



What do we Christians have to offer the world?

A few weeks ago Jan and I were camping at a Michigan state park. When I go camping Job #1 is to “veg out” in my special camp chair which also gives me some time to think about life in a campground. It is very much a microcosm of life in general. The miniature universe of a campground brings diverse people together in proximity yet they remain isolated and insulated from others and their surroundings. One of the places where this is so very true is in the community bathroom. Using a urinal with others doing the same thing is an occasion that brings people together without really being together, except on one particular morning.

“Hey dude!” I looked around to see who had broken the unwritten rule of speaking while using a urinal. Standing next to me was, I would guess, a 6 year old boy wearing Bat Man pajamas. He was looking up at me and said again, “Hey dude.” I have been called a lot of things but never a “dude” and never in a community bathroom. Not wanting to be boorish, I said, “Hey dude” right back to him. After I responded, then came his question, “Why did this bug fly in here?” He was pointing at a big beetle crawling around in the bottom of the urinal. I had no answer for his question but I tried, “I’m not sure; maybe it just likes the moisture.” He, however, was concerned about the well-being of the bug and was starting to reach down to pick it up. I quickly told him not to grab the bug but rather just let it climb out on its own power. He seemed satisfied with my suggestion and left rather abruptly without fishing around in the bottom of the urinal. I walked away thinking that breaking the unwritten rule of getting involved was the right thing to do.

What do we Christians have to offer the world? Let me offer a one word answer – Jesus. In Jesus we have not only someone we call Lord and Savior and Son of God but also a message and a life-style that compels us to get involved. We who are committed to following Jesus have the privilege and the responsibility to embody his message and life-style in word and deed.

Our upcoming mission saturation event on October 8, 2011 called “Let it be Known: The Mission Continues” is all about helping us to live the Jesus life-style. It’s not simply about hearing missionary stories from Africa or Haiti, but rather how we can live faithfully as Jesus-followers no matter where we are. We don’t have to go oversees to be in mission; it can happen right where we live, work, play... and go to the bathroom!

The world needs what we have to offer!