

IN TOUCH

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Dear Friend:

Years ago there was a very popular novel, turned movie, turned Broadway play called *The King and I*. The play still runs today on world stages and one of the enduring songs is: "Getting To Know You". If you're old enough (and I'm not!) you will remember Yule Brenner was the King and Deborah Kerr was a tutor to his children. "Getting To Know You" has an upbeat, easy melodious rhythm that repeats the phrase "getting to know you....". How do we get to know each other? It is so easy to stay superficial. We say things like: "Hi, how are you?", "What do you think about this heat", "Not much how about you" and on and on. As texting, tweeting, instagramming, and snapchatting increase more and more getting to know each other will become more and more difficult. Superficiality will become even more-so the norm. That's not what Jesus wants for his Church.

In Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-37 we have the model of how the church should get to know one another. No simple, "Hi how are you?" or "Nice day isn't it?". The church of the New Testament and beyond spent a lot of time together. They ate together, prayed together, worshipped together for hours and took care of each other's needs as much as possible. The American church has a maximum comfort level of about 90 minutes! There are Christians of many different cultures in America and their maximum comfort level far exceeds those born in America. It really does not have as much to do with where one is born as what the tradition of the church has been since its' inception. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church begins church between 6:00-7:00 a.m. and wraps up around 3:00 p.m. Many Hispanic churches begin around 1:00-2:00 p.m. and finish up 4:00-5:00 p.m. Some Asian churches begin at 10:00 a.m. and end around 1:00 p.m. Africans in general? Start around noon and finish anywhere from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Notice I mentioned the word "around" several times? That's because culturally they are not as time bound as native born Americans. To be honest, these churches function relationally more like the New Testament church than the traditional American church.

Am I advocating a 5 hour worship service? It would never work in the strictly American culture. What I am advocating is that Franklin Church should pull from its' past to make a better future. In the past there is a history of card nights (at home and church), bowling, camping, eating out together, etc. A church will not grow that does not know one another. Anyone want to play some cards, go bowling or overnight at Camp COTUBIC? Let' go....

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Request: Haitian Survivors and Recovery, Mission Agencies Working In Haiti, Faye Cooper (recovering), Clarabell Harlan just turned 97, and many more happy birthdays!