

Cross Talk

Some assembly required

Alpena First Assembly of God

Participate

August
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Pastor's Place

Last month, I wrote about the necessity of training.

When is training necessary? It is necessary when you are going to participate!

When it comes to adventurously and obediently following Christ, how, when, and where are you participating?

Discipleship is the call and the command of the Lord! What is a disciple? A disciple is a learner, student, or pupil. Every person who claims to be a Christian should be participating in ministry!

Biblical discipleship is more than just gaining knowledge, data, facts, and quoting Scripture.

Participation continued

communicate God's truths. We learn to depend on the Holy Spirit. We learn on an emotional level. We get frustrated or we fail like the disciples did and we learn to get back up. We learn how to deal with persecution and criticism.

I know that failing,

Those are important elements that need to connect to participation.

Do you remember how Jesus disciplined the disciples? He taught them "on the job". He taught them in homes, as He walked along the roads, among the crowds, and many other places.

He had them participate as well. The disciples passed out fish and bread when He fed the multitudes and then they picked up the leftovers. He sent them out, two-by-two, to preach the Good News of the Kingdom. Do you remember what happened when He went up on the Mount of

persecution, and criticism are not the best ways to encourage participation. I get that. However, Jesus never told the disciples that following Him would be easy! He did teach them to expect difficulty.

It does not matter what we encounter, He will

Transfiguration? While He was up there, some of the disciples tried to cast a demon out of a boy...and they failed. When Jesus came down the mountain He rebuked them and then cast out the demon.

These are just a few examples (and there are many more) that illustrate participation. Our discipleship falls short, if we do not put into action what we have learned.

Participation helps us to learn beyond the conceptual level. When we participate, we learn in practical ways and we learn how to lead, how to stand in front of people and

Please continue reading below.

teach us and provide the wisdom, insight, and understanding we need.

Finally, as Pentecostal believers, He supplies the Holy Spirit...and the Holy Spirit supplies the fruit we need to participate! (Gal. 5:22-23)

In Christ,
Pastor Clark

First Assembly of God



A church with the community at heart!

Happenings

July

Creative Community Group
July 4th Parade Outreach
(gave away 2,800 bottles of water)
Family Camp
Redneck Golf
July 27th Picnic
July 28th Pastor goes to Jail for MDA
July 31 Missionary Ray Miller

August

Bible study, Snacks, and History of Christianity
August 7th Back to School Blast Planning Meeting
August 21 "The Experiment"
August 28th Linnie Lindsay Picnic at Mich-E-Kiwis

Children's Ministries

Back to School Blast is scheduled for September 18-21. We are having Children's Evangelist, Al Eastman, lead this effort. Al and his crew are puppeteers. The name of the ministry is Eddie's Friends. Eddie, the "star" puppet, is quite precocious.

We need to raise funds for this ministry team. They have traveling

expenses and will be staying here for 4 days. In addition to paying for their expenses, we also need to pay for "Eddie's Store" where children may purchase items with "Eddie Bucks", as well as the give-ways and prizes.

If you would like to donate funds or volunteer to help us with this evangelistic outreach, please let us know. Please be in prayer!

F.U.E.L.

Please keep F.U.E.L. in prayer. School is starting in two weeks. It will be good to have the kids back from Summer break.

F.U.E.L. is helping raise funds for the Back to School Blast. We want to give back to the church so we thought this would be a great way to be servants and to help raise the needed funds. After all, we want to participate in the Body of Christ!



Every church and every community has a natural rhythm or seasons. The Summer season is a time for refreshing, relaxing, and recreation. It is when we take vacation, travel on the weekends, take the kids to visit grandma and grandpa or have the grandkids come visit, kids go to children or youth camps, and numerous other activities. There are also indicators that a new season is approaching. For example, school is starting, cooler weather, less daylight, and the trees changing colors.

As Fall approaches, it is an indication of time for growing and strengthening the church. It is the time when we re-launch our Community Groups. Community Groups are important (**perhaps most important**) to the life and ministry of First Assembly. Community Groups provide opportunities for outreach, discipleship, and leadership training/development. This is your time to participate! This is your time to be trained and re-trained. This is your time to be invigorated and reinvigorated. Let me encourage you to pick up a pamphlet from the table in the foyer or download one from the website (www.alpenafirstassembly.org). Find out what the qualifications are and attend the upcoming training session. You can make a positive difference in the lives around you. Our Community Groups are easy to lead and they run for various lengths of time. Start praying today about where God want to use you for this next season of **participation!**

First Assembly of God

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