

“I have a dream!” is one of America’s most famous quotes. But Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is also given credit for this one: “A man has no greater purpose than to serve his fellow man.” Through his speeches and non-violent protests, he motivated Americans to desegregate and make way for the progress of blacks – and also women and minorities. One man made a difference, and those effects are still being felt today. As a Christian pastor, he learned about service from Jesus, who was the best example of a servant. Jesus didn’t come to be served, but to serve, and the world has never been the same.

God’s plan for us to serve our fellow man is what we call third:culture. When we imitate Jesus, people will be affected. Lives will change. The first transformation comes in our own hearts and lives, and then that spills over and blesses others. Third:culture is when we allow God to show his love to the world through us. It’s when we see Christ’s heart of serving and we imitate it by actively loving someone. There’s not a cookie-cutter approach to it. Sometimes it’s feeding the poor or cleaning up after someone. It could be listening to the elderly or talking to a child. It is relationship building, and it’s often hard. It’s easy to love a person that thinks like we do or has a good job. It takes God working through His Spirit in us to reach out to people that are different – especially when they disagree with us, or they have an addiction, or they’re in jail.

This month’s third:culture experience stretched us. As we listened to the Skelton family pastor, our heart ached for the unknown and questions remained unanswered. The lives of the three missing boys became more real, as though they lived right down the street. Tears came and throats tightened. Then we were asked to write letters to the family. God knows the struggle that each of us had in order to put words on a page. What do you say to a father that’s sitting in jail and holds the key to the boys’ whereabouts? How do you share hope with a mom who hasn’t seen her children in almost two months? It’s a lot easier to make baked beans for a potluck dinner or to take wet wipes to a family with a new baby. Writing a letter to this family took God working in us. And that’s exactly what this family has relied on to get through these past weeks. Let’s keep praying for the family and continue to ask God to help us “be the church.” We can’t do it without Him!

Questions to Consider:

Are we authentically seeking God and building a relationship with Him through Jesus and the Word?

Where does God have you serving? What more can you do?

Look around. Where is my treasure stored?

Don't look for the "easy" way of serving. Ask God to show you some "difficult" ways to serve. Are we asking God to use us?

Additional Verses: *Pastor Donna mentioned that the Skelton boys had been learning some verses. Here are some of the verses she mentioned: 1 Peter 5:7, John 14:6, and Philippians 2:14. Dan read from Matthew 25.*

This week's memory verse: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

REMINDERS:

January 23, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm! We'll share communion together & Dan will be team teaching with Laura Mitchell, a sister in Christ that 1MOSAIC supports in her endeavor of Redeeming Africa's Hope (RAH).

January 30, 2011 – MOSAIC FAMILY FUN NIGHT! We will meet at Moon Walk Adventures in the Adrian Mall for a night of fun, food, friends and family. It will be open to 1MOSAIC from 5-7pm Sunday night and it is a completely FREE event. Please use this opportunity to invite some family or friends out to enjoy & connect.

February 6, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at **5 pm!!!** This is Super Bowl Sunday night so we will bump our time up an hour earlier. We will be kicking off our marriage series that night & talking about the work of having a "Championship Marriage". This may be a great month to invite that couple God has been pressing on your heart!

February 13, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm. **Brad Gray** will be joining us and teaching out of Genesis about God's initial design for intentions for marriage. You will not want to miss this week!