

Pastor's Corner – 11-03-2018 – Thoughts from the Past

Next weekend (Friday night and Sabbath afternoon) our church will be going through the Awaken workshop which is the first step in an initiative called the Missional Pathway. The goal of these sessions is to help our church become more focused on ministering to our community and growing the kingdom of God. It begins with our personal efforts (discussed in the first two workshops – Awaken and Activate) and concludes with our corporate efforts (the second two workshops – Assess and Advance). In light of this upcoming event I thought I would reproduce for you a few relevant passages from the pen of Ellen White. Her counsel is very much in line with what we will be doing through the Missional Pathway and I hope that her words will encourage you to sign up for Awaken and join the leaders of the Bismarck Church in taking the mission of Christ seriously. The following is taken from the Ministry of Healing pg 142-143

“We are living in the midst of an “epidemic of crime,” at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?

“And while the world is filled with these evils, the gospel is too often presented in so indifferent a manner as to make but little impression upon the consciences or the lives of men. Everywhere there are hearts crying out for something which they have not. They long for a power that will give them mastery over sin, a power that will deliver them from the bondage of evil, a power that will give health and life and peace. Many who once knew the power of God’s word have dwelt where there is no recognition of God, and they long for the divine presence.

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished. Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

If these thoughts resonate with you and stir within you a desire to see God’s work accomplished, then please sign up for the Awaken workshop. Though this workshop was not designed by a Seventh-day Adventist the goal and processes are fully in harmony with our Adventist mission. There’s no secret theological agenda here, just an honest desire to encourage God’s people to get out and build redemptive relationships with the unchurched men and women that Jesus died to save. We’ve had this exact counsel from Ellen White available for over 100 years, maybe it’s time we do something about it, even if it has to come from a “non-Adventist” source.

To sign up for the Awaken workshop put your name down on the clipboard available in the foyer. Awaken begins Friday, Nov 9 at 6pm and continues throughout Sabbath afternoon, Nov 10.

Happy Sabbath
Pastor Tyler