

May 2009

Dear Friends of City In Focus – Asian Ministries:

At the CIF breakfast on April 3rd, **Chris Hornibrook** came to share about his involvement in *The Master's Program*. As the VP of Human Resources for a travel and healthcare solutions company in Montreal, Chris started to focus his ministry time toward men's ministries. *The Master's Program* provided him a place to sharpen his tools for ministry in order to be more effective in his Kingdom pursuits. With that background in entrepreneurial ministry, Chris found the emphasis on strategic focus in *The Master's Program* to be invaluable.

Due to his time in the program, Chris now views himself as a “Kingdom Business Partner,” partnering with other men who are making changes for eternity and influencing others. *The Master's Program* has challenged Chris to be obedient, strategic, and focused about living out his calling by taking risks and approaching ministry with an entrepreneurial approach.

Chris launched *The Master's Program* in Montreal involving 28 men. He is considering starting one here in Vancouver. His talk can be heard at www.cityinfocus.ca, under “Events - Selected Event Recordings.”

Reflections of a Christian in the Marketplace:

I once asked a Christian counsellor what's the most common root problem that he encountered in his profession. Without hesitation, he replied, “Broken expectations.”

I'm sure we all have expectations in life. We expect that people will be nice to us, that we have good health. We expect to have great marriages, faithful friends, and successful careers. But expectations have a way of not living up to their promises. And if we're not careful, broken expectations can put us in the ditch.

I was reading a passage from Philippians 1:12-21, where the Apostle Paul demonstrates how he handles broken expectations in a rather victorious way. Let's consider his perspective as he faced significant challenges in terms of placement, people and uncertainty.

Some of us face placement challenges, asking God, “Why did you put me in this job, or this company, or this hospital bed?” For Paul, it was prison. You'd think with his credentials that he would have expected unrestricted access to impact the world for Christ. Yet, even from prison he acknowledged, “...*what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel*” (v. 12).

When it comes to the people in our lives, no doubt we will all face some broken expectations – sometimes even from those whom we would least expect. In the midst of Paul's hardship, you would think that other believers would have encouraged him, but some were actually glad he was in prison and they began preaching in his absence out of envy and rivalry. To this Paul's responded, “...*whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice*” (v. 18).

Then there's the challenge of an uncertain future for some of us – maybe a job transfer or a layoff or bad news from the doctor. Paul knew that, at any moment, the Emperor Nero might give the edict for his execution, and yet in the face of that uncertainty, he declared, “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*” (v. 21).

What are some of your expectations in life? How do you respond when those expectations are unmet? Maybe we can consider adopting Paul's one and only expectation – “*I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body*” (v. 20).

Now that's one expectation that we can control!

Blessings and shalom!

Bill Wong

Upcoming event: **Wednesday, June 24th** – 18th Annual Wallet Open Golf Tournament – to help raise money to send underprivileged kids to summer camps. If you wish to attend this event, please call 604-687-7292 or email info@cityinfocus.ca

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