

A People That God Can Use!

Today was a blessing for me. I thought I was going to be catering today. When I called Marg earlier in the week, she said I had the day free. That night I heard at home group that Arts Alive (<http://www.artsalivestudio.org>) was having a rehearsal today for "Jesus of Nazareth Through The Eyes of a Child." I sought the Lord and knew He wanted me there. I run sound for the productions. I knew that today there would be no sound to run. But I went anyway. It was humbling and so encouraging to see the young men and women gather in the studio and hear them pray to the Lord. They thanked the Lord for the opportunity to share the gospel through drama. They entreated Him to use them to reach the lost and encourage the believers. They asked for His strength and help during the spiritual battles that will be waged to bring this play forth. And trust me they know there will be battles. Where ever God is working there will be opposition from the enemy. We have seen in many times before and know that it is only God who gives the victory!

I'm so blessed to be a part of the group of people God has bract forth at Arts Alive. We come from churches all across this county and beyond. We have different vocations (those of us who are in the working world). We each have different gifts. But the Lord has called us all together for this time. I love how the Lord works in the local church body and in The Body of Christ for his glory. It is exciting to see people yielded to the Lord. They were yielded to give there day off. Yielded to give time that is precious to us all. Yielded to sacrifice to build, bring, and sew. Yielded to encourage the gifts in others and discipline when needed. Yielded to take vacation time (unpaid) to help. Yielded to serve hours on end after work that is at it's busiest time of year. It is humbling and SO encouraging. Just to play a small part in what God is doing blesses my sox off!

Arts Alive's goal is to reclaim the arts for Christ. Their purpose is to use the gifts and talents the Lord has gifted each one with to glorify the Lord. That is what worship is to be, a life of doing all to the glory of God. God has called us to daily offer ourselves at a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1). Tonight I was reading in "The Man God Uses" and was once again richly blessed and encouraged. I want to pass some of it on to you because it applies to the thoughts above. "Worship is giving God

praise, adoration, glory, honor, devotion, and love. It is an encounter with God where there is TOTAL SUBMISSION TO GOD. Unfortunately, some Christians have developed the idea that worship is for the worshiper rather than for God. They look to see what they are getting out of worship instead of what they are bringing to a holy God in worship"(Blackaby, 175 emphasis mine) Pray for us that we would see this play as worship to the Lord, first and foremost. Pray for us that we would realize that "Worship is first and foremost a heart attitude."(Blackaby, 175). Oh, that our hearts and minds would be set on Him. Help us all to walk out what God says about being a part of the Body of Christ. "The body of Christ never cancels out the individual; rather the individual finds his true purpose and meaning expressed through the group."(Blackaby, 187) We are to build each other up in love so that we may glorify God together and that all would know we are Christians by our love. Pray that we would realize that "It's not what we do that is important but what God can accomplish through what we do." Pray that the Lord would able to use us for His glory and it would draw people to Him.

Geoff Gentry
From a blog on Saturday, May 19, 2007

The Man God Uses Henry T. Blackaby, Tom Blackaby, Broadman & Holman Publishers 1999