

The Training—Encounter 1 of 3

by Christine Wentzel

Earlier I had written a devotional about taking Church to the unchurched. How as Christ's ambassadors we might be the only Church someone feels free to enter. Little did I know that letter of encouragement was the early prep work for my recent experiences. It's one thing to cheer us on in our personal ministries, it's quite another to actually do it.



I was working a local craft event. The gorgeous low summer temps and incredibly verdant surroundings were in abundance, the buying public was not. That left a lot of time for us vendors to talk amongst ourselves then came time for Church.

While making a circuit to see what my fellow creative crafters were up to, I stopped at one tent that held a lot of interest and asked the vendor about her product. While she described it, I noticed the ghost of physical pain hovering over her face. I immediately recognized that old spook for I see it the mirror every day. So with my familiar speak first/ think later compulsions I asked her if she was okay. She paused and scanned me over with her trust radar, I mean, her eyes. That's another familiar facial ghost that haunts me.

I don't know what gave her the green light, but she answered in a calm, matter-of-fact tone that she suffers severe pain from a fused spine as a result of degenerative rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. As soon as I heard that, I also heard God's loudspeaker squawking out "Christine, you're up-STAT!"

"Yes Sir, I'm on it!" Oh so eager for this assignment! As soon as I assured her I understood because of our shared RA, it was smooth sailing to go from the physical to the spiritual. We were both smiling for the sisterhood of the chronic sufferers, but more notably, for the sisterhood of the chronically saved. We exchanged contact information, and the Lord willing, will see each other again.

As I walked away with a lighter step, I thanked God for the evangelical opportunity and then thanked Him for making this experience so easy. Alright! I took Church to the churched, woot-woot! Um, not so fast there Mary Magdalene wannabe, our Teacher just played t-ball with this rookie. The major leagues were next...

This turned out to be Encounter #1 called "The Training." Encounter #2 was right around the corner, and it was called "The Rescue." Stay tuned for that intense experience of taking Church to the unchurched...

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9-



Season: Pentecost

Video: 5. What is Your Personal Ministry?

Devotions: 106. The Gap

174. Bring it on!

Prayer: 50. Again, Lord, I was blessed when I entered...

Super Girl: 58. My friend Laura wrote the below, it's a good reminder...

Scripture References: Proverbs 3:27; John 9:4; John 12:35; Acts 6:7; Galatians 1:23;

Ephesians 2:19; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:15, 21; Hebrews 3:6

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