Dear Lexie,

Change the World

It has not been all that long since I had the privilege of joining our Sligo church family. It was EXACTLY two years ago, on November 14, 2011, that I was interviewed by our church board. As Cindy and I were waiting in the sanctuary, and we did wait for quite a while, one of the two banners that hang from the ceiling above our screens caught my attention:

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The Wonder of Worship

The Secret to Intimacy
This past October, my husband and I celebrated twenty-three years of marriage. This anniversary was a milestone that brought back wonderful memories...

Get your holiday photos/cards
At our Sligo Barn Party

Part of our Festival of Praise Celebration this year will be an evening barn party on Saturday Nov. 23 at 7:00 PM. The friends* you bring will receive free Holiday Cards with their photos!

Festival of Praise!
Bring Family and Friends

Few services at Sligo are as joyous as our annual Festival of Praise and this is year we've stepped up a notch. We have a special programs all day long and we want you to invite your family and friends!

Missed Last Week's Sermon?
Watch Live or OnDemand:
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It has not been all that long since I had the privilege of joining our Sligo church family. It was EXACTLY two years ago, on November 14, 2011, that I was interviewed by our church board. As Cindy and I were waiting in the sanctuary, and we did wait for quite a while, one of the two banners that hang from the ceiling above our screens caught my attention:

“We seek to grow passionate disciples of Jesus through worship of God, nurture of one another, and outreach to the world.”

This is our mission statement and I was greatly encouraged by it. I believe in it and I pray that as a church we will accomplish this mission. Every aspect of this mission statement is of vital importance to the ministry of our church. As a church we seek to grow passionate disciples of Jesus, and it all starts with following Jesus. In Mark 1:16, 17 we read:

“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

When Jesus called Simon and Andrew He was very clear about what He wanted them to do: He invited them to follow Him and in turn He would send them our and make them fishers of men. As a matter of fact, time after time we see this pattern repeated in Jesus’ ministry. He would call, “come to me” and then, “go for me”. This pattern is repeated with the disciples, the demon possessed man (Mark 5), the Samaritan woman (John 4), and on resurrection morning (Matthew 28), just to name a few instances.

The act of sharing is extremely intuitive. When something great happens to us we want to share it with others. This is largely what social media is all about. We love to share. And most of what we share is experiences or things that we find interesting. We share things that make us happy; we share videos that make us laugh; we sometimes even share things that are really not worth sharing at all! We can easily become engaged on various topics – from sports to politics, economy to entertainment, but when it comes to sharing our faith things come to a screeching halt. As I was driving home last Saturday evening, I was able to catch the tail end of a sermon by Randy Roberts. In his conclusion, he read a quote that says:

“A kind of arithmetic has been spawned in the counting rooms of hell. This arithmetic is always interested in reaching the masses but somehow never gets down to a man or a woman. This kind of arithmetic always talks about winning the world for God but doesn’t think much about winning a neighbor to God, It makes it valiant to cross the oceans but never crosses the street.

If we want to reach the world for Jesus we must start with the here and now. The biggest mission field we will ever find is right where we are, where we live, where we work, where we go to school. What Jesus told the disciples He is telling us today: Come, Follow Me and Go for Me. Here are four easy steps we can take to make that a reality:

1. Make your own decision to follow Him, know Him, let Him transform you.
2. Choose one person to pray for. A family member, co-worker, neighbor, a friend or school mate. Pray everyday for them. Pray for them to be sensitive to work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Pray for God to create an opportunity for you to share with them what He has done for you and in you.
4. When the opportunity comes, seize the moment and let God work through you.

This is how we can really change the world, one person at a time. May we all hear and heed His invitation: “Follow Me and Go for Me”.

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This past October, my husband and I celebrated twenty-three years of marriage. This anniversary was a milestone that brought back wonderful memories. You see, we met on a blind date, a well organized blind date. We are happy to be numbered with the few people who didn’t experience a blind date horror story. We were introduced by my college girlfriend and her fiancé, who is my husband’s cousin. They were our closest friends and they knew us both very well. Although I was a bit nervous, I agreed to the date because I trusted my girlfriend and I must admit I had grown tired of being single.

To guarantee our date resulted in a love relationship, they painstakingly planned all the details. This required months of preplanning. First they provided us with pictures and some general information about each other. Then they introduced us by phone. Next they arranged a special day, time and place for us to meet. Finally to make sure we were completely at ease, we met in a group that included both family and friends. It was love at first sight. Our date was delightful and we have adored each other ever since. Remembering our first date and recreating its romantic atmosphere has become one of the secrets to intimacy in our relationship.

I can’t help but see parallels between our love story and the love story of God giving the Children of Israel His Ten Commandments. After three months of travel from Egypt, the Israelites came to the Sinai wilderness. They had been isolated as slaves in Egypt and were unable to worship the One True God. When the Israelites arrived in the wilderness, God told Moses they would be His special treasure above all people on Earth (Ex. 19:1-6). God also told Moses that He wanted a date to meet with Israel so they needed to consecrate themselves, wear clean clothes and get ready to see Him (vs.13-14). God set the atmosphere for this special date. There was music, mist, fire light and plenty of sound effects (vs.16-19). God was planning to impress them with a love relationship that would last for eternity.

Through the Ten Commandments God introduced Himself (Ex. 20:1-2). He made it clear up front that for this relationship to work there would be no other suitors and if so He would get jealous (Ex. 20:3-6). God made sure He would not be taken for granted (Ex. 20:7). He selected the special day, time and place that He would meet with the Israelites. He determined the activities on this date and He asked them to always remember the special relationship they would experience on that day (Ex. 20:8-11). Then God included both family and neighborhood friends to make sure the Israelites knew that everyone could share in their special love relationship (Ex. 20:12-17).

The Ten Commandments is a love letter from God (Matt. 22:37-40). It is not a set of static rules and regulations, but Jesus Christ wooing us to worship and adore Him. The secret to intimacy lies in the heart of these ten principles. The Holy Spirit’s presence will dwell within us only when God’s Commandments become our eternal love song.
Festival of Praise Registration

Please register today to receive a special gift!

We look forward to seeing you!!

Name *

Email *

Phone *

How did you hear about our Festival of Praise?

We just would like to know how you found out of this event.

Will you be coming alone or with family and friends?

- It's just me
- I'm bringing some people along

Submit

All activities will be held at:

Find a Home of Hope

At Hope for Today, we believe building relationships is a great way in growing spirituality. We encourage you to get connected in one of our fellowship groups.

From the Blog

Faith-based Optimism

A couple of months ago a post by a friend, Chris Daley, was published on our blog titled, “Can We ...∞