

“We train disciplemakers...”



Devotional
book
— p. 2



Let's get started!
— p. 3

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

*Making Disciples
Naturally* Podcast
&
Richard Spann's
blogs are found at
KansasNavs.org

**Pilgrim: A beautiful
devotional book**
— page 2

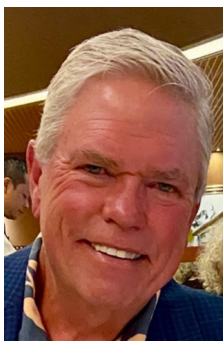
Remaining steadfast
— page 2

Get Started!
*See the article
on pages 3 - 4*

*Update on Kansas State Fair:
After 15 years of successful
outreach, we have decided to
focus more on individual
discipleship opportunities.
We will not have a Kansas
Navigators presence this year
at the Fair. Thanks to all who
have helped over the years!*

Jordahl and Scaffidi to speak on “A Life Worth Living”

Be sure to mark your calendars and start planning to invite your friends to our Fall Conference, October 4, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita. We'll be blessed by two speakers this year, Mike Jordahl and Mark Scaffidi. All are invited to attend.



Mike Jordahl is familiar to many in the Kansas Communities Ministry family. He served as Campus Ministry Director for the Navigators at KU after having joined the Navigator staff in 1981. He and his wife Nancy have served with The Navigators in Iowa, Kansas, New England and Colorado. He currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Collegiate Leadership Team. Mike and his wife Nancy have been married for 42 years and have three sons and six grandchildren.

Mark Scaffidi and his wife Annie serve as Campus Directors at Wichita State University. He graduated from Iowa State University and has dedicated his life to living alongside others as they seek to create contagious communities centered around walking deeply with Jesus and empowering others to do the same. Mark and Annie have two daughters and one son.

This Fall Conference promises to be encouraging and life changing. Be watching for registration information in mid-September. Also, please catch our interview with both speakers on our podcast in early September!



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“God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.”

—2 Corinthians 5:21 (NET Bible)

Pilgrim - 25 Ways God's Character Leads Us Onward

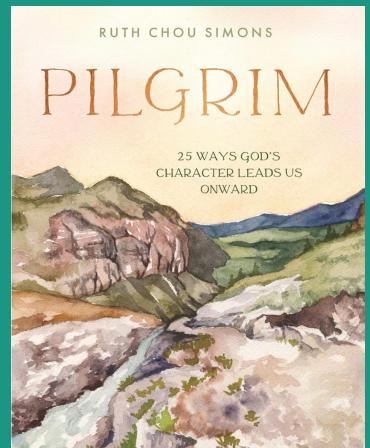
by Ruth Chou Simons (Pub. by Harvest House, September 12, 2023)

This gorgeous, hardback treasure isn't just a book—it's the kind of gift that lingers in the heart long after the last page is turned. Whether you give it to a friend or keep it for yourself, its beauty lies not only in its twenty-five chapters of encouragement and inspiration, but also in the author's own artwork woven thoughtfully throughout each chapter.

The broad sections are "The Journey Begins," "A Long Endurance" and "Nearing Home." Along the way, you'll discover gems like "*A Love That Will Never Leave You*," "*The Righteousness That Frees You*" and "*Solid Ground for Life's Storms*." Each chapter invites you into meaningful reflections anchored in God's Word and brought to life through the author's personal stories.

The back cover reminds us:

"As a follower of Christ, you live each day as a pilgrim, traveling the path Jesus sets before you. Though the road may be rocky, God provides reminders along the way to show you that He writes your story, paves your path, and walks with you always."



Within these pages, you'll be reminded of the essentials of our faith—the unshakable truths about God's character, attributes and love that we need to be reminded of and that steady us through every season. And as an added gift, each chapter pairs with a beloved hymn, deepening the message and inviting your heart to worship.

A feast for the eyes, the mind, and the soul—this is a book you'll want to return to again and again.

Goads and Nails

(excerpt)

By Richard Spann

1 Corinthians 15:58

Be Ye Stedfast and Unmoveable

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 121-124)

It was about thirty years ago. Over a period of several weeks, I had become aware of different individuals who were struggling in their walk with Christ. Some of them had been in Bible study groups and had met in our home... The more I thought about the above situations the more discouraged I became. One morning I related to my wife as I went to work that perhaps the investment spiritually in the lives of others made less difference than I thought it did. A gloom seemed to settle upon me that morning as I parked my car and entered the hospital... I was [then] met by a gastroenterologist..., a man whom I had not seen for several years. The first words out of his mouth were, "Remember the Bible study we did several years ago at the hospital? ... I just wanted you to know that I have been doing that series of studies with my children and it is having a profound influence on our family." I visited with him briefly and then moved into the lounge where I met a pediatrician from the Wichita Clinic who said, "I ... have been sharing the principles we looked at a few years ago with the elders at our church. It is making a significant impact on their lives." ... On returning home that evening, my wife, Beverly, gave me a marvelous note of encouragement which she had written for me. As I considered the events of the day, it was evident that the Lord had spoken unmistakably to me these [three] times, convincing me beyond a shadow of a doubt that, truly, our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Since that day, I have never doubted the truth of this verse.

1 Corinthians 15:58 directs us to the work of the Lord with the use of three words: stedfast, unmoveable, and abounding. The first of these words is "stedfast." This is defined as being firmly established, unchanging, fixed in direction and firm in purpose or resolution. This word refers to a determination that arises from our inner being which results in an outward expression...

Our battle, our conflict, our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Every prayer offered, every word spoken, every cup of water given, every minute of every day we spend in labor for the Lord can be offered to Him with the assurance that it is not in vain. Since this is true, let us be stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

In Christ, Richard Spann

Starting Where You Are by Richard Spann

*Start where you are,
With what you have,
And do what you can.*

— Lorne Sanny

Most of us have felt at some time that our spiritual ministry was hindered because of our location. We see God doing great things in other cities, states or countries and we might wish to be a part of that work. We also hear of other ministries or churches which seem to be more productive than ours. We are tempted to say, “If only I were a part of that neighborhood/ministry/church/culture, then my life would make a greater difference for Christ.”



We also may feel limited because of what we think is a lack of training. Few of us have had any formal Bible school or theological training. Our resources for ministry may be less than what we feel we need. We may lack the books, study materials, CDs and DVDs that others find to be useful.

The above description fits most of us at some time during our spiritual journey. Lorne’s statement as printed above is taken from a message given by him on Judges 3:31. “After him came Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad; and he also saved Israel.” (NASB) Shamgar was a man just like us. His background was not noteworthy. His town is not even recorded. Most likely he lived in a rural part of Israel, not near any major town of influence. By occupation, he was a farmer. He had no training in battle, no weapons, and no mentors. All he had was an oxgoad, a long pole sharpened on one end to direct the oxen into going where Shamgar wanted them to go. By faith, Shamgar started where he was, with what he had (an oxgoad), and did what he could. Undoubtedly, there were Philistine garrisons nearby. It is unlikely that he called them to battle and attacked all of them at once. It is most probable that he sharpened the goad and waited until they were isolated before striking the fatal blow. One by one, day after day, Shamgar kept at his task until six hundred of the Philistines were slain. At this point, the Philistines withdrew and ceased their oppression of the Israelites.

Shamgar is a model of what we are to be. Our location is established by God (Acts 17:26). Our resources are adequate (II Timothy 3:16,17). Lorne summarizes some of his thoughts on Judges 3:31 with this statement: “We need to start where we are (because we cannot start where we are not), with what we have (because we cannot use what we do not have), and do what we can.”

(Continued on next page)

“Don't believe everything you think. You cannot be trusted to tell yourself the truth. Stay in The Word.” ~ Jerry Bridges, Navigator Staff, Author, Disciplemaker, Teacher. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/1899-Jerry_Bridges

Starting Where You Are (Continued)

In the early 1950s, Lorne was sent by Dawson Trotman to a naval base near Seattle, Washington. Not only was the weather depressing with cold, rainy days, but the ministry was floundering. After repeated attempts to attract sailors to look at the Bible together, only one man showed any interest. Lorne called Dawson and related the problem to him. Dawson's response to Lorne was to "pour your life into him." This naval recruit, an oil field worker prior to enlisting, became faithful, available and teachable as Lorne spent hours with him weekly.

A few years later, this man (Charlie Riggs, later to become director of follow-up for the Billy Graham Crusades) moved to the Midwest. He had heard of a man in Oklahoma City (Gene Warr) who wanted some spiritual direction in his life. Month after month, he would go miles out of his way as he traveled to share with Gene what he had learned from Lorne.



In the early 1960s, Gene met a man from Kansas who had recently been at Glen Eyrie and was challenged by the message of discipleship. He began to meet with him, providing ideas, resources and encouragement as this man (Jim Morris) began a ministry of discipleship in the state of Kansas. The rest of the history of the Kansas Navigators is well known to most of us. If we were able to enumerate the lives that have been changed by this ministry, it would probably number into the thousands.

It is important for us to remember that our Kansas ministry began as a result of one man, Lorne Sanny, who started where he was (Naval Base in Washington), with what he had (one Navy recruit) and did what he could. Each of us has been given the resources we need to accomplish the tasks that God has for us. Ephesians 2:10 states that God has prepared both of these in advance. He has designed and equipped us, and matches us perfectly with the work He has for us. May God by His grace bring His fruit into your lives as you, also, start where you are, with what you have, and do what you can.

"The best way to be a good father to your children is to be a good husband to their mother." ~ Jay E. Adams, Author, Biblical Counselor,
Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/26995-Jay_E_Adams