

QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Tuesday 6/24/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD

Greeting:

I begin and end my work day almost the same every day. As most of you know, Crosswater Community Church is in the process of relocating. We are building an entire new facility in Ponce Vedra, FL. We expect to move in during the month of December. We are at the point in the building process where things are happening fast and furious every day. So every morning on my way into the church office I stop by the job site around 7:30 am or so. The crews have been there for about 30 minutes and are just getting going with the day's tasks. I generally meet with our builder and walk the property and see what has happened and make decisions or take actions that need to be taken that day. Then I head on into the office. Some days my morning quiet times are late because some major issue happens on the job site that takes an inordinate amount of time to resolve. Then every evening around 6 pm or so, on my way home or to an evening meeting I have for the church, I stop by and see what they actually did during that day. I try to make it a point to get to know the sub contractors and let them know who I am. This past week we had an early morning breakfast for all of our sub contractors. At that meeting I spoke very briefly to them about the importance of what we are doing. I made the statement that what we were doing had very little to do with a building. The building was simply a tool to help us make a difference in people's lives. I told them that what we were doing was leading people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. I mention all of that because this morning as I was walking the job site one of the construction workers pulled me aside and began to tell me his story. I will let him and the company he works for remain nameless. However, he told me of his struggle in the past with an addiction to alcohol. He went on to tell me about his wife leaving him and his whole world falling apart. Financially he had lost a business because of alcohol. Now he was a worker for another company that has a contract on our job. He said that he could not help but remember what I said about our church being here to make a difference in people's lives. At that point, with joy in his eyes, he became to tell me about how Jesus had made such an impact in his life. Jesus had helped him overcome his dependence on alcohol. He said I found out that alcohol was not my problem. I had issues in my life that were eating away at me. I tried to deal with those issues with alcohol. I discovered that Jesus loves me and cares about what happens to me. He has turned my life around. He said it was still a daily struggle but that God was giving him the power to deal with it one day at a time, one dollar at a time, and one issue at a time. What a joy it was to listen to this man tell about the great things Jesus was doing in his life. I guess he and I had one of the very first worship service held on the new church site! He made the statement that he was not sure if a church would welcome him. He had gone to another church on the other side of town when he was struggling but was not sure if he really fit in a church. I assured him that he was totally welcome at Crosswater. I assured him that all of us were simply people in the process of becoming fully devoted followers. He was concerned about what he should wear. I told him that did not matter. I told him that I often teach in blue jeans and have taught in shorts. We focused on the heart and the change that God can make not what we wear on the outside. It was a thrill to hear his story this morning. I can assure you that it

made my day much better. He said that God was at work and and he could even feel it on the project. I thought about him this morning as I read Psalm 105. It says “***Tell everyone you meet what he has done!***”

Scripture for today:

Psalm 105: 1-6 Hallelujah! Thank GOD! Pray to him by name! Tell everyone you meet what he has done! Sing him songs, belt out hymns, translate his wonders into music! Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs, you who seek GOD. Live a happy life! Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence. Remember the world of wonders he has made, his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered— O seed of Abraham, his servant, O child of Jacob, his chosen.

Life Application:

All of us have a story to tell. Many of our stories are unique and different. I guess that is why I love hearing those stories. As a matter of fact, I wish you would write me an e mail and tell me your story. Tell me how God has changed your life. The Bible says “***Tell everyone you meet what he has done!***” I hope you are doing that. You have a story to tell. It may not be dramatic but it is real if Jesus has come into your life and made a change. I like to do what the Psalmist said, “***Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence. Remember the world of wonders he has made, his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered.***” All around us are signs of God’s presence. Those signs are in changed lives. Be on the look out for what God has done and is doing. Perhaps you are a “***miracle***” or a “***verdict he has rendered.***” I know I am. God’s grace in my life still amazes me. I can often tell the people who really realize what god has done in their lives by the way they worship in church. The psalmist says, “***Sing him songs, belt out hymns, translate his wonders into music! Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs, you who seek GOD. Live a happy life!***” The next time you are in church singing, think about the words of the song and what god has done for you. See if it will not change your focus and the way you sing. Belt it out. Be happy! Even if you are still in progress. We all are. However, give thanks to God that you are headed in the right direction and that he is making a difference one step at a time.

Spiritual exercise:

Do you know just how social you are to the Lord? It does not matter what struggles you have had or still have. God specializes in struggling lives. In the Bible mot of he people god used in a great way were people that god helped in a great way. In some ways we are all broken pieces of pottery that Jesus has made whole again. Thank god today for making you whole. Look for someone to tell your story to today. God redeemed you for a reason. Let people know who Jesus is to you and what he has done and is doing in your life. For real write me and tell me your story. I love to hear how god has changed lives.

Thought for the day.

You are, I am, a sign of God’s presence.