

Thought for a Wednesday

August 26, 2009

If you've kept an eye on the news in the past 24 hours, you know that last evening Senator Edward Kennedy lost his battle with a brain tumor. Now, no matter what your political bent is, which let's all remind ourselves that we are Christian first and foremost, not Democrat or Republican. But, no matter your political affiliation you have to agree that with Senator Kennedy's passing there is a huge hole left in U.S. Senate. His presence, as well as his family's role in American politics is the story of legend and whether you agreed with his governing style, you have to admit that his loss will affect the Senate, as well as the Nation...

Several weeks ago, as I wandered in and throughout the Saratoga Springs area the question came to my mind: Would the city of Saratoga Springs mourn the loss of New Life Fellowship if it suddenly were not there anymore – I mean, beyond those of you who call this church “home,” or those who are perhaps loosely affiliated, would the city, the people of Saratoga Springs feel a sense of loss if we weren't around? I guess the question I was posing to myself and through this email to all of us this: Are we a church of impact? Are we making a difference in the lives of people around us? People we work with, live beside, go to school with, etc.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men... You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:13-16)

Not trying to rehash the Longitude/Latitude series we studied back in May/June, but that message has been gnawing away at me all summer. Are we making the impact in this community that will have long-lasting and far-reaching impact in the lives of people of Saratoga Springs? My prayer is: Jesus, make it so!

It's time to be creative about putting flesh to what we believe – that if Jesus **IS** the answer to every question of mankind, then it's up to the church to relate that message in creative ways! Thinking outside the box and then just doing! Remember, when Jesus returned to heaven in Acts 1, He left the task of taking His message, His love into all the world to the Church – to you and me! That's what I'm excited about as we look forward – Seeing the church mobilized and reaching beyond the confines of Celebrations and Cells into the community with the answer to every question = Jesus!

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

Christ **IS** All!

Pastor Mark