian Price, Alex Goodman, Gary Kirk, Rey Lyyjoki, Richard Schult and Don Bastrom (Men's Ministry Director). You may contact any of these men about Men's Ministry Programs at Foothills.

For questions, comments or suggestions about the contents of this newsletter, please contact Randy Luce at 619-733-0787 or Randy@acbproperties.com

MEN'S GROUPS

LEADERSHIP MENTORING Grow toward the image of Jesus with your own personal mentor. As you learn to better lead yourself, you will learn how to lead in your home, work and ministry. For more information, call Dave Marlatt (858-603-2675), Chris Hochule (619-590-0111) or Alex Goodman (619-593-8339).

MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP It is a process of discovery and a spiritual foundation building that directs us toward our ultimate target of having an intimate, abiding relationship with Christ, which in turn will bear fruit to His glory. Meets @ church 1st & 3rd Sat each month 6:00am. The process will go for approx. 9 months. Gary Kirk 697-6620 gary.kirk@cox.net

PURE DESIRE - FOR MEN ONLY Bringing God's Victory to Men Battling for Sexual Integrity Support Groups are Tues & Thurs nights @ Foothills Church 7-9:00pm. For further information please call Don Bastrom 619-442-7728 (donbastrom@foothillschurch.org), Milton Lopez 619-251-7853, or Steve Edwards 619-920-7724.

CIA - CHRISTIANS IN ACCOUNTABILITY Teaching men how to connect so they can travel their Christian walk together. Praying, supporting and encouraging each other toward a better relationship with our Lord, families and friends. Meets second Tues, 6:30pm Rm A-2, here @ Foothills. Rey Lyyjoki 994-7496 rllyjoki@cox.net

WILD AT HEART New study starting in February, watch for announcements. Randy Luce 733-0787 or Mark Munsey 749-3540

B.O.S.S. (Business Owner's Scriptural Success) Men's Breakfast Meetings. Join us for a great home-cooked breakfast, fellowship, and great insight for your business. Meets @ church 3rd Sat each month 7:00am. orin@eastcountytile.com

RESTORATION RANCH The "Ranch" is a temporary home to adult men who have a sincere desire to be set free from drugs, alcohol, or addictive behaviors. The Ranch uses Christian principles, Bible studies and practical training to prepare residents to resume a productive role in society and begin a new and victorious life in Christ. Ramona, California (located in the foothills of San Diego County) is the home to Restoration Ranch. www.restorationranch.com

IRONMEN DISCIPLESHIP Led by Chuck Hicks, Rick Holderby and Steve Gibson; this ministry is a structured course devoted to developing a strong Godly character, devoted to the study of God's word and study of many related books and materials. Dave and Mark Hoffman's books are included. This is an intense, committed one year program. Apply if you are or want to be a "Man of Iron" (A spiritual superman for God). Contact Chuck Hicks @619-647-6281 or 1streetpreachin@gmail.com.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING Led by Gary Kirk and assisted by Jim Deahl and Richard Schult, there is training in classroom settings and discipleship training on-on-one. Deepen your knowledge of God's Word and your calling within the body of Christ. Classes are generally held during Sunday 1st service. One-on-one discipleship is available. Contact Gary Kirk @ 619-933-6620 or 619-303-2039.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST — Jan 8th
Homemade Breakfast 1st Sat each month 8am room A-1 cost \$5, Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Cereal, Donuts, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee & More.. Great worship, Fellowship and a special message just for men. Be sure to invite a friend!!! Special Speaker: Don Bastrom - Watch for Video Announcement (CD's from previous Men's Breakfast Messages available at the CD booth)

MEN'S MENTORING BREAKFAST
Good food and good fellowship to discuss mentoring issues, problems and serving God by serving men. Every second and fourth Saturday, 6:30am, Tyler's of Texas (Second and I-8, El Cajon). Alex Goodman (619) 593-8339 alexgoodman35@cox.net

MEN'S RETREAT
September 9-11, 2010 @ Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, Special Guest Speaker: James DeMello. Contact: Don Bastrom 619-507-1904 or Richard Schult 619-279-9935

CORPORATE PRAYER AT FCC
Join us each Sunday evening at church from 6:30 to 8pm for a corporate prayer time (Childcare for 5 and under).

"MEN'S STEAK OUT"
Starting Tuesday, March 15th and held once each quarter, "Men's Steak Out" is a chance to have a night out with the guys. Grilled steak, fellowship and a hand-picked movie for just the men in the sanctuary building – room A-1. Up first: "Cinderella Man" starring Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger. Food will be served at 6:30 & the movie starts at 7. Mark your calendars and watch for the announcements. Sign up at the Men's Ministry table in the lobby, after service, the two Sundays preceding the next "Men's Steak Out" night. **\$10 paid in advance guarantees you a steak, and the movie is free.** Contact: Mark Munsey @ 858-243-8076 or munsev.mark@yahoo.com.