

The Pastors Connection

Ministering to Jesus

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Many of us have labored in intercession these past weeks for the immense tragedy unfolding in Haiti. We have discerned ways we can help financially. We struggle with feeling inadequate. We know God has called us to joyfully live Christ’s story to benefit others. We know that Jesus has commissioned believers as His current hands and feet. We know the needs are immense.

Beyond these truths, part of what motivates me is the above quoted text. Many evangelicals state that people get into heaven by right belief. But Jesus addresses the question by declaring that actions of compassion are the defining distinctive. Providing food, shelter, and water to desperate people is a direct touching of Christ’s body. What an amazing opportunity we have daily to minister to our Lord!

I am grateful to be a participant in a multiplying response of generosity. We also know that fraud is prevalent in our society. So we must be wise. A recent article suggested the best way to be certain our dollars have maximum impact is to avoid giving based on emotion. It encouraged giving to ministries with a proven track record on the ground.

For your Church Council (and for Cindy and I) that means Mennonite Central Committee (www.mcc.org). As such Council took action approving the use of offering envelopes to support the rebuilding of Haiti. If you wish to participate, simply designate your gift “Haiti – MCC”. We are also collecting ingredients for relief kits. Papers are on the tables at the back of our sanctuary. We will coordinate delivery to MCC.

There are many other excellent organizations. I simply encourage you to do your research, make it a matter of prayer, and then give as the Spirit of God directs you!

Earlier this week I had the privilege of spending three days on the Eastern Mennonite University campus. Three hundred other pastors and church workers gathered to hear Gregory Boyd preach on the kingdom of God. I was deeply challenged and inspired. Worship was anointed. Fellowship was rich. And response to Haiti was close in our prayers and in our challenge to one another.

The reality of God using our daily faithfulness to minister to Christ; and the reality of being part of a world-wide kingdom of Jesus sustains me. I pray you too are experiencing the joy of fellowship expressed in generosity.

Joyfully living Christ’s story with you, Pastor Bob