

OUT OF THE FISHES MOUTH

AUGUST 2018



Last month I wrote about many of the challenging situations that my friends are facing. “SUFFERING – A WEEK OF REFLECTIONS”. I realized that my perspective on life was becoming affected by the hardships of others. Then I went out with my friend Robby and he gave me a picture that helped so much. The bowl above is a product of “Kintsugi” which is the Japanese art of repairing broken pots using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum powder. While the cracks are still evident the bowl takes on a unique beauty and actually the value increases.

This is not common because our tendency especially in the West is to discard broken objects and buy new ones. (Throw Away Society)

The applications for pastoral ministry and everyday relationships are significant.

1-The Bible refers to us as earthen pots which are susceptible to being broken

But we have this *precious* treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty], so that the grandeur *and* surpassing greatness of the power will be [shown to be] from God [His sufficiency] and not from ourselves. 2 Cor. 4:7 AMP

2-The pain and trials in life (brokenness) can lead to greater beauty and value through God’s precious mending if we accept his work in our lives

3-If God offers this solution to our brokenness, we too should be willing to join Him in providing loving and patient care for others who are cracked.

Praise and Prayer:

1-Leadership development has begun again. The first session was on the topic. "Preparing for Persecution". It was based on an article coming out of Australia and reflecting on the significant changes in our moral fabric which are coming rapidly.

2-Tomorrow is our "Circle of Nations" Sunday where we celebrate the 60+ Nations that are represented in some way within our church. Our motto is actually "50 Nations, 1 Family". I have been preparing African Drumsticks with an Ethiopian Flavor all evening. 😊

3-Catherine and the NHCC team finished a very busy summer program successfully with much positive feedback.

4-My heart rhythm continues to be in the correct mode.

5-We will take two weeks of holidays in mid-September in the BC Interior.

6-The youth team from Kamloops had a meaningful encounter with the Downtown Eastside and the Multi-cultural flavor of Vancouver.

7-Mark is enjoying the opportunity to help two international students with English conversation and pronunciation practice.

Thank you for the many ways you encourage and support us.

Blessings

Mark and Catherine