

Just What is My Ministry Gift?

July 8, 2007

Eph 4:1-16

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

A few weeks ago I woke up in a strange country, where people speak a strange language. This particular morning I woke up in Hungary, where people speak Hungarian. I was disoriented, a bit confused, and anxious about how I was going to fare

Over the past year Geneva has moved to another country. We have gone through a refocusing process. I am sure many of you are disoriented, a bit confused, and anxious about how we're going to fare.

Paul in writing to the Ephesian Christians encourages that, in the midst of their disorientation, confusion, and anxiety, God calls them to be the Body of Christ in their community. Today I want to encourage you that God calls us to be the Body of Christ in our community. What's this going to look like?

I.

Calling

Eph 4:4 "Just as you were called to the one hope of your calling"

Job versus Call:

Jobs: architect, Pizza Hut, Liquor Store, Carpets

Calling: God grips your whole life

E.g.'s

Wife = occupational therapy

Son = create beauty and order

Daughter = ministry and theolog

Jeff's calling:

Music, Education, Parents, Young Life

God gripped my whole life

Jesus' Calling: READ Eph 4:7-10 (narrates his call)

Baptism =hears the voice of Spirit

Cross = sets his face towards Jerusalem

Resurrection = victory over captives

READ Eph 4:1-6 (notice vv4-6, seven times *one*)

*Your and my calling comes from Jesus' victory over sin and death. God grips us through Jesus' calling.

God grips churches and people together
God has been gripping this church over the last year

Has God gripped your whole life?
Where and how did this happen?
If God hasn't, pray for it

II

Content of Calling

Eph 4:10 "so that he might fill all things"

Content = Who and Where (v 10)

We are to fill the *world* with the victory of *Jesus Christ*
Where = world
Who = Jesus Christ

Content of our calling at Geneva = Who and Where

Who are we? Seniors and younger families (missing middle)
Where are we? Laguna Woods and Aliso Viejo

Two Major Initiatives = Who and Where

1. Via Iglesia and Family Resource Center
2. Early Alzheimers Care and Adult Day Care Center

Who = younger families, seniors
Where = Laguna Woods and Aliso Viejo

What is true for our church also true for you

Who and Where are you?

E.g. Guitar down the Danube
-guitar to Eastern Europe
-music brought people out
-Jim, Nancy

Who are you and Where are you?
Who are we and Where are we?

III.

Context of Calling

Eph 4:11 “some would be apostles, some prophets”

READ v 7 God gives *people* not *gifts* to express the grace

-prophets not prophecy

God gave me to this church. I figure out how to use my gifts

God has given people to this church. Let me list a few

Patty Georges	= finance
Dave Tosh	= finance
Marie Thomas	= finance
Mike Pring	= personnel
Colette Cozean	= Kenya Dr.
Barbara Lorenzen	= kids
Diane Felton	= hospitality
Jim Burge	= Via Iglesia
Eric and Irene Lange	= Early Alzheimers
Dave Lammert	= Rowdies
Paul Arndt	= Rowdies
Gabe, Steven, Band	= Contemporary

*God has blessed us richly with people to express grace

READ vv 10, 13 God gives people for a purpose (fill, full stature)

E.g. church as a lifeboat or cruise ship

Missional = sent/called into the community =
church = called ones (*kaleo*) = *ekklesia*

We are in the middle of waking up to another country

*Not Christendom anymore:

- Language is different (I-Phones, Harry Potter)
- Disoriented
- Confused
- Anxious

God has gripped this church to be a lifeboat in the middle of our community.