

Pk's Perspectives ... Making Connections

During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired, and in her 50's — but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the final question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will encounter many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "Hello!"

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned the cleaning woman's name was Dorothy.

Ouch! I don't know the person who shared the above story, but the lesson she or he learned is one our church needs to ponder. Especially in light of the fact that the number of people gathering on this street corner is growing. Consider the following:

- It took a while in the aftermath of Covid, but several months ago we finally broke through the 300 barrier in Sunday Morning Small Group attendance. We continue to see steady growth in this area...peak attendance Sundays are higher and low attendance Sundays are not as low.
- We're seeing guests almost every Sunday in our small groups and worship services. Think about it - almost any Sunday you come to church, there is going to be someone you do not know, a face you do not recognize, a name you do not know.
- The various ministries of the church are firing on all cylinders. 22 children made professions of faith during VBS week. The water of baptism is splashing on a consistent basis. Our weekday Little Lights Preschool is launching in August. Twenty-four students are attending summer camp. Our Legacy Builders are preparing another ministry trip to Sacred Roots Farm. You get my point...ministry & mission events are in full bloom.

Because we're a growing church, we need to be quite intentional about maintaining priorities. It is very easy to become so enmeshed in "doing" ministry that we lose sight of the biblical priorities of the church: personal **RELATIONSHIP** with God and **RELATIONSHIPS** with God's **PEOPLE!!** Though they be efficient, the ministries of the church lose effectiveness if we're not nurturing deep relationships with one another.

Make time to build relationships. Extend a genuine "hand of fellowship" to our guests and new members — learn their names! Dr. Noah Lott says, "A person's name is the doorway into their world. It has the power to open a connection, a connection to show them who you are, and a connection to show them how you see them. Using a person's name is a bridge to making an impact in their life." Grace & peace, love you. PK