



THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

PRESENCE is primarily about being with
and not just doing for.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (NIV)

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

We are not simply meeting **HUMAN** need.

We are serving **DIVINE** purpose.

Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV)

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?'³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Living out Kingdom **REQUIRES** presence.

NOTES:

Luke 18:16-17

¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

"It is often easier to become outraged by injustice half a world away than by oppression and discrimination half a block from home."

- Carl T. Rowan



heritageqc.com



/heritageqc



heritageqc

Day with Dads – Kewanee: Providing incarcerated dads with the opportunity to interact directly with their children in a variety of fun and tactile environments.
Over 100 dads spending one-one time with their kids is the HUGE win for all! This is moving to twice/year due to the great need and awesome success.

Esperanza Center: Faithfully providing a center for community collaboration
Over 20 different partners utilized the space in 2018
Hundreds of families supported and empowered through relationship

Esperanza Bus Stop: 30 unique children provided with a safe space to prep for school
7 of 14 needed volunteers love and serve these kids each morning
Bus tokens, breakfast and free hugs given...all before the bus arrives!

Esperanza Legal Assistance Center: Serving 260+ clients from 33 different countries
Over 50 successful cases; 42 cases pending
20+volunteers serve in a variety of crucial roles

Jefferson Food Pantry: Serving 30 different families and 170 individuals/pantry
20+volunteers staff this needed team each pantry
Praying for and encouraging each family that we love!

Mobile food pantry – Esperanza Center: Awesome family-serve opportunity
381 different families served in 2018; Over 40 volunteers/pantry
Almost 27,000 lbs. of food given to food-insecure families

RI County Jail: Weekly commitment to create space for men and women to have Christ-centered connection in the jail.
4 teams/2 each weekly for group interaction; About 20 people ministered to weekly

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch - Encouraging the caregivers who are providing Christian homes for abused, neglected and at-risk children in Missouri. Supporting the holistic mission of meeting the spiritual, emotional, educational, social and physical needs of each child.
2 leaders and 14 team members lived SENT this summer as they travelled to be present.

Sunshine Gospel Ministries - Connecting Heritage with people from different backgrounds in Chicago to promote shared understanding of the unique challenges facing inner-city communities through active learning engagement.
5 leaders & 14 students crossed this relational bridge in July 2018.

Teacher Encouragement Partners: Monthly encouragement opportunity as we support teachers serving in tough environments.
Jefferson - 47/73 teachers/staff matched
Thurgood Marshall - 18/40 teachers/staff matched
Lincoln-Irving - 0/28 teachers/staff matched

Thurgood Marshall Market: Serving 24 unique (large) family groups each month
Addition of hygiene items through our Go!Kids partnership
Love and encouragement supplied in abundance.

Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

:: Share a time in your life when the presence of another person made a big difference for you. Why was this significant?

:: What is the difference between being with and doing for?

:: What are some of the opportunities and challenges in each of these spaces of interaction?

:: Read 2 Corinthians 9. We are going to be looking at this passage over the next 3 weeks.

:: How can our generosity encourage others?

:: How do we give out of generosity and not just obligation?

:: Take time to pray about how God might want you to be more present and generous in your service to Him for the sake of others.

:: In what ways have you experienced God's good gifts?

:: What are some of the ways we can express our gratitude to God?

:: How can we keep Jesus as the ultimate hero of our story? How do we keep ourselves from becoming the hero?

:: You are invited to pray John Wesley's Covenant prayer every day this week and record how God answers this prayer in your life.

:: Identify someone you trust and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable as you do this.

Lord, hear our prayers...

"I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,

Exalted for you or brought low by you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal."

-Wesley's Covenant Prayer

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize you as my Savior; and I offer all that I am to you as my LORD.

Help me to faithfully follow you until the end of the fight.

In Your name, Amen.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Beth Cossin (@bthcoss) – November 3 & 4, 2018

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch.