

Church secretary preaches the message

Dan Nelson

2007

Have you ever felt tired and unappreciated? Have you ever felt discouraged in serving God? I think many people have. When disappointment and discouragement creeps in, we are in danger of losing sight of why we are here. At times like this, one can easily lose perspective and ministry subtly transforms from a privilege and life calling to a job, a career path, or an obligation to help. I think you would be surprised to know how common this is in churches across America; from pastors to nursery volunteers, many wonderful people have lost the vision.

Recently my secretary Anna was on an Internet blog shared by other church secretaries from different parts of the country of various backgrounds. Their intent is to encourage and help one another. One day recently, the conversation began to turn as some expressed hurt feelings and potential bitterness because of a lack of compensation. One secretary complained that the janitor was getting paid more than her. She had lost perspective. We all have been there before. I was so blessed by what Anna wrote back that I wanted to share it with you. I hope her perspective might benefit you as well. Here it is:

"As I read some of the posts on this subject I got so sad. I feel for you and also for all you other ladies who don't feel appreciated or compensated appropriately for the work you do. I understand that as humans (and as women) we want (need) to feel appreciated by those we work so hard for. Often that means if we aren't shown appreciation in other ways, then what we are paid (especially in comparison to others) tells us how much we are (or are not) appreciated.

However, that being acknowledged, I would like to (with gentleness and love) remind all of you that we are ultimately working for the Lord and through Him and only through Him, will we receive our just rewards.

God knows everything you do and God always appreciates it. As scripture says: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

As most of you know (I have posted this before) I am a volunteer at my church. I don't get paid to be the pastor's secretary (and everyone else who needs me). To earn a living I work as a pet sitter, which pays next to nothing. However, I have given myself over to God and He supplies all I need every month. I never have to worry about a thing. I am currently on my second car in 3 years that was given to me ... God provided.

I encourage all of you to give this over to God. If He wants you to get a raise; if He wants you

to find another job; if He wants you to stay where you are and just trust Him daily to provide; then let His will be done in your life. Believe me when I tell you that you will never regret it. As we trust Him more and more, we start to see how much He cares for us, our attitudes change, we start to praise Him more (even in the hard times); we give Him all the glory; and our faith and the faith of everyone around us starts to grow and grow.

I pray that God works on your hearts and the hearts of those you work for and with and that He shows you just how very much He loves each and every one of you. Now I exhort each of you to go out and do something nice for your self this weekend. Get some rest and come back to work Monday refreshed and rejuvenated and ready to serve the Lord who loves and appreciates us all. God Bless you all, Anna"

What do you think? How do you feel? Are you appreciated by those that you serve? Whether in church, at home, at work, or in the community, we do what we do to fulfill the calling God has on our lives. We live out the gifts God has given us to be a benefit and blessing to others. We find strength in the Lord and purpose in the good news of Jesus. And what is given, whether time, energy, or resources, is a free gift unto God. In the end, we have an audience of ONE. To Him be the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. This article was published in 2007. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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Sunday Worship:
9:00 & 10:30am

Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave, Oak View

Mid-Week Study:
7:00pm Thursday

Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
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