



Your NAWE Companion

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This IS Your Ministry

Janet Smith, *Pataskala, OH*

Shortly after becoming a Christian, I married a pastor. My ministries quickly followed suit. Playing the piano during the worship services, leading a ladies' prayer group, and working with the youth. Having grown up Catholic and equating ministry with the duties of the priest, it was exciting to be a part of what happened in the church. The church's weekly bulletin always read:

Pastor: Dr. Richard K. Smith
Ministers: Every Christian

I used to read that, content that I was one of those ministers.

Perhaps Stephen felt the same way. In the account from Acts 6:1-6, we learn that Stephen was a disciple of the Lord. He was doing "ministry" with the 12 apostles themselves. And then, one day, the apostles announced that they needed waiters. Seven men to coordinate a first-century Meals on Wheels program, if you will. And they picked Stephen as one of the seven.

He wasn't called to be the thirteenth apostle. He was called to be a waiter. To execute the mundane task of feeding widows – one of the lower castes of society in Jesus' day. Could that be ministry?

Before you answer yes too quickly, let's look at your situation. To what mundane task has God called you? Changing diapers? Changing tires? Cleaning the same spaces over and over every day? Maybe it's working in a situation where you can't even speak the name of Jesus.

Stephen wasn't chosen because he had a degree in culinary arts. He was chosen for three reasons: he was of good repute, he was full of the Holy Spirit and he was wise. But wait; surely God calls those kinds of people to preach or be missionaries! Certainly, preachers and missionaries need to be of good repute, wise and filled with the Holy Spirit. But so do waiters, and car mechanics and elementary school principals. Because whatever God has called you to do is ministry. Let that sink in. Do you think of it that way?

Stephen had hands laid on him and he was commissioned – to be a waiter! What would happen if we commissioned all people who are called by God to their ministries? What if we prayed for the secretary the same way we prayed for the missionary? What if we saw as sacred the 7-3 worker, trying to live out his faith everyday in a world where God is not welcome?

Our pastors have a special role. They equip the saints to live godly lives; and that is an awesome responsibility. But we "ministers" have an equally special role. We live out that life each and every day for all to see. For Stephen and for us, it's not just the job that we have; it's the godly way we do the job we have. We are called to the same level of faithfulness as the man with the title of reverend. We are also to be of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

So, the next time you wonder why you are doing what you do for the umpteenth time, remember Stephen; serving meals to the same widows day after day. Remember that it is not just what you are doing, but who you are while you are doing it. Remember too – this IS your ministry.

*Lord,
How would it change my attitude and actions if I truly believed that what I did each day was ministry? How would it change those around me? Let's find out.
Amen.*

August—Sept. 2017



Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord for the warm fellowship, challenging messages and encouraging ordination service at our recent Annual Meeting.

Thankful that Laurens Hudson received a good follow-up report from his surgeon.

Give thanks that Tim Fleming, son of Dewey & Jo, is out of the hospital. But please keep praying for him as he deals with complications from the surgery.

Pray for Elaine Starr (Conyers, GA) who broke her ankle and is having surgery this week.

Pray for Revival Services at the church in Danielsville, GA—August 13-16.

NAWE News

Annual Meeting



"I always look forward to our meetings because I get to see "family" again. It's like a family reunion for me. I love the teaching that we get and the "ministry" one to another."

"I was impressed by the man (Tommy) who said he was a mountain for God to move, along with Lance speaking about his mission trips. I appreciate the elders praying over me concerning my physical need."

"Every year our Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for fellowship, but this year it seemed to be a fantastic Homecoming experience. We not only caught up with all the blessing of God in each of our lives, but we were able to expand our prayer journals for the coming year. It is being with those we love that always draws us back each year, to be loved on and love on our dear sisters and brothers in Christ."



Visit us at
www.theNAWE.com

Calendar



Upcoming Opportunities:

Aug. 22-24, 24-26: Hemlock Inn Retreats in Bryson City, NC

September 20-22: New Room Conference in Franklin, TN

October 13-14: National Conference on Christian Apologetics in Charlotte, NC



The Pierced One Ministries: Serving our Lord Jesus through short-term missions around the world. For more information about joining a team or customizing a trip of your own, contact CEO Rev. Lance Snipes, 150 Meadowbrook Lane, Carrollton, GA 30117; 678-850-1946.

Donations can be sent to The Pierced One Ministries, PO Box 552, Mount Zion, GA 30150.