

# Thought for a Wednesday

June 9, 2010

I confess that I have a burden to share with you today – A burden that I asked God to lay on my heart, which is quite different from the burdens that most of us have in our lives. Most burdens come into our lives due to circumstances, situations, relationships or pressures that are pressing down upon us, **right?** Very rare are burdens that press in on us because we ask for them, and this is where my story begins and what I briefly want to share with you...

The burden that I've asked God for is the city of Saratoga Springs. I've really begun asking God to open my eyes and let me see Saratoga through His eyes – What He sees and what breaks His heart as He looks out over this community. As I pray for God's burden for Saratoga, I'm also praying that He lays that burden on our hearts as a community of faith called New Life Fellowship....

What we know and understand about Christ and His Mission tells us, as the church, what our mission is to be. Christ Himself gave us our marching orders, and based on that mission, we should be structuring ourselves to point in that direction. We say at New Life that one of our core values is that *"lost people matter to God and He wants them found..."* Now, I'm certain that's not a preference, but a principle (from weekend's message) So, I am confident that the mission of God is for every man, woman, and child to have repeated opportunities to both hear and see the gospel of Jesus Christ! A gospel that proclaims reconciliation to the Father provided through Jesus Christ.

See, here's what I believe – I believe we live within a community of people, who largely **do not** have any connection to a local church, let alone **know** what it means to be in a relationship with the God who created them and loves them beyond our ability to comprehend. So, I believe that every man, women, boy and girl in Saratoga deserves to be exposed to multiple opportunities to experience the love of God in tangible ways that not only build bridges of trust, but clearly communicate to them God's love!

And that's what I'm praying about, and asking God to give me the burden for. Whether my neighbor, my children's school, the cashier at Price Chopper, the guys who cut my hair and the complete stranger I bump into on my out of Uncommon Grounds with my morning coffee. That I begin to see the city as God sees this city – A place in **desperate** need of Jesus. And that this burden leads me and us to take action!

Now, I know that Summer is closing in (just 12 days away) and you're thinking about vacations, water sports, backpacking, camping, etc. Listen, I'm looking forward my self to time away with family in July – I'm even counting down days till our vacation begins, so I get it, really, I do!

But I'd like to begin a dialogue with you on this over the Summer, so you can expect me to post some more thoughts along these same lines with ideas, comments and possible solutions. I'd love to hear some of your thoughts on this as well!

Just a thot... wish I could say I was an expert on this... but I'm actually still learning HOW!!

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,  
**Pastor Mark**