

Yesterday afternoon for about an hour I walked around the campus of Skidmore College with Nathan and Joe – Beautiful campus setting, a place of high academic learning...and a place that definitely needs Jesus! As we walked around campus, we talked about different issues facing college young people, especially coming to a school that boasts a ranking of #13 in the Princeton Review for the least “religious students” – Man, what a mission field!

So as we walked and talked through the campus, in some of the buildings, I really believe God stirred in us what could be if we as a community of faith began to be involved in this arena – Or, as Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew...

When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, “A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.” (Matthew 9:36-38, CEV)

We walked around wondering what it would look like if, as Joe so timely spoke on this past weekend, what if Jesus **IS** the answer to every question. I believe what God did for us yesterday for just a brief period of time was to see through His eyes – Not through cynical, “Oh there’s another ideological, anti-god, etc. school...” no, but “Man, what an opportunity for Jesus to do something absolutely awesome in this community!” Let’s face it, the graduates today become the leaders of communities, businesses, entertainment, states, even nations tomorrow – What would those venues look like if someone with a redeemed heart was at the helm?!

Can I encourage you to do something in the next couple of weeks? Let me encourage you to take a walk – Go down Broadway, but don’t shop, just walk or sit down and have a cup of coffee or chai and ask God to give you heavenly vision – His vision of what He sees when He looks down on Broadway. Take a walk through Congress Park, Saratoga State Park, or the Race Track, the mall, your own neighborhood and ask God to let you see through His eyes what He sees and the potential there is for making an eternal difference and impact in the lives of people here in Saratoga Springs.

One of the dreams I have for this church is to be church of deep impact in this city. I want us to make such a deep impact for the Kingdom of God that if we were to close up shop and move out, the city would notice

our absence and mourn our loss. One phrase in last weekend's passage from Acts 2 has always struck with me over the years as a pastor...

"...enjoying the favor of all the people..." (Acts 2:47)

How awesome would it be if a year from now, 3 years from now, 5 or 10 years from now this was being said of the presence of New Life Fellowship in Saratoga Springs! I believe it can happen, and I believe you and I, with the Holy Spirit's leading and empowerment can see it happen!

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

*Christ **IS** All!*

Pastor Mark