



W K H # E U I G J H

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“God Always Cracks a Window”

During the Olympic Games I heard reports that the Chinese government was not allowing people to bring Bibles into the country. I was never able to confirm this report, but I read many things on line from frustrated “evangelists” who were not able to go in and share the Good News. Yet, God is very present in China. It is believed by some that China is the fastest growing part of the Body of Christ. It is a movement that happened before communism when seeds were planted by missionaries (some churches in China still have dedication “signs” in bell towers with RCA church names on it) who were then forced out of the country. The Spirit grew these seeds and now China is infested with dandelions growing everywhere and they really can’t control it no matter how hard they try. God has never worked in China the way the Spirit works in the west.

Back to the Olympics: I heard last week that an RCA friend of mine working down the road went to China with a Rabbi as part of an organization who works to bring more religious freedom throughout the world. They quietly met with government officials and made sure that there were places of worship around the Olympic stadium. Although Christianity is a “recognized religion,” Judaism is not. For the weeks of the games there was a church for people to worship at and a synagogue for Jews to go to and say their prayers. I can only imagine the opportunity these places provided for conversation between athletes and the men and women walking by. God had cracked a window in the back of the house and a group of faithful men and women slipped through and God’s presence was felt where it counts...on the streets.

We are so busy looking for God to open the door to proclaim, in word and deed, the Good News of Jesus Christ that we often make excuses because we never seem to have the “right” moment to share. How blind have we been to the cracked windows? How many opportunities have we missed because our eyes are set on “the normal” way of doing things and not joining God in the creative dance that has been used by the Spirit since the dawn of time to spread grace?

So here is the challenge. HRCjourney, Common Ground and Hopewell are all looking to Easter as a day of “not enough seats” as we all bring people searching for the truth through our doors. We need to start now to identify that person we want to invite to that glorious day. We need to be intentional over the next several months building relationships, having them over for dinner with other members of the Body of Christ and pray for opportunities to share the Good News. We need to be looking for the cracked windows to enter into the lives of others so they will be more willing to come and join the celebration. Can you imagine what Easter will look like if EVERY FAMILY BRINGS A FRIEND? The Spirit is moving through Dutchess County and there are doors and windows open in the lives of people all around. What are you going to do about it? Complain because they won’t let you take a Bible in or look for a cracked window?

Until Next Week . . . Mark