

Modeling the Way
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Modeling the way

Stories are very powerful.

When it rains in Southern California...

Joni and Skip were at Pasadena for two weeks while he did DMin.

Heidi and Trent (7 and 5)

Living in Oregon: went to Disneyland.

Daughter was thrilled to go to Disneyland

One day when the family could go to Disneyland.

Forecasting rain: That morning it was pouring down rain.

They got in the car, kind of smiling, but worried.

No cars in the parking lot.

Pull up close and could see the entry gates.

Little Heidi and Trent were very discouraged.

I've got an idea, let's join hands and run in as fast as we can.

We ran into the Emporium: we bought these little rain parkas.

We never had so much fun as we had that day.

There was no line that day!

After we went to "It's A Small World After All."

Do you know what made the difference?

We made a decision that as family we're not going to let the rain spoil it.

There is something about modeling the way in a positive attitude.

To maintain a positive attitude in spite of the difficulty.

This world has challenges.

Let's bring it closer home to the church.

Do any of you know Dan Harvey?

A very simple person—he's not comfortable in a tie. He does not put on airs.

He has been an industrial arts teacher in Taiwan and Guatemala.

60 years old now.

I was in NY with the wife of one of our excellent Spanish pastors?

Would it be all right if my father called you about a church plant?

Hi, I'm Dan Harvey...exchanged small talk for a while.

My wife and I want to plant a church, if we came over to visit with you about it?

Sure, Dan said, "Love to meet you."

I would love to just start a church from scratch and then, we'll be at a place where we can gather people in a worship service.

We talked together about his vision (Dan Harvey).

Well, there was in Rochester, NY a need for a church in Henrietta (wealthy area).

This is where the Borders' books and Starbucks are.

Upper class community.

There are about 100,000 people in that area. There's no church there.

So, Dan comes over 6 months down the road. At this time he had worked with an auto repair business in Berrien Springs.

He gets a job worker for International Harvester company half-time.

Just supporting themselves, but their love is for the Lord and planting a church.

They start going door-to-door, just the two of them.

He found another couple in the area from SDA and they met on a week night, praying about what they were doing.

We're new in the community and would like to find more people who would like to know more about Jesus.

Wow, this is pretty amazing!

Skip calls Dan Harvey and says, "Dan, let me come over!"

One afternoon he is probably 4-6 months into his project, and Skip offered to join Dan in door-to-door work, looking for interests.

A lot easier to go to conference committee then deal with the realities in the church.

Hard work---go for an hour and not meet a friendly face.

They get back in the car and Skip says, "I pray and I give thanks for you---what keeps you going?"

I'll tell you a story...

He'd been in the military and operated one of those patrol boats that dropped charges in the water.

He was out on drills, not in action

Captain was out on the bridge overlooking things and saw a seaman by the place where the mechanical device were being pushed into the water.

The first person there to help was the captain.

I learned right then that if we're going to ask people to do something, we've got to be willing to do it ourselves.

Dan said, for the rest of my experience, we did our work with joy.

There's a lot of truth in that very real, simple experience.

Dan said, "If I'm going to establish a church, I've got to be doing it, not just talking about it."

This essential of modeling the way.

You can't ask folks to devote their lives to Jesus and hold back from giving yourself.

How do the people we serve discern our values?

Do they know it from our preaching, our teaching, etc.?

But they know it from some very practical ways: how I spent my time and what I do.

If I say there is no cause more important in the world than the service of Jesus. We should devote our all to His church—if I don't do that in the way I use my time—then I'm not modeling the way.

Also, if I support the family, then I must live it and demonstrate it. People want to know how I really spend my time.

It's one of the reasons to share with the church how I spend my time and the blocks of time – what I do.

In critical incidents—stressful and change times.

It is easy to lay out a way of acting, but when something comes along that is unplanned--- that bespeaks of character.

Skip taught his daughter to drive—Plymouth Caravan.

A nice van—LE—nicely equipped.

I didn't want a mark on that van. Daughter was 15 and building up confidence in driving. They would go out driving around the country.

Heidi got the word from Dad about backing out the car from the driveway.

Skip wants his daughter to know that he trusts her.

Approaching an intersection, a mustang is coming, no stop sign.

Hot mustang is driven by a teenager also.

“Brakes!” And she slams on the brakes.

“You didn't trust me, did you Dad?”

An anxious father revealed at the critical incident.

In the stories you tell...people know what you value by the stories you share.

That reveals to people what you value—they are powerful—they hear about you in those stories.

I love to tell stories about my fishing experience and other items.

You model the way thru what you reward.

If your rewarding folks for what you want done, then you might feel that you use people.

If you give out trophies for ingathering—then folks understand that that is what you value.

Whatever you reward, that is going to model the way.

When I left NY they had a storefront church with a group of 30.

Only 4 of them that were original SDA's.

Dan's vision was not to create some big model or huge church.

4 key ways to model the way:

In how you spend your time
In critical incidents
The stories you tell
In what you reward

Father Damien...most incredible human beings to walk the face of this earth.

Jan.3, 1840, birthday of Joseph Duvuster, in Tremolo, Belgium.

Joseph was a son of the farmer.

Joseph's brother was assigned to south Sea island.

Ordained as a priest: May 24, 1864—went to Honolulu.

Of all the districts he visited on the islands, Molokai Leper colony most affected him.

A boat dropped off folks/lepers at a reef in the water to be thrown overboard.

Along with a cage that contained them and a barrel and a box of their possessions.

If any of the lepers tried to get back on board, the crew would shoot them.

On May 10, 1873, Father Damien, arrived at the settlement of about 600 lepers with permission from the bishop.

Served those 600 lepers.

Before: the leper colony lived where there were little food. They acted like animals fighting over clothing and food.

Damien took up the use of tobacco to mask the stench.

After storm, moved the colony to a better location.

He worked to make the colony more civilized.

The greatest want here was a spiritual leader.

Women and children were often cast out because of the disease.

So many dying people, my priestly people gave me opportunity to visit them at the domicile.

His ministry as a priest sloughed off in visitation to the patients.

Charity to the needy, sympathy for the suffering, kindness to all, etc. – modeling the way.

My labors here have been greatly crowned with success.

The turning point: when his ministry transformed this place into a Christian community.

For many years he was the only person caring for the lepers as a medical person.

Held them, hugging them.

Helped them with pipe system for fresh water.

In 1882 Father Damien began one of his sermons in a way that he had never addressed them before.

He spoke one day: We lepers.

7 years later he too died of the disease.

Now that's modeling the way.

The greatest leader, Jesus, took our leprosy upon Himself.

Now, that's modeling the way.

You also become imitators of us and our Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 1 Thes 1:6,7

“A Parish of Lepers” go online

Movie is called, “Molokai”