

February 2012 Table Talk

As you go, be the church and multiply!



Message from the mission field:

Geoff Hartt, the Community Pastor at Stafford and Director of Hispanics for Christ just returned from a 10 day trip to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala for his work with Hispanics for Christ. I emailed Geoff while he was down there and asked him if he would share what God was showing him on this trip. The following is his reply:

“There are so many churches here in El Salvador, 96% of the people claim to be Christian, but there is still so much crime, corruption, teen pregnancy, drugs and brokenness. Why is this?”

I asked this question to a group of about a dozen pastors from the capital city of San Salvador during a Saturday morning meeting with them. We met in the offices of Casa de Semillas (House of Seeds), a ministry to network the Evangelical pastors of the city. Their response was painfully transparent and close to home for us as well. These pastors answered, “Because we aren’t making disciples in our churches.” They recognized filling buildings doesn’t equal making disciples! What they said next really excited me, especially as Director of Hispanics for Christ. They asked, “Would you help train us to be better disciple-makers and provide us with resources to do this better!”

This was refreshing to hear. They weren’t asking for a STM team to come down and

do evangelism. They weren’t asking for a construction team to come down and build them a church. They weren’t asking for help to start an orphanage or launch a school. They were asking for *real* missions help – making disciples! (See Matt. 28:19-20 if you need a reminder of Christ’s mandate to us!)

So, are we any better? Homosexual marriage is rapidly becoming legal across the nation. Our illegal drug consumption fuels the cartel violence in Latin America. 800,000 babies are murdered each year here – legally. The voice of Christianity is being silenced and its symbols removed from our culture. Are we making disciples here anymore or simply filling buildings?

I have two questions each of us should ask ourselves. Am I a disciple? If so, who am I discipling?

Geoff Hartt

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

A lesson learned by an intern:

Both my sister and brother attended Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR but it has been about 10 years since they were there. My brother has kept up a relationship with a pastor who does campus ministry there named Dave Miller and he introduced us a few months back. Dave and I have been building a friendship for the past few months and a few weeks back, he asked me if I would come speak to the college group out there. I love college ministry so this was an exciting opportunity for me.

I went out to Pacific a few Wednesdays ago and had a great time. I got to hang out with Dave for a few hours before hand which was awesome. I always walk away from my time with him feeling encouraged and edified.

I spoke that night about being used by Jesus in the moment and how God is not limited by our present circumstances. College students have a tendency to be focused in the future while missing out on the present. I talked about being excited for the future yet not missing out on what God has for you today.

I walked away that night knowing that I could have done a better job articulating my words and honestly was a little discouraged. But then God taught me a lesson. **Its not about me!**

When I got home I got a message from Dave . He had heard from some of the students and they had told him they were really encouraged from the message that night.

I stand confident that the encouragement they had experienced was from the Holy Spirit. It was not about my level of ability that night and really, it never has been. Like I had taught that night, God is not limited by our abilities or circumstances.

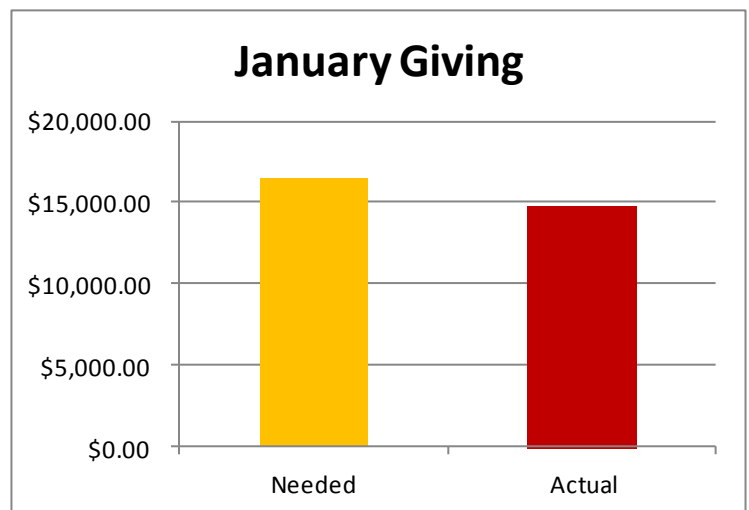
My job that night was not to be funny, witty, smart or charismatic or the best preacher those students had ever heard. My job was to be obedient to what God has called me to. I love preaching and I like to do a good job; however I would not trade a lesson like this for the world. I must depend on Jesus in the calling He has given me. I am blessed and honored to get to do what I do. Thanks to all who have come along side me in this calling.

In the Grace and Peace of Jesus,

Andrew Gorla

Stafford Community Intern Pastor

Giving:



JANUARY NEEDED: \$16,425.00 JANUARY ACTUAL: \$14,696.09

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