

**Thought for a Wednesday**  
**May 27, 2009**

Good morning from The Alliance General Council meetings in Louisville, KY – High today, 83 and rain... Oh, by the way, did you know your pastor is a flaming terrorist!!!! Okay, now that I've got your attention let me tell you how my experience at the Albany airport went. After saying goodbye to the love of my life, Karen at the security area, I proceeded through the line with everyone else – So far, so good. Took off my shoes, took out my laptop, you know all the usual stuff you need to do going through the security area. I walked through the metal detector just fine and was standing at the end of the conveyor waiting for my belongings. I noticed 3 security agents stop the machine and look at the screen, point and converse among themselves... One of the walked over and asked me permission to search my brief case and that I not touch it or her while she did so – I'm thinking, "No problem, I've got nothing to hide" – Right? She searches through the different pockets and pulls out a rather large, black pocket knife – Just so happens it was my step-fathers knife that my mother gave me after he passed away. She looked at me and I said, "I'm sorry, I usually check for something like that, it was not intentional, but it is my knife..." She said, "Not any longer." After apologizing again, she took the knife and handed me back my brief case and I was on my way again – Man, I was expecting to be taken to the ground, hand-cuffed and calling Karen to find a good lawyer (does Ed K. do defense pro-bono?)

Anyhow, not a good start to my trip – Not to mention flying in a sardine can to Cleveland and then Louisville. However, as I sat last night in the opening program, my spirits were lifted to soaring heights as the parade of nations (which is usually the last night) came through the convention center to thundering worship and great applause. It was in that moment that the Holy Spirit reminded me that I am a part of something so much bigger than my little corner of the world, or my little petty problems. Last night we were reminded by Missionary Todd Adams (Indonesia) that lost people matter to God and wants them found – It was awesome, I wish you all could have been with me in that electrified moment. We were also challenged by Rev. Pete Hise, pastor of Quest in Lexington, KY a church plant ten years ago that began in an Applebee's after hours to what now is a 4,000+ church that in those 10 years have seen over 5,500 people come to faith in Jesus Christ! Again, I wish you could have been sitting with me,

experiencing the moment and drinking in deeply what the Spirit was saying to all of us in attendance.

While I miss my family terribly and I can't wait to get home to them and be with my extended family at New Life, I love coming to these events because God has a way of giving me a sharper focus of why we do what we do, and possibly what we can do be more effective for the kingdom of God in our Jerusalem. Folks, we are a part of something that is bigger than us, because we serve a God who is bigger than anything we could ever imagine to comprehend or understand. I look forward to talking to you further about this week's events and sharing my heart for how God can use our body of Believers to impact Saratoga Springs – But until then...

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

Christ **IS** All!

*Pastor Mark*