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Growing up with a perfectionist father can make for a life of procrastination. Before my dad died, he began to be more comfortable with imperfections in himself and others. Perhaps old age does that to a person. As he became older and feebler, he was no longer able to do things as perfectly as he would've liked and had to become more accepting of help from others. Of course, that inevitably led to him getting used to things not being done to his exacting standards. Toward the end of his life, he seemed way more peaceful and I am glad to have been able to see my dad relax. However, I still procrastinate.

Many folks who don't struggle with procrastination probably think that the issue is one of laziness. Or others might believe that procrastination is an issue of poor planning or bad organizational skills. While I am certain that there are probably some people who procrastinate for those reasons, it has been my experience that most procrastinators have something else in common, fear of failure. It isn't laziness, because I spend tons of time and energy finding a thousand other things to do. Then I work hard and keep busy doing the other things in order to avoid the one thing I know I must get done. Planning and organization are usually not an issue either because a procrastinator can delay starting a project by planning and organizing it to death. I have this strategy down to a science and can make a good planning session last for easily four times longer than is actually needed.

Nope, the truth is much more pathetic than laziness or poor planning. It is simply cowardice. Well, perhaps cowardice is too strong of a word as it is too associated with combat, but it is fear that keeps me endlessly delaying. I was always afraid that I would never be able to do the job perfectly and if I didn't do it perfectly dad would point out my failure. He wasn't usually angry or mean about pointing it out, just matter of fact. "You need to do this next time and it'll be right." Of course, I understand why dad was doing that, it was how he was raised, and he used to tell me that the only way we ever get better is to know what we did wrong. His favorite line was the



ubiquitous, "If you can't do something right, there is no sense doing it at all." Wow, just typing that gave me a flashback. I can still see him in my mind's eye and hear his slow steady matter-of-fact voice and the nod of his head for emphasis. Of course, dad was right to a point. After all, we need to be able to listen to criticism and be teachable. And I certainly don't agree with our modern notion of never correcting children for fear of damaging their little tender self-esteem. But at the same time, I think that somewhere I picked up the notion that imperfect was the same as failure. And I was afraid of failure. Well, more precisely I was afraid of my failure being pointed out by someone else. I have often been afraid of other's opinions in the past. Therefore, I have often been tempted to procrastinate.

There is a verse in the Bible that has helped me a great deal with this fear of other's evaluations of me. Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of other people's opinions of you will only disable you, but if you trust in God you will be honored." When God's opinion of you or of what you are doing is the only one that matters, you are free from fear of the opinions of others. This enables you to overcome procrastination, or enabling, or fear of telling people difficult truth that you might have been too afraid to tell them before. And you actually get your article done for Jack so he can put it in this issue for you to read. :)

Prayer Requests:

Boise Spring Break Trip:

- This spring break, we are sending a team of students to Boise, ID to explore the option of working with refugees for spring break trips (since we are no longer going to Chicago).
- That students on this team would gain a heart for the world, overcome fear of other cultures, and learn how to explain the trip to people at home.

Summer Mission Teams:

- **East Asia Team:** A team of three students are going to East Asia this summer to work with missionaries on a college campus with the intent to reach college students and share about Christ. Pray for team unity, financial support, and for God to prepare their hearts for sharing their faith with others!
- **GBI:** A student is going on a GBI (Global Business Internship) trip to do a marketing internship with a sports company in the Middle East. Pray for him as he prepares for this trip, for God to provide the funds, and that he would trust God in this new location.
- **Project Impact:** Pray for the students that are going to Denver to participate in this discipleship training program. Pray that God would provide the funds and jobs for the students. Also pray that they will get to grow in their relationship with God and ability to share their faith with others.

“Learning is really about translating *knowing* what to do into *doing* what we know.”

- John Miller

(QBQ: The Question Behind the Question)

DAVE MEDDER'S CORNER: WINTER 2017 MINISTRY TRIP

Jack Hall offered Dave Hughes and me an opportunity to help a young couple, who were recent Black Hills University graduates, join a ministry in Katmandu, Nepal that works with freeing women from human trafficking. We also traveled to make contact with a pastor in southern India who raises some support through FCD. In between there was a side trip to the UAE for a couple of days of rest.

The Nepal trip awakened me again to how most of the world lives. It was more of a third world environment than I have seen in all of my overseas travels. It was thrilling to meet with several of the women and employees who work with them and observe them working in a job and regaining their respectability. The religious temples throughout Katmandu were everywhere as were several sacred cows that literally have the right of way in Nepal.

We stayed in a home for two nights in Dubai and had significant conversations with several believers. One that jarred me was about a group of people who had previously been there but had since been martyred. I have never had a conversation that reminded me of the real spiritual warfare and battle for people's lives.

In southern India we stayed with a pastor, met his extended family, and participated in a 3 ½ hour Sunday service. It was evident God was working in this church of about 300 people. There was a definite need for people there in learning how to disciple those who were coming to Jesus.

I was also able to meet and share Jesus with a former student

from India I had met in Laramie over 20 years ago. He and his wife listened to the gospel and I was able to pray with them.



ABOVE: Dave Medders, Mitch, Dave Hughes, and Sonja on top of a mountain overlooking Kathmandu, Nepal.



LEFT: Dave Hughes, Kishor (former student in Laramie), and Dave Medders.