

August 2009

Dear Friends:

**More Than Gold** – As mentioned in the July newsletter, the Vancouver/Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Games will provide the local church with one of the greatest opportunities to reach a large number of people in a short period of time. It is also a unique opportunity for churches to work together in service and ministry to athletes, their families, games officials and organizers – as well as hundreds of thousands of visitors and local residents.

To help you and your church take advantage of these opportunities, a number of Working Groups have been formed under the banner of **More Than Gold (MTG)**. **MTG** staff has been visiting churches in the Lower Mainland to share the vision with pastors, who are asked to appoint **MTG** church representatives to serve as primary information conduits to their respective churches regarding the activities of MTG-related ministries. A **MTG** staff will be pleased to come to your church to make a brief presentation and answer any questions as to how your church can be involved. For more information, please call (604) 484-8629 or go to: [www.morethangold.ca/og](http://www.morethangold.ca/og).

### **Reflections of a Christian in the Marketplace:**

I know a young man who is gifted and has a great mind, but, for whatever reason, he just doesn't apply himself. Does that sound familiar? Apparently he sets his sights low and is satisfied with being mediocre. He does enough to be okay and to get by, but he doesn't have the passion to match his potential. As I thought about him the other day, I thought, "You know, that's the way some of us approach the Christian life – just do enough to get by, to just make it." We do enough to be respectable, but without the fire in our bosom to match our God-given potential.

God wants us to be intentional and passionate about the pursuit of holiness. He doesn't want us to be lazy about the "little" areas of weakness and sin in our lives – the ones we tend to ignore, or to have a sort of comparative holiness mindset. We may say, "I'm not as bad as so and so. I could be a lot worse." But that's the wrong standard! We're not called to be mediocre in our approach to the Christian life.

For my daily devotions the past couple of months, I've been using a book by John Stott titled, "*Favorite Psalms – Growing Closer to God*." Yesterday I was meditating on Psalm 51, which is the prayer of repentance that David prayed when he was confronted with his sin with Bathsheba. The verses that stood out to me were verses 10-12: "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*"

David expressed great passion in his words and was intentional and specific. In other words, he was saying, "God, please don't let me do this again. I want to move toward Your heart."

I see David expressing three incredible desires in this passage. The first is a desire for purity: "*Create in me a clean heart.*" David wants a pure heart. He doesn't want there to be any stain or hint of sin around him. He doesn't want to entertain anything that is wrong.

The second desire is the pursuit of holiness. "*Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*" David wants to be close to God and in His presence. By way of implication, David wants to be like God.

The third desire is to experience God's pleasure. "*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*" David wants to experience that joy, to know God's delight and pleasure.

How is your spiritual life? Are you satisfied with just being mediocre or do you desire more – like David? Are you passionate about pursuing His holiness in all areas of your life? Why or why not?

Blessings and shalom!

Bill Wong

#### Upcoming Events:

**City In Focus Breakfasts:** 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. at the Vancouver Club (915 West Hastings St). Upcoming dates: Sep 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. More information on the breakfasts and other events will be posted under "Events" at [www.cityinfocus.ca](http://www.cityinfocus.ca)

*City In Focus – Asian Ministries*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 107 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1C7  
604-687-7292 (office) / 604-240-3968 (cell) / e-mail: [billw@cityinfocus.ca](mailto:billw@cityinfocus.ca)