

Chapter 13

When It Is All About Him

Several things came together a few weekends ago that reminded me why we are doing what we do; why we are really here and the purpose we serve. There should be no separation of life in Christ from Sunday or Thursday; no separation of life between mowing the lawn or serving at the soup kitchen; no separation between our vocational work and that of serving at church. This is only true 'when it is all about Him'.

Alone with 900 church phone numbers, Susan calls to share the good news of the Courtyard. One could get discouraged if it were not a purpose set for the Lord. Day by day she whittles away at the list; messages left, and she e-mails information with some replies.

["Thank you for thinking of us. I've printed copies for both our High School Minister as well as our College Minister so they can get the word out about this new \(much needed\) facility. Thanks for serving Him,"](#)

["We will post and make available your info. What a great looking place!"](#)

["We have a large number of kids attending OSU. Those who can't get in the "Christian" dorms are doomed to life in the unsupervised world of general dorms. Thank you so much for this alternative. Our kids have a good foundation, but being surrounded by the lives of non-Christians can certainly be full of pressure. May God richly bless your ministry there. B."](#)

Andrew, Cambrie, and others were grateful that Susan had taken the time to let them know of this new opportunity.

Friday a couple was on their knees much of the day for the Lord. Kim cleaned and re-cleaned the dirty kitchen cabinets; Paul worked on flooring and masked several rooms for painting. Together they dream of what the Coffee Shop can be with the look, feel and facilities to reach people for Christ. Paul has done many trips to repair broken lives and homes in Biloxi after Katrina; now he is laying his expert hands on repairing broken lives by providing a place that draws them in to Jesus. We will do this if the resources are available.

A group of ten volunteers came on a Saturday and we put down 25 gallons of paint in the inside of the Courtyard; only two were professional painters. A couple and their son came down from Horizon Community Church in Tualatin and put up new window coverings and went through the rest of the 20,000 sq. feet and repaired all the other window treatments for a day long gift to the Lord. Peggy came down from SouthLake FourSquare and stripped off the grease and grime of years from the Wolf range and another couple brought us a Bunn coffee machine and water cooler. John Mark at The Way reminded me of this very thing, that we so often consider verses 8 and 9 but forget the crescendo of verse 10 our purpose for being on this earth.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph 2:8-10 NIV

Bobby Guido wrote and e-mailed me some great psalms and out of *Unusual Time Unusual Measures* there was this one line that struck me so deeply, “**People are sick and tired of working so hard, to obtain things of no real worth**”. Everyone who has come to the Courtyard and especially our Courtyard Director, Chris Zauner, has worked hard, but at the end of the day, ‘when it is all about Him’, we feel strangely satisfied because it was not about us, but Him. Maybe you have never felt this way; blisters, cuts, bruises for the Lord; dirty, exhausted, sweating to the point of dehydration, white with paint in your hair and pores; but verse ten says *we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance.*

One of the memory verses from my stack of cards reminds me there should be no separation in our lives if we have died and our lives are hidden with Christ in God. *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Col 3:1-4 NIV*

Relevance and the Courtyard are all about Him. Every plant that is pruned, crack that is filled, drawer that is cleaned, carpet that is vacuumed is all about Him. We already have had the opportunity to share Christ with every person that ‘comes and sees’ and for those who lay a hand on the work that is being done here walk away with great accomplishment that they are *God’s workmanship* and have done *good works*. It is a fulfillment that others can’t understand until they experience it.

We are most grateful for those who come and lay hands on the Courtyard and for those how have sent funds to make those things happen. September 17th students had arrived to the Lord’s house, one not as grand by any means as the one He is preparing for us, but yet one we are not ashamed that we prepared in His name.

Our prayers continue to go out for the remaining residents to apply to live at the Courtyard we have 12 of the 42; for the necessary funds to pay off the \$250,000 bridge loan, but we praise the Lord for Chef Stephanie who cooks with love, and for Chris, the Director who cares so deeply about the residents. Thank you for your continued lifting of these needs to the Lord. It is only when our faith is tried, stretched and put in the furnace of proofing that it grows, is resolved and steadfast for the next step we take. If you find yourself with little faith, step out and do something that requires God’s supernatural power to accomplish it; otherwise, if you are doing it in your own power, what do you need faith for?

Relevance – the Courtyard ‘Where Life Is Found’