CVM Directors Office

June 2020

It is always interesting to look back on a week to consider how God is speaking through His Word, through Christian books, worship songs, and through others in the body of Christ. At my age, I am somewhat hard of hearing. This I believe is true in both a physical and a spiritual sense. Some things communicated to me, need to be repeated. However, just like Jan in her loving patience is willing to repeat things, speaking through my growing hardness of hearing, our Lord in His loving patience is will to repeat words for me.

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8) I have heard this verse multiple times this week. These are some of the words Jesus spoke to Nicodemus when he has been asked, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into His mother’s womb and be born, can he?. The conversation started with a purposed engagement with Jesus by Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. I find that for insights for direction and next steps, we much come to Jesus, in His word, in prayer, and faith. Nicodemus makes an important proclamation in his approach to Jesus sharing that they knew He came from God as a teacher because His words were confirmed with signs that would prove that God was with him. It is good for me to frame my connection with Him with the understanding of the amazing testimony we have in the word, in the body of Christ, and my faith journey. He has proven Himself faithful.

Jesus is speaking in our day as he did in the days of Nicodemus. He is inviting us into the kingdom of God as we are born again. There is for sure an important place of knowing Christ and the good news of the gospel. However, I also sense a place of coming to Christ with our questions about the realities of the kingdom of God in the world that is unfolding around us. To be alive and connected with the kingdom of God in such times we must not be born in the flesh, we must be born of the Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit, whom we have received as we have accepted Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit with whom we have been sealed. (Eph 1:13) The work of the Holy Spirit is likened to the wind. This wind blows where it wishes. This wind is something we can hear or sense, but in reality, we do not know where it comes from and where it is going. (John 3:1-8)

Our current times may have brought this reflection to me, yet I have sensed even in the last year that changes were coming. Part of it might have been our efforts to wrap up what we call Vision 2020 in CVM. It has been an amazing journey to consider what we had considered God asking of us back in 2010 and what He would be doing through CVM in 2020. Things that seemed impossible in 2010 are now a reality in 2020. Some goals were not met as we thought they might be, but we have a peace that He has been at work in them. Most goals were exceeded beyond
what we thought or could imagine. Much work has been done by the CVM Board and staff in the last couple of years, preparing for Vision 2025. With the enthusiasm that we have in considering the results of Vision 2020, we are excited about jumping into Vision 2025. We had not known where the wind of His Spirit was going to lead in 2010 and 2015. We are now in a place to consider the challenges of Vision 2025. They are steps and calling to a new level of faith, and only recently starting that journey in a COVID world. We need once again to trust and allow Him to birth in us again the empowerment of His Spirit to lead into the kingdom work of the new five-year vision. We know there is a wind, but where it comes from and where it goes, we are not sure.

You are an important part of this journey, we are humbled each month as we hear from many of you in notes, prayers, and financial support. I hope we have done a good job over the years to say thank you and to help equip you with how to pray.

Pray for Jan and I as we seek Him each day and the kingdom work that unfolds within our marriage, in our family, our neighborhood, and our world. We thank Him for you.

In His Spirit,

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