

Vignette 5: Understanding His Church!
Spirit Life, Part 16
Slide Notations

Spirit Life Vignettes... *Watching the outflow!* Removing the sep's/expletives/euphemisms! *Watching the "inflow!"* What goes in is what's coming out! *Fighting for our families!* Reestablishing God's norm! *Understanding the church!* Clarifying who & what we are! *Living on the Word of God!* So have nothing to fake!

Understanding the Church: Called to "show!" Actress Sandra Bullock says meeting Leigh Anne Tuohy, who she portrays in *The Blind Side*, showed her there really are some Christians who "walk the walk." The actress said, "Whereas...before I was like, do not give me a lecture on how to live my life when I know I'm a pretty decent human being... I might not go to church every day, but I know I do the right thing or try to. You're going to church and you're still sleeping around on your wife... how are you better than I am? So I finally met people who walk the walk." Bullock says thanks to the Tuohys, who attend Grace Evangelical Church in Memphis, she now has "faith in those who say they represent a faith." Getting to know Leigh Anne Tuohy, says the actress, showed her that religious faith can be authentic. "She was so open and honest and forthright," Bullock shares, "and I said, wow, I finally met someone who practices but doesn't preach."

Sandra Bullock may be well on her way to Christian faith because Leigh Anne Tuohy "showed" her faith!

Called to "act!"

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!' 'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks... Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes... she tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him... She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now. 'As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her. 'Are you God's wife?'

How much does it take on our part to make people wonder about the Lover of their souls?

Called to "adventure"! Last Sunday we got off the boat after being on it for 25 hours. It was a small slow cargo boat pulling two 'dead boats' that are used as barges to transport goods. We got off the boat in Kalemie and hit the ground running - from the boat to our friends to wash up and swallow a little food then out to the pygmy village to have a service, distribute food, clothes, medicine and supplies to orphans and widows and the sick. I had to translate for everyone because we didn't have room in the car. As I stood in that mud floor, thatch roof church I felt like I was swaying like I was still on the boat. It was a great time! From there we had lots of different types of ministry - open air meeting, prison ministry/feeding, church services, door to door evangelism and a visit to a village called Kimomo (I love that name!) Many, many salvations, some re-dedications, few filled with the Holy Spirit - lots of sick prayed for...I think one night we prayed for everyone in the church and that must have been close to 200. Yesterday we all testified and Raymond preached the main message at the Bible School Church

service. We left there before service was done to go to church #2 and all testified and I preached the main message. We left there before service was done and had a quick meal with pastor Kitcha (former student of mine) - chicken (Mike calls tough and chewy), rice, beans and a dish that is like spinach. From there Brandt (missionary) came to get us to grab our packed bags and off to the port to jump on the boat. This was a typical day of packing as much in as we can. We had a few slower mornings because of rain or change in plans - but Father led everything.

What is our post-salvation life really for if not to adventure in Godly service?

What is the church? People personally expressing the quality of kingdom life! Grabbing the eyes of the most worldly! **A26** People personally doing significant acts of loving kindness/benevolence! Not God's wife, but Bride of Christ! **J3.29** People personally motivated for sacrificial service! **2C12.15 A20.24, 21.13** Following in His footsteps! Considering it all to be an adventure!

What is the church? People who comprise the Body of Jesus Christ, who is the Head! God raised Christ from the dead and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all. **E1.22** The church is Christ's body, in which He speaks and acts, by which He fills everything with His presence. **-msg**

What is the church?

People finding the "particular" God has set them in the body! As the body is one w/many parts all making one whole body, so also is Christ; for by the Spirit we made into one body, w/many parts. Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular. **1C12.27** Like the many members of the body, all differing, so we being many are one body in Christ, all connected together! **R12.4,5**

How did we come to the place... *Where "Church" is a place and time?* People feel a need to "get back to church" Ask, "What time is church?" *Where Pastors are Directors of religious clubs; Love Boat captains; Architects of cities for God? Where people treat church w/same consumer connection as the dry cleaners, grocery store, Dr. office?*

What do we do? Aside from our personal demonstrations- Come together for times of worship/word. "And upon the first day of the week when the disciples gathered together to break bread..." **A20.7** Tradition based on Resurrection/Jesus appearances **Lk24.1,30,35 J20.19,26 1C16.2** Setting of communion/evening services!

What do we do? Aside from our personal demonstrations- Come together for times of fellowship "When they came together Paul preached (a long time!) and then they broke bread together! **A20.7,11** Not for selfish gains **1C12** or validation **14** To meet the needs of others; by food, by word, by whatever... idea was "service!"

What do we do? Aside from our personal demonstrations- Met together from house to house! **A2** Demonstrate the kingdom for the world to see! **Gospels/Acts** Demonstrations of power! Healings, casting out demons, people dropping dead/lying, contests w/sorcerers/witchcraft, perseverance, sacrificial love, boldness, etc. Demonstrations of benevolence **A4.33ff** Demonstrations of repentance! **A19**

What do we do? Aside from our personal demonstrations- *We get people saved!* All the living and preaching of the Gospel is for one purpose: salvation! Our salvation, healing, prosperity, soundness, wholeness, all for one thing:... The salvation of others!

“Once you are no longer the raw material being processed, you are a worker in the process!”

What do we do? Aside from our personal demonstrations- We get people saved! We proclaim the One who is the only way to the Father! **J14.6 E2.18 Heb 10.19-23** We make it possible for many people to be in heaven, “to receive us.” **Lk16.9** We partner together in ministry/ministers/ missions/ benevolence. **2C9** We duplicate ourselves/mentality/mission in others to carry on the tradition! **1C11.1**

Who we are... Army Base Hospital! “Turning” civilians into lean/mean ministry machines! **Mt28, Mk16.15** Military Doctors to “fix” wounded! **E4.12** Meatball surgeons on the fields of battle! Field leaders confirming/exhorting **A14.22**, strengthening **18.23**, sourcing **19.1**, separating **19.9**, warning **20.31**, modeling **1C4.9-16, 11.1 Phil 3.7-17**

Who we are... “Clearing” house! Clearest picture who/what/where we are, what we need to do to prepare/life! Clearly defining who we are/aren’t! Under-shepherds/not cowboys! Not “living for the giving” church/2G down! Almost perfect if lyrics/sounds not ours! Clearly defining who we need! Men/women w/backbones of steel/ foreheads of flint/hearts for lost. People present, centered, giving, serving, solving.

Romans 13.11-14 (MSG) Make sure you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed... We can’t afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don’t loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

Romans 16.17,18 One final word of counsel, brothers. Keep a sharp eye out for those who take bits and pieces of the whole teaching that you learned and then use them to make trouble. Give these people a wide berth. They have no intention of living for our Master Christ. They serve to satisfy their own bellies, and aren’t above using pious sweet-talk to dupe unsuspecting innocents.

The experience of the Church is a sweet-and- savory-and-sour raid on the kingdom of darkness!