

CONNECT perspective

by Monica Christian

One of my favorite passages in the New Testament is found in Matthew 25. In this passage, Jesus is telling others about the judgment day, where those who have done anything, “for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,” are allowed to be with God and those who have not are sent to be separated from God (Matthew 25:40).

This message of Jesus’ reminds me of what we, as Christians, are to do. We are to take care of our brothers and sisters who are in need, no matter the cost. We are to also tell our stories about serving Jesus to others so that we can excite our fellow Christians. One of the reasons I enjoy coming to “Connect” it’s a place where we can tell our stories. It is a place where we can excite our fellow Christians into helping and serving our brothers and sisters in need.

In the past 20 years, I have seen numerous changes in

“Connect.” The most amazing and awesome change has been the rise of the number of young people who are attending. When I first began attending “Connect” as a child, I very rarely saw any young people. Over the years, there have been many more young people, ranging from young children to young adults, who have come to “Connect.” It is amazing to see the excitement that they bring to the mission field. It is also amazing to see and feel their joy in sharing their stories with each other about how God is blessing them in the areas that they are serving.

I am reminded of Paul’s first letter to the young Timothy. “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity (I Timothy 4:12).” My hope and prayer is that these young people won’t let their age become a hindrance in their mission work and the joy that they feel in response.

support and encourage

“Not everyone can be famous, but everyone can be great, because greatness is determined by service,” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sometimes when people embark on a mission trip they have visions of grandeur. We all want to do great things before we die, but what does that include. We have been told over and over again that it is the little things that count.

In mission, it is no different. It is the little things, because not all are called to go into the field. Your mission project for the day may be opening the door for a woman whose hands are full of groceries, calling the highway patrol for the stranded motorist you passed, or it simply might be calling the person whose name keeps coming to mind.

In the UMVIM office, we recently made encouragement cards and delivered them to all of the offices on the seventh floor. The impact of such a simple act was amazing to me. However, in First

Thessalonians 5:24, Paul tells us, “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.” Paul is reminding us that many great and wonderful works, of encouragement, are being carried out through Christ’s guidance.

Consider that more than 100,000 people around the world are being reached every year because of you and your continued support. It is my hope and sincere prayers that you will look at the work you do everyday as a chance to serve Christ. Experiencing one the greatest feelings only Christ can give.

Please help us to continue to support and encourage others in mission with your tax-deductible donation.

In Christ,
Candy Benson
Development Director- UMVIM, SEJ

Thank you to those who make the UMVIM Ministry possible. It is our pleasure to recognize a few of these gifts. If you or your church would like to honor or remember someone through a special gift to UMVIM, contact the SEJ, office at 404-377-7424

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