



August 5, 2016

Dear Ministry Partners:

We like the idea of being used by God, but often dislike the measures God takes to prepare us for service. We like the idea of doing God's work, but dislike the reality of how much God's work will cost us. Jesus told us to count the cost (Luke 14:25-33). We like the pleasure of knowing God; we dislike the pressure that comes from knowing God. Jesus compared the experience of following him to the task of carrying the cross.

What would happen if we accepted our place as Ambassadors for the Lord? Such a shift comes so stubbornly, however. We've been demanding our way and stomping our feet since infancy. Haven't we been urged to look out for number one? Make a name for ourselves? Aren't we guilty of thinking of ourselves first? What would happen if we took our places and made it a priority to serve the Lord? If we started thinking more about what God wants and not what we want?

Max Lucado shared this story from his book "Just like Jesus:"

There's a story about a lady who had a small house on the seashore of Ireland at the turn of the century. She was quite wealthy but also quite frugal. The people were surprised, then, when *she* decided to be among the first to have electricity in her home.

Several weeks after the installation, a meter reader appeared at her door. He asked if her electricity was working well, and she assured him it was. "I'm wondering if you can explain something to me," he said. "Your meter shows scarcely any usage. Are you using your power?"



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"Certainly," she answered. "Each evening when the sun sets, I turn on my lights just long enough to light my candles, then, I turn them off."

She's tapped into the power but doesn't use it. Her house is connected but not altered. Don't we make the same mistake? We, too – with our souls saved but our hearts unchanged – are connected but not altered. Trusting Christ for salvation but resisting transformation. We occasionally flip the switch, but most of the time we settle for shadows.

What would happen if we left the light on? What would happen if we not only flipped the switch but lived in the light? What changes would occur if we set about the task of dwelling in the radiance of Christ?

No doubt about it: God has ambitious plans for us. The same One who saved your soul longs to remake your heart. His plan is nothing short of a total transformation!

We share this message with each person who comes to Grace Mission. It's in our tag line, "*A transformative ministry of the forgotten.*" Maybe it's a message you need to hear as well. Maybe God has been tugging at your heart to carry the cross. *Gotten any slivers lately?* Paul reminds us in the book of Romans, "He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son" (Romans 8:29).

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement. We can always use volunteers for any number of tasks. Great opportunities to help someone or to work together on a project might be waiting just around the corner. Please consider volunteering and becoming part of this incredible ministry.

In God's love,


Pastor Amanda