



RESTORATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

August 1, 2019

The Power of a Soda

by Tom Adams

It began with a simple soda and grew into something special. Someone asked Wayne to buy them a cold soda during a Wednesday Lunch Outreach several months ago. Out of kindness, Wayne purchased a cold drink for that person. It did not take long for Wayne to become known as the “soda man” at our outreaches. Because of his relationship with Tina, who owns the coffee shop inside the MLK Library, Wayne asked if he could meet with a couple people after outreaches inside the coffee shop. This is how an informal discipleship group began with 3-5 of the individuals who participate in our weekly lunch program outside the library. Some weeks there was deep discussion and times of individual and group prayer; other weeks it was just about getting to know one another’s stories. One of the regular members of this group, Gregory, took what he was learning to heart and expressed an interest in regularly attending church. Another asked us to provide a specific bible that would help him connect with Jesus on a deeper level. It seemed that the Lord was moving on people’s hearts, which was an answer to our prayer of making disciples for Christ.



Wayne, Tom and WLO Friends

Gregory was growing in the Lord and began volunteering to help hand out lunches most weeks at our outreaches. He is now working regularly and has independently begun reaching out to neighbors to share what he has learned. For us, and Wayne in particular, this brings great joy, seeing what God is doing in Gregory’s life. This is the love of Christ in action. One of the concepts that has been key to Gregory’s development in the Lord is sowing and reaping. Wayne has used this concept with several of the guys in the group and witnessed a genuine desire to bless others grow within each participant. He stresses the importance of praying over the seeds you are planting and giving them away in a true spirit of generosity. In Gregory’s case, this has paid huge dividends as he has flourished personally in his walk with God and in how he is interacting with others.

I am extremely grateful for the volunteers God has chosen to be part of our Wednesday Lunch Outreach ministry. Each one has unique gifts and the desire to use these gifts to bless others. Together, it is a beautiful blending of hearts that seek to make Christ known through relationships of understanding and trust. We are confident that the Lord will continue to call others to be part of this discipling and mentoring group. In fact, several new guys asked to meet with us to talk and pray at our last outreach. This was really encouraging given the fact that several of our regular members have recently not been available to participate due to illness and other circumstances. God always has good plans to prosper us and not harm us, so that our futures are filled with hope. Please pray for those that he is calling to volunteer for this ministry and those we have the privilege of serving. We give God all the glory for what he is doing on Wednesdays at MLK Library and beyond.

God’s Plans are Not Our Plans

by Kent Scroggs

A little less than a year ago, we learned that the Boys and Girls Club, across the street from ROP, was moving out and selling its building. Immediately, we started dreaming about what the addition of this building could mean to ROP’s ministry and our community. The dreaming was accompanied by a lot of prayer. One central prayer was – “Lord, if you want this building to be a blessing to our ministry and community, please help us find the resources needed to buy it.” We believed our responsibility was to give God room to work by getting the word out about this opportunity as best we could. So that’s what we did, and we thank God for all those who responded, including a commitment of \$300k (albeit with some significant but appropriate contingencies). But even with that commitment, we were still far below the almost \$1.5 million asking price for the building.

Things got more interesting back in March when we learned that “a church” was getting ready to submit an offer to purchase the building (aka the 1523 Boston building). After consulting with ROP’s Board and advisors, we submitted an offer of \$1.1 million, contingent upon our ability to raise a significant part of that purchase price over the next 90 days. I will not bore you with any more

of the details. The bottom line is that the church's offer of \$1.4 million was eventually accepted, and they started moving into the building a little over a month ago.

Shortly thereafter, I noticed a gathering of people in front of the 1523 Boston building. So, I went over to welcome them and introduce myself. Turns out it was their first Sunday worship in the building. After telling them a little about ROP and the services we offer, I took the liberty of asking what their plans were for the gymnasium. They answered that they planned to use a large room in the south half of the building for worship and they had no plans for the gymnasium and were wondering what to do with it. Ding! It was at this point that I began to think that God might be working something out for that gymnasium to be a blessing to the children of our community without ROP having to buy the entire building. How cool would that be!

God's fingerprints on this situation became even a little more visible at last week's Pastors' Prayer Breakfast. When I asked for prayer for ROP's relationship with the new church (Christ Vision Ministries International or CVMI) and a possible partnership which would make the gymnasium and perhaps other parts of the building available for the benefit of the people of our community, one of the pastors advised that he was friends with the pastor. He went on to say he was eager to arrange a meeting with the pastor and me. I do not want to get ahead of the Holy Spirit on this, but if that meeting goes well (and I expect it will), I anticipate we will soon be discussing a win-win arrangement where CVMI might make some space available for youth activities and adult programs in exchange for some needed financial resources (aka rent).

Please pray that, God willing, a good and mutually beneficial arrangement will be negotiated. Thanks!



Gymnasium Across the Street

Traveling through the Gospels by Story-telling

by Rick Randall

At ROP we've taken some workshops in "orality". This is a technique being used in missions to unreached peoples, but it is also ideal for getting the Bible to folks in America who would rather watch a movie than read a book. Do you know anyone like that? It incorporates inductive Bible study, narrative memorization (as opposed to rote memorization) and lots of response from the hearers to bring rich ownership of God's Word. We are doing this in our Sparks class, using the stories of Jesus from the gospels (primarily Mark). It's been a year of Bible immersion for the kids:

- An adult volunteer tells the story, accurate to the text with no additions or omissions, but in simple, conversational language.
- A question tied to the content of the stories is thrown out for the kids, they answer it
- Another volunteer tells the story again, another question is tendered
- One of the leaders steps the kids through the story, feeding them a little and asking them to fill in the blanks. The kids shout out the answers. More questions about the content come
- A few kids solo and tell the entire story from memory in front of the others
- Then we direct the kids as they act the story out.



Rick and "Orality" - Engaging Sparks Kids in Learning about Jesus

We traveled from Jesus' baptism, slowly through his miracles and interactions with people, to the cross and the empty tomb. After weeks of being in the stories, we would ask our students to tell about us about the wonderful things Jesus has done, and they would say, "He fed 5000 with two fish and five loaves of bread! He stopped the storm! He made the dead girl alive! He made the paralyzed guy walk!" And most of all, from the weeks we spent on the cross and the resurrection, "He died for us and rose again". When discussing John 3:16, we asked why God doesn't want people to perish. One of our Burmese girls in third grade looked at the teacher who had asked the question and said, "Because that would waste His creation." Good answer :-).

For anyone interested in learning more about Orality, here are two links you can check out:

- <https://orality.net/content/orality-in-america/>
- <https://www.imb.org/2018/02/13/i-like-to-learn-not-to-read-orality-and-missions/>

Please also feel free to reach out me by email at storyteller.randall@psmail.net

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 21st - Pedal 4A Purpose 2019 - Register or Donate at www.Pedal4APurpose.com