

2.26.12

## *Walking Dusty...*

teacher: George Loper

As George shared with us from Ephesians 2, I couldn't help but think how amazing God is. He brings together people of different backgrounds and blends them into a beautiful picture – a mosaic – and then uses them to bring others into His relationship. “God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.” (Ephesians 2:20-22 THE MESSAGE)

Last week I got to see an example of this. About three years ago, Jeff, a teacher from NW Ohio, was given a book about sex trafficking and learned that Toledo was cited as a top U.S. recruitment city for trafficking children. Jeff is a grandfather and a teacher at a Christian school; he is also the founder of The Daughter Project (TDP). God is using Jeff to build the first group home in the state of Ohio that is specifically designed for girls age 10 - 17 that have been sold into sex slavery. And God has moved additional men and women to donate land, time, and material to build the house debt free. Furthermore, ground has been donated to build a second home in the area.

This past Saturday I felt privileged to sit in on one of TDP's education meetings. The team is looking at ways to educate the girls, since it's not safe to put them in school early in their rescue. There were about twelve of us snuggled around a small table. Most were teachers. One had homeschooled her children and humbly said she didn't have any professional training. One woman was a college admissions advisor, and another was a principal at a Christian school. Although we all had different backgrounds, the beautiful thing was that we are all Christ-followers. Each of us has been moved by God to love, pray, and serve these young victims. And this is just one group. Others are part of a finance committee or building crew, but all serve out of love for Jesus.

God is using dozens of people so that He can reach girls that have been violently sexually abused. He could have used any method He wanted, but He chose to work through a group of people that are responding to His love. As believers, we are all part of the body of Christ. We are God's workmanship, and we are all “created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10 NIV) Look around. There are so many people in need. God is building a beautiful mosaic, and through that, lives will be changed.

There are lots of ways you can get involved with The Daughter Project. If you would like more information, you can check them out at [www.thedaughterproject.org](http://www.thedaughterproject.org).

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) How has the knowledge of God’s love and gift of grace changed me? How has it changed my relationships?

“He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” (Ephesians 2:10 THE MESSAGE) What am I created to do? Where is God already working in this area? Am I joining Him?

“Whether they know it or not, people want to hear the Gospel,” said George. Discuss this idea.

George said, “Your testimony is the strongest thing you can give.” How is God using my testimony? Am I willing to let God use my testimony?

“Relationships are messy,” said George. Dan has said this, too. Why are they messy? What do I do when life gets messy? Do I make it messier?

George said, “Unity, not uniformity.” What’s the difference?

Christ needs to be central; people need to see less of me and more of Him. In what areas do others see too much of me? How do I make Christ the center of my life?

***This month’s memory verse:*** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28: 19-20

***Additional verses:*** Ephesians 2, Colossians 3:4, Galatians 2:20, John 10:10