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James W. Moss, Sr.
Church Consultant

People Spot Missile: A Holy Boldness

I was doing an observation recently. The people were all excited about a project they had been working on. For 13 weeks between the hours of 12:00 and 1:00 on a Saturday they stood along a main street with a neatly printed sign that said, “Can we pray for you?” They got a variety of responses including, “might you rot in hell.” Some honked their horns and gave thumbs up. Every week some people stopped for prayer for a variety of issues. Every week there were prayer requests that were mentioned in the church’s prayer time. Some visitors actually showed up in the service as a result of the effort. Sure does sound like Holy Boldness to me.

For more than 30 years I have worked with pastors and laity who were either planters or who were working in renewal projects. I have been praying that they would have a spirit of Holy Boldness. What do I mean? Do you believe the gospel? Do you really believe the gospel? Are you sure? I will never forget, as a student at Winebrenner Seminary, Elton Trueblood was a special speaker. He was one of the most prolific writers of his era. (See if you can find, “The Incendiary Fellowship” vital even for today.) Several of us were sitting around a table talking. He said, “The greatest hypocrisy of all, is to accept the salary of a minister of the gospel and not believe the gospel.”

Do we believe that sufficiently to boldly proclaim it loudly so that people who do not know him will accept him as Savior? Michael Schooley went to Horseheads, N.Y. to plant a church. He had to enlist six families before he could begin. His goal was to proclaim the gospel to people who did not know him. Two prominent pastors took him to breakfast and chastised him for his efforts. I will never forget talking with Mike following that moment. He was discouraged but praise God kept at the task. He raised \$40,000.00 to aid the cause because he boldly asked. I asked Mike to share some of the bold actions of he and the church. He said, “We felt like we should make a part time staffing hire - even though we didn't have the money to do it, but felt it was what God wanted us to do, and a wise decision for the church - so we went through the process of hiring the right person for that.” He added, “Tithing right at the start - of our church plant when finances were uncertain. is a faith step.” He continued, “We have done many outreaches as well - Free Chicken barbecue - giving away 500+ chicken dinners and Passing out hot chocolate on the day after thanksgiving at 4:30 in the morning.” He has a Holy Boldness. As a result the Lord has blessed and Higher Hope Community Church in Horseheads is alive and well reaching unchurched people for Christ.

My son Jim has tapped on nearly 8,000 doors for Jesus. He could hit 1,000 doors in 40 hours. That sounds like a Holy Boldness to me.

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹He is " 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.^{[a]'}^[b] ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:8-13 Sure does sound like Holy Boldness to me!

What are you as a Christian doing that could be described as Holy Boldness? What is your Church doing that could be described as Holy Boldness? What is your denomination doing that could be described as Holy Boldness? Please write and tell me so I can share with others....

I am now available to present "The Role of the Church in the Civil War", "Starting a New Service", "Churches Have Personalities", "People Spots", "Does Your Church Really Care About People?" and "A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills." "Stewardship and Managing Debt" jm

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