

12 April 2019 – Dr. Mosser’s Blog

We often reveal ourselves to others by what we believe and by what we do. Anonymity and Christianity rarely mix well. The irony of a phone call I recently received did not escape me. My family was out of town and I was in my office at about 12:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The phone call was from a desperate young woman who said she needed help, but she said she was afraid to tell me who she was or what her problem was. Over and over again, she kept saying, “but I need help.” To be able to give help or receive help, people must know each other and we do this through communication.

We communicate ourselves to other people by sharing ourselves with them in whatever ways are appropriate and understandable within the human family. This circumstance is particularly true of church people.

A pastor friend, Eric McKinney, related a story some years ago about visiting one of his church members in the hospital. As he was leaving the hospital, he encountered a young woman in the hospital elevator and said, “How are you?” She began to weep and tell him about her mother who had had open heart surgery and then suffered an utterly crippling stroke. The young woman recounted her pain in watching her mother’s mental vitality and physical strength deteriorate. She even admitted that she had prayed that her mother might die and thus end her suffering.

The young woman was embarrassed that she had opened up in this way to a total stranger, but Eric was not any total stranger; he is a person claimed by Christ. He is a Christian communicator, even when he merely listens to the pain and grief of another. This language is the language of love only revealed to us only by the spirit of God.

During this Holy Week—in the observance of Jesus witness—may we enter into the lives of others with the hope that God offers us in Jesus.

**Come, Worship
Stay, Learn
Go, Serve**