



JUSTICE

*“He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8 NKJV*

A year ago, almost to this day, I was taking part of a brand new kind of a conference, the Justice Conference. Now, I have been to many different kinds of conferences in the past, youth conferences, Holy Spirit conferences, leaders conferences, prophetic church growth conference, (my life was radically transformed 1994 at a Church Growth conference in Norway of all places), just to mention a few, but this one was different. First of all, I had only heard about one or two of the 30+ speakers before, so that was not the main draw. Secondly, what exactly would a conference about Justice entail? Was it to be a granola eating, tree hugging social gospel event? (I love granola, and if hugging tree's is your thing, that is fine, but the gospel is a lot more than good works!) So, with some hesitation, I sat down with my notebook and for the next two days had my world enlarged drastically. I learned about such a variety of issues as AIDS, foreign aid, clean water, fair trade, human trafficking, micro finance, extreme poverty, modern day slavery, immigration just to mention a few. I came to know justice in a whole new way, how deeply it matters to God, and even as a seasoned believer, my view of Justice had be lacking at best, missing at worst...

A quick look at Psalms shows some deep connections between God and Justice:

*- For the LORD is righteous, he loves **justice**; the upright will see his face. Ps 11:7*

*- And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of **justice** Ps 50:6.*

*- Righteousness and **justice** are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Ps 89:14*

If God loves justice; if God is justice and if His throne is built on justice; then, as believers, we really need to dive in to justice with a whole new passion!

The Justice conference illustrates justice brilliantly on their website:

“Justice is a garment, a billion threads, interwoven, interlocked, knit together with strength and integrity. Pull one thread from the fabric and the garment begins to fray. Pull ten million threads and justice unravels into injustice.

The work of justice is to mend the holes injustice inflicts upon the garment. It is a brave, challenging, courageous work and it does not begin with expertise or duty. It begins with love... and love is a thread.”

Feeling a bit overwhelmed leaving the conference, I felt that one of the things God was calling me to, was to spread the word on Justice! Out of that, came the R3ACH Newsletter, which now is on its second year, a newsletter set to educate, inspire and put justice in practical terms to the wider body of Fathers House. It's meant to empower you to find the areas of justice God has called you to get involved, to make a difference, to become a beacon of justice, a place where your love can become a thread mending the holes of injustice.

Injustice can often feel overwhelming, but when it does, I remind myself that God has not called me to fix the world, but to mending the holes around me, one stitch at a time. Then, before we know it, together we see the God's throne built in the world around us!

Will you join me?
/Sam

UPCOMING R3ACH EVENTS

Feb 23-24 (Fri-Sat) – The Justice Conference
Portland, OR – <http://thejusticeconference.com/>

Mar 11 (Sun) – Mwamba Children Choir - FHC

Mar 25 (Sun) – R3ACH Portland

Apr 20 – May 6 – Uganda Mission 2012

Jul 28 – Aug 5 – Dream Center '12

R3ACH is the missions/outreach ministry of Fathers House Church, Longview, WA
To find out how you can be part of what is going on, visit us on the web at
www.fathershousechurch.com, www.R3ACH.org or www.facebook.com/r3ach.usa

R3ACH - 1315 Commerce Ave, Longview, WA 98632 // 360.423.7826 // sam@fathershousechurch.com

REACH
LONGVIEW - KELSO & THE WORLD FOR CHRIST



Reaching the World—From Your Desk

How to make a difference, wherever you are clocked in.
by Margot Starbuck

Everyone knows the best place to foster relationships with the poor is on the church's mission trip or within the specified hours we're doing "volunteer" work in the community. Or, reluctantly, when we can't quite zip through a red light in time to avoid the sign-holding stranger who wants a bite to eat. Where we don't always encounter the poor is at work.

Except that we do. - Though our temptation is to think relating to people who are poor as something special we do outside of our job, Jesus had a whole other plan.

Who's to say the Samaritan who aided a bloody mugging victim wasn't on his way to Starbucks to discuss a possible business merger? And how do we know the one Jesus praises for visiting prisoners wasn't a manager at the DQ where the prisoner was employed? There's simply no good reason to assume we shouldn't be engaging with the poor—materially and otherwise—where we work. It may take a little creativity, but it's worth the effort.

Working as a barista, or waiter? Know the names of the customers you serve. Though you won't be able to know each one, identify a few regulars and be open to new ways to know and care for them. It might be as simple as remembering what they've shared with you and following up the next time you see them. Does your coffee shop or restaurant get rid of food at the end of the day? See if you can donate leftovers to a local shelter or a homeless person you pass on your commute.

Working in health care? If you work in health care, your work is holy. You, quite literally, are God's hands and feet in the lives of the ones God loves. As you care for the poor, be open to discover how Jesus wants to use you in their lives—and vice versa. Expect these routine encounters to be the place where Jesus is at work.

Working as a creative (artist, performer, writer, speaker): Author Henri Nouwen spent a season of his life among people with disabilities as a member of a L'Arche community. When he traveled to lecture, he'd bring one of these friends along. As you develop friendships with those who are poor, find creative ways for them to share your platform. Rather than telling a story about them, find a unique way for them to tell their own story.

You can also donate your time to providing creative assets for organizations or groups that could benefit from this expression.

Working in IT? You've got mad computer skills, so don't be afraid to use them. Consider contacting a church or nonprofit with whom you have a connection and offer to share your skills. If they don't have a site online, they need your help! Offer to mentor a teen or adult who can continue to update the site.

Working in social services? If you work in social services, you've hit the jackpot. No doubt a world in need files past your door, rides in your car and calls your phone every day. Share with clients that "You are God's beloved. You are made in the image of God and God wants good things for you." Find creative ways to communicate this truth.

Working a desk job? A desk, an office door or a cubicle might naturally separate you from people who are different than you, keep your eyes peeled. Who vacuums the office? Who cleans the bathrooms? Who fills the vending machines? Seize opportunities to know these forgotten coworkers, as well as ways your business could benefit those beyond your office doors.

Working as a student? There are a lot of people who work to make your experience possible, and many you might overlook are worth knowing. Who's works in the cafeteria? Who's cleaning the classrooms? Use the flexibility your schedule allows to know and learn the stories of these important and often unrecognized people.

Working at home? Well, you've got a trickier challenge. Basically, you're going to have to leave your home or invite the outside world in. Is there an elderly person in your neighborhood who's home during the day? Could you pick up the kid of the single mother from daycare when she's in a bind? Ask God to show you these opportunities.

Working in education? From curriculum to field work, let your students encounter a world bigger than the one they inhabit by exposing them to news, stories and encounters with the poor. Think on ways to challenge your students to know and engage those who are under-resourced.

<http://tinyurl.com/reachingtheworld>

(From Relevant Magazine, Edited for length)

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T H E
JUSTICE
C O N F E R E N C E

<http://thejusticeconference.com>

February 24th-25th, 2012, Portland, OR

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