

# Thought for a Wednesday

June 23, 2010

Two weeks ago I shared a growing burden that God is laying on my heart for my life and our church in the coming future – A heart for the city of Saratoga Springs. A growing conviction that every man, women, boy and girl in Saratoga be exposed to multiple opportunities of experiencing God's love in tangible ways that build bridges of trust that will bear the weight of truth!

Because at NLF we believe, as a core value that lost people matter to God and He wants them found, the responsibility of fulfilling that core value rests in our hands, as the Holy Spirit enables and leads us forward. One of the areas I believe has produced fruit in my previous ministry experience has been through community service (i.e., servant evangelism). Another way of saying it is what some are calling "*Servolution*."

## *What is a Servolution?*

A Servolution is **not** an event; it's a culture. Infusing this culture into the DNA of your church will change the view of the world and your perspective of the needs of those around you. This movement is rumbling throughout the body of Christ – a revolutionary army of people ready to take up this mandate. We are actively pursuing the lost, the forgotten, and the poor to show them a God who is passionately in love with them. We stand ready with one heart, saying, "*I will serve others and show them the hope they can have in Jesus.*"

## *Why Serve?*

- 1) ***Jesus did*** – Our goal as Christians is to become more like Christ every day. As we study God's Word, we learn about Jesus and the way He lived. Because Jesus loved people, He served them to show them that love (John 13). Our goal is the same, to serve the people of Saratoga Springs so they would also come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.
- 2) ***The church and its purpose are best expressed outside its walls*** – We can't sit inside and wait for the world to come to us. We've got to get out in our communities and show our neighbors that we care and that there's a God who wants to heal them.
- 3) ***It's a tangible expression of the love of God for lost humanity*** – Words can't always fix our pain. People may know that God loves them, but maybe they haven't ever experienced God's love for them in a practical way. We can be a testimony to others of what God can do in their life!
- 4) ***It makes us irresistible to the world*** – When people see our genuine love for each other and others, they can't help but be drawn to it. Many times, serving can be a way to start conversation with people and give us an opportunity to tell them about the cross.
- 5) ***It tears down barriers and opens hearts*** – A kind word goes a long way. You never know what someone may be going through. Handing them that bottle of water or a hot meal may be just what they need for God to soften their hearts and open their minds to hear about the truth.

Just a thot... wish I could say I was an expert on this... but I'm actually still learning HOW!! Really looking forward to continuing a dialogue with you on this matter... Feel free to share your thoughts to me!

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

Christ is All,  
**Pastor Mark**