

Hidden Opportunity

While the world seeks easy answers for difficult problems or tries to escape them altogether through mindless entertainment or illicit behavior the people of God are called to face life head on and accept problems in life as God's invitation to discover hidden opportunities. Seems as though God wraps up our breakthroughs in life within difficulties and obstacles and whether we discover these hidden opportunities depend largely on our attitude regarding our trouble and our faith regarding God.

Trouble comes to us all both saved and unsaved, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak. We are born into sin and into a world full of sin and all of us will die a physical death because of it sooner or later. So in this life we are born to die and hampered by problems between these two events. Some people believe that by becoming a Christian it will cause us to live above the world's problems. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Sometimes we experience even greater problems as a result of our faith. The Bible promises problems to all men, "Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward." Job 5:7 and especially those who believe in Jesus and seek to live for him according to the same Bible in 2 Timothy 3:12 "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

The difference between those who gain victories in their troubles and those who fall in defeat is not what is happening to them but what is happening in them. You see our faith is based on the Son of God Jesus Christ being crucified on the cross for our sins and then overcoming death hell and the grave for us by being raised back to life by his Father never to die again. In short death and hell have no power over Jesus Christ and those who believe and trust in him. It never ceases to amaze me that the cross, an instrument of death is, for all of us who believe the pathway of life. When we are born again the Spirit of God resides in us. We have passed from death to life. We have the very life of God in us available to us when we face the problems and hardships of life.

The fact of the matter is we are faced with death all the time. In the last year of my life I have been faced with two situations that to me were death. One was the sudden death of my mother and the other was watching the finances of our ministry bottom out to the point of absolute failure. When my mom died I began to look at my own life with its failures and limitations. Sudden loss of a loved one brings personal vulnerability because the loss is both permanent and irreplaceable. However, during this experience I began to sense a nearness of God and somehow sensed that God wanted me to go on and make changes in my life and begin to grow again. Amazingly in my fifties I am rediscovering my youth. Life is fun! The life we have from God is everlasting.

Like the stock market we lost about \$ 80,000.00 of our yearly operating capital for our ministry in a matter of weeks. We were faced with difficult

choices. When you lose that much doubt begins to creep in and you begin to think thoughts like, "Are we doing the right thing?" "What could we be doing wrong?" I think all of the leadership had some doubt. But when the pain of the loss subsided and the emotional smoke cleared God seemed to emphasize to us that "Hey this is happening to lots of people not just you. But if you trust in me and make the right decision regarding this situation it will set you apart for my glory." So with prayer and over and against the circumstances we decided to double the number of kids we reach on a monthly basis by doubling the number of sites we minister in and splitting the ministry to a bi-weekly schedule across the board. Since that time we have managed by selling off some unused assets to totally free our ministry of \$12,000.00 of credit card debt rendering us totally debt free. We have made our minds up never to use credit cards again and to remain debt free.

You see through my mother's death there was an opportunity for me to grow closer to God and make a new commitment of excellence and through the financial loss there was an opportunity to double the number of kids in our ministry and to get debt free for the first time in fifteen years. **See in the death of some things we find life and the loss of some things we find new opportunity to grow, change and excel.**

This reminds me of the famous inventor Thomas Edison who was awakened one night by his housemaid. "Mr. Edison your laboratory is on fire please come hurry!" Edison getting up out of bed and putting on his clothes looked out the window and saw the flames leaping up behind the building. Going down to the scene of the fire he grabbed a chair and a drawing pad and sat down. Curious onlookers asked him, "What are you doing? Don't you care that you life's work is all going up in smoke?" Looking up he calmly replied, "I can't do anything about that but by the light of this fire I can spend my time making plans for my new laboratory."

We all know that Edison later invented the incandescent light bulb in his new laboratory. The world would be a dark place without that bulb. It was up to one man who by the grace of God found his greatest opportunity in one of his greatest life challenges and that opportunity led to lighting the world. Just think what our Savior who is the true light of the world did for us on the cross. In what the world saw as a horrendous failure Jesus saw as an eternal victory freeing us from death hell and destruction. Every problem and trial in our lives can be an opportunity for God to show up and show off his great and wonderful provision. May God grant us the grace to see light in every darkness and an opportunity wrapped up in every problem.

Pastor Scott

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Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19: 13-14. NIV.



Vacation Time

Saturday May 22 will be our last meetings for the Spring Semester 2010. What wonderful winter and spring it has been. We will be saying goodbye to Amanda Hanks who successfully completed a one year internship with us. What an amazing lady who took an entire year with us after quitting her job a year ago. She has done a super job here and will be missed. We know God has great plans for her as she will be a wonderful asset and witness for Christ in her community and local church and wherever God sends her. We will also be saying goodbye to Vincent and Jessica Bouchard who will be launching out into their own ministry doing traveling and evangelistic work in small towns and suburbs. We also pray for them and believe wherever they go they will be a great blessing to the Kingdom of God.

We will be welcoming new staff and interns this summer as we take some time to rest, pray and seek God’s face for the coming new semester in which we will add six new ministry sites in Houston’s inner-city and expand the middle school “Somethin’ Good in the Hood “ ministry. Also, we will receive a donated late model school bus from a ministry in Minneapolis Minnesota that will be stuffed with toys, snacks, drinks and other things for the kids of Houston’s inner-city.

Vacation Bible Schools will kick off in the last week of June as we welcome YWAM Youth with a Mission and CEF Child Evangelism Fellowship workers who will come to our City and begin working with our kids in the Projects. We believe it is important for our kids to remain involved with the Word of God and continue to learn and be trained in the ways of God and to actively share their faith with others.

Please continue to pray for our staff and for the finances of this expanding ministry. We really believe that God wants us to reach up to 20,000 kids on a monthly basis here in the City of Houston and beyond with our partners in other cities like Toledo, Ohio. Have a wonderful summer. God bless you.

Pastor Scott

Senior Pastor: Scott Binkley Administrative Director: Gilda Duncan



Intern Positions Available

If you would like to be trained in one of America’s most challenging inner-city ministries then this is the opportunity for you. This is a dynamic way to get street level experience in using the gifts God has given you to reach the lost, the hurting, the homeless and fatherless of America’s fourth largest City. We have 5 and 12 month terms available. Housing is provided. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Jessica in our office.

“We believe that every child has the right to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to see that Gospel demonstrated in the life of at least one, sincere, born-again believer.”

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FROM THE **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER**

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