



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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NETWORK



THINK WITH ME ABOUT THE WORD "NETWORK." WHAT COMES TO MIND? I QUICKLY CONSIDER SEVERAL THINGS. A TELEVISION NETWORK WOULD BE ONE USE OF THE WORD. ANOTHER WOULD BE A COMPUTER NETWORK. A VERBAL FORM OF THE WORD COULD BE USED IN DESCRIBING YOUR ASSOCIATES OR PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU PARTNER IN BUSINESS OR RECREATION. YOU NETWORK WITH OTHERS. AND THEN THERE'S THE EVER PRESENT SOCIAL NETWORKS LIKE FACEBOOK OR TWITTER.

BUT LET'S THINK ABOUT STILL ANOTHER CONCEPT. THAT IS THE IDEA OF "NET WORK." WE READ IN MATTHEW 4 OF JESUS WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE AND SEEING BROTHERS PETER AND ANDREW "CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA; FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN. AND HE SAID TO THEM, 'FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.'" (VS. 18-19) THEIR EMPLOYMENT INVOLVED THE SEEKING FISH BY USING NETS, BUT THEIR INVITATION INVOLVED A KIND OF NET WORK THAT WAS FOCUSED ON CATCHING UNSAVED MEN. UPON HEARING CHRIST'S CALL WE'RE TOLD THAT THESE EARLY DISCIPLES "IMMEDIATELY LEFT THE NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM." (V. 20) WE KNOW TOO THAT RIGHT AFTER CALLING THESE BROTHERS, JESUS ASKED TWO OTHER FISHERMEN, JAMES AND JOHN, TO ALSO JOIN THEIR GROUP. THERE IS NOW A NETWORK OF NET WORKERS! THESE GAVE UP ONE FORM OF NET WORK FOR ANOTHER. WITH JESUS THEY WERE "GOING ABOUT IN ALL GALILEE, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES AND PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM" (V. 23)

THE NEED FOR NET WORKERS WAS EXPANDING SO JESUS "APPOINTED SEVENTY OTHERS AND SENT THEM TWO AND TWO AHEAD OF HIM TO EVERY CITY AND PLACE WHERE HE HIMSELF WAS GOING TO COME. AND HE WAS SAYING TO THEM, 'THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE BESEECH THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST.'" (LUKE 10:1-2) THE NET WORKERS NETWORK WAS EXPANDING.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT WE KNOW ALL OF THESE PEOPLE AND HAVE ALL OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS AND EVEN THE CONVENIENCES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES, AND YET HAVE WE FAILED TO FISH FOR THE SOULS OF THE LOST? JESUS STILL NEEDS NET WORKERS, THERE'S ROOM FOR MANY MORE. I WONDER, HOW IS YOUR NET WORK DOING?

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE