

The MK Connection

Volume 5, Issue 1, October 2004

Extreme Makeover!

A word from the Director, Perry Bradford

Points of Interest

Winter MK Retreats:

Snow Camp - MI
January 14 - 16

New York
February 11 - 13

Twin Cities
February 11 - 13

For details of these retreats, go to www.mukappa.org

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Have you ever seen the TV series "Extreme Makeover"? It is a program where people can send in a video of themselves that shows areas of their face or body that they feel need to be made over. Seems like there are more and more TV shows with this type of theme. Have you ever asked yourself the question, "Do I need a makeover?" Not physically, but emotionally and spiritually speaking.

I have recently begun to ask myself that question and I'm finding that if we are all honest with ourselves, there is usually something that needs working on in our lives. Areas that need to be "madeover" in order to conform to the image of the Lord Jesus.

In Luke 14:25 - 35, we find a passage of scripture that Jesus used to help people look at the process involved in being made over. Jesus is speaking to a crowd of people and He turns to them and addresses the need to count the cost of being a true follower of Christ. He lays out the cost involved in following after Him. The cost relates to our relationships, our possessions and our own lives. The teaching of Jesus is pretty direct. He basically speaks to the crowd and confronts them with the question, "Are you a disciple or are you just part of the crowd?"

As I've been thinking and studying the passage, I have come to realize how easy it is for people who are involved in ministry and even MKs who have been in ministry families to get "comfortable" in our discipleship.

We can sometimes just blend into the crowd and forget that what Jesus calls us to is to be totally sold out to Him. In verses 26 - 27 He says, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters...yes, even his own life...he cannot be my disciple." Does that mean that I must "hate" my family in order to follow Jesus? I don't think so...but I do think what Jesus is trying to say here is that as much as we can love our families, we must love Him more. Jesus is

emphasizing that love for Christ must be so great that all other loves are "hatred" by comparison. WOW! That is a lot of love!!

The question we have to begin to ask ourselves is are we willing to count the cost and still follow Christ? Billy Graham said, "Salvation is

free, but discipleship costs everything we have." That is the teaching of Luke 14 as well. So where are you right now in your "spiritual journey"? Are you counting the cost to be a follower of Christ? Are you willing to step out of the crowd and be counted for the cause of Christ? Do you recognize that there may be areas of your life that need an "Extreme Makeover?"

If you are doubting your relationship with Christ, let me remind you of the cost that Jesus paid on our behalf. See it cost God the life of His Son and what has cost God much cannot be cheaper for us. God's grace is costly...but the benefits are out of this world. I trust you are not just part of the crowd, but a true follower of Christ.

"Are you a disciple or just part of the crowd?"

You Know
You're
An
MK
When?

...You speak
two languages
but can't spell
either!

...You have a
passport but
no driver's
license.

...National
Geographic
makes you
home sick.

...You think in
grams, meters
and liters.

...You have a
time zone map
next to your
telephone.

...You know
the difference
between
patriotism and
nationalism.

...You would
rather have a
Land Rover
than a Lexus.

MK Reflections

Far from my fatherland I've dwelt.
I went there when my parents felt.
That other nations we should reach,
To them the gospel we should preach.

Thus several cultures I have known,
And parts of each are now my own.
I speak in more than just one tongue;
A few I learned while I was young.

Though different lands I could call home,
And sometimes it's wherever I roam.
Still, home can everywhere seem far,
Except where other pilgrims are.

To my faithful heroes I relate,
And them I seek to imitate.
For they were strangers in this place;
In hope of heaven they ran the race.

Ah, friends throughout the world I've
made,
But their goodbyes on me have
weighed.
Now often I just hope and pray,
That some close friends near me can
stay.

Thus there is loss, yet more is gained,
For many memories are retained.
And, unlike many things we reap,
Our memories we long can keep.

What lies ahead I do not know;
To new frontiers I still may go.
Yet always I will heed the call,
Of Him to whom I owe my all.

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So are you feeling lonely?

Loneliness is one of life's most painful feelings. It's one of the areas you need to learn to deal with early in life because you will face occasional periods of loneliness throughout your lifetime.

Remember the last time you were in a group of people where everyone seemed to know each other, but no one knew you? You can be in a crowded room and still feel all alone. You can even be in a room filled with friends and feel lonely! Loneliness has little to do with how many people you're with at the time. Loneliness strikes in many ways. There is social loneliness, which pertains to relationships with others. There is financial loneliness, where you may be under monetary pressures no one else knows about. There is spiritual loneliness, where you can be with a group of non-Christians yet feel lonely because you have no spiritual friendship. There is professional loneliness, where you are with people who do not understand your business.

As long as you remember you have family, friends, and people who love you, you're not as likely to feel lonely. Whenever you begin to feel lonely, make a list of such people. Even if they are far away, you'll feel a lot less lonely...even if you are still alone. We should remember that God is always with us. Ultimately, we are never truly alone. Jesus reminds us, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Dealing with loneliness is a big part of growing up and also the transition experience. As the old high school group splits up to go to college, get married, start jobs and so forth, you'll have to cope with frequent loneliness. People who don't learn to deal with loneliness can have miserable lives as adults. Make the most of your relationships. Learn to depend on God when no one else is around.

Try this: Draw a picture of large heart, Divide your heart into a number of pieces, like a puzzle. (Be creative!) Now for each piece of your heart, put someone's name that has impacted your life and fill up your puzzle. Draw in a few new pieces, so that you can seek to find new relationships to fill the new spaces.