

Hi! Trust all is well!

HOWe THINGS ARE...

September 2014

More like gravel...

When my team meets each week each of us list our three "big rocks": the three big things we're working on, fighting with, would like the others to pray about... I used to easily list my three. And then, somewhere along the way, it became harder to list three. I didn't run out of things to do. My things to do became a list of lots of small things: No big rocks, just gravel. I was convinced I needed big rocks. You know, to feel as though I have focus and I'm making an impact: big rocks when moved make an impact... I suppose if you move enough gravel, it makes an impact too... I was still believing that what I needed was to identify some big rocks.

I've changed my mind. Maybe not for the rest of my life, but for right now, there's a lot of gravel needing my attention. Still important, just no impressive big rocks.

And, I ask myself, can I be just as enthusiastic and motivated when work is gravel rather than those impressive big rocks? Yep. Guess why? Because it matters. It matters to people who have a vested interest in this particular piece of gravel and it matters to God.

I like this shift in thinking.

Yesterday I had much fun talking to potential new team members. First up was a potential Help Desk staff person joining Wycliffe and starting to raise support. I asked how he came to join Wycliffe because I love the answers to that question. His story: He was at an event at church that involved some kind of technical, multimedia thing. A woman he'd never met who was affiliated with Wycliffe was also at the event. She approached him out of the blue and asked if he was part of the technical team. He said he wasn't. She walked away and then came back later, unsolicited, and said, "You know, Wycliffe is looking for IT people. I think you should consider

PRAY

I'm planning two work events: a prayer one on 10/2 and on 10/21, one to help us become more effective at what Wycliffe calls partnership development: sharing the mission with people and presenting an opportunity for people to respond to God's calling to reach the world making disciples. Pray those two activities get the planning attention needed and are helpful for my coworkers and ultimately for those still waiting for God's Word in their language.

Pray for creative ideas and wisdom to reach those in jail who come to Bible study

Pray for the right person to fill that manager role

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applying." And Timothy thought, "why not? Couldn't hurt." And so he did. Why this random woman thought this random guy had IT skills and should apply to Wycliffe and then why he would agree because the random woman suggested it. I think it's hilarious.

Later I spoke with a potential manager. He thought his technical skills might not be sufficient. Perfect setup for me to comment about what I think makes a good manager: willingness to invest in the team and develop people, to learn and encourage others to learn, to empower others to take on technical tasks. (Not that technical skills are unimportant, just not as important as attitude)

In non-work news:

- I'm running a half-marathon in Myrtle Beach (flat) in October as a prelude to running a February marathon there (if all goes well).
- I'm working on lessons for jail ministry that show our salvation is **not** the result of human effort. The belief that salvation and God's blessing come by works seems pervasive there. Incidentally the group used to change each time I went. Now I see the same people each time.
- And, I have a goal to become a good example of one with work-life balance. Suggestions appreciated.

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