

July 8, 2016

Help Wanted?

Milepost 69

But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you. John 14:26

Contrary to popular belief, self-sufficiency and following Christ do not mix. After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were still afraid. The government saw them as co-conspirators of an executed criminal convicted of blasphemy. Jesus' disciples needed help.

Fifty days later, help arrived on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit transformed fearful disciples into bold apostles. The Spirit's fingerprints are everywhere in Acts.

Our 16th Century Anabaptist ancestors knew they needed help. They relied on The Word, *and* The Spirit. It was the Spirit of Christ which emowered ordinary men and women to continue their bold verbal witness of their faith as they were being put to death. Because they sincerely desired to obey the Word, the Spirit enabled them to embrace new interpretations of Scripture considered blasphemous by virtually all other Christians in their day.

Do I want help? To interpret the Word? To respond in radical obedience? To go deeper in our relationships with Jesus, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and neighbors? To participate in discerning what Jesus, the Head of Shalom Mennonite Church, is calling us to become and do?

In Scripture, the Spirit's help often comes through others--sometimes even through strangers or perceived enemies.

—Gary Martin

Looking Ahead:

July 10 9:30 a.m. *Do I need help?* John 14-16

11:00 a.m. Dialogue #2: *Congregational Lifecycle*

July 14 7:00 p.m. Continuing Conversation: Exit Agreement

July 17 9:30 a.m. *Spiritual Gifts: The Operating System for Jesus' Church* 2 Kings 5; 1 Corinthians 12

Gary's projected in town schedule: July 10; 13-14; 17-19; July 31-Aug3