

The Homesteader



A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

September 18, 2012 Issue

Dear Kris

Welcome to the The Homesteader!

[Homesteader Print Version](#)

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.

Breaking Rules, Saving Lives Ron Hutchcraft
- January 13, 2012

No living Marine has ever received the Congressional Medal of Honor from the war in Afghanistan...until recently. Dakota Meyer's 23 years old, but he has been awarded this nation's highest military honor for saving 36 lives during a vicious, six-hour firefight in the mountains of Afghanistan.

It actually started with an enemy ambush that very quickly pinned down a lot of Meyer's unit. Amazingly, this Kentucky farm boy made a total of five trips into the kill zone to rescue his comrades. And you know what? He had to disobey orders to do it. His superiors told him he couldn't go in. He went in anyway, because people would die if he didn't.

It hit me as I read this story, sometimes you really do have to kind of go "out-of-bounds" to save dying people; spiritually dying people, that is - people without my Jesus. Our word for today from the Word of God is from Ephesians 2:12. It describes these people as "without hope" and "perishing" (1 Corinthians 1:18). Now with so many so far from the world of the church, so clueless about all this Christian stuff we take for granted, we will never rescue them unless we I guess you might say, "break some of the rules."

I don't mean God's rules, of course. It's never right to do something displeasing to God in order to bring somebody to Him. But I'm talking about the unspoken "rules" of our Christian "cocoon." The fact is, our conventional means of reaching people for Jesus are rescuing less and less. And if we keep on doing what we have been doing, we'll keep on reaching who we have been reaching, and countless souls will be lost forever and we'll be accountable.

Coloring outside the line, going outside the box - call it whatever you want. We'll have to go beyond those methodological boundaries that a lot of God's people have considered acceptable. We won't see the church as the primary place to rescue people, because most lost folks are, and they plan to stay, outside those walls. We'll "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). The new front-lines in spiritual rescue are places like our living rooms...the gym, the golf course, a locker room, the PTA, the restaurant, the carpool, maybe the hospital, school events, the funeral home. How about on our Facebook page, our smartphone, our personal notes?

You know, lost people don't speak "Christianese," which is all those rich religious words that us church folks speak without thinking. We just can't afford for people to miss our Jesus because we won't leave our "safe" vocabulary and explain Jesus in



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Awesome resources to assist congregations with the upcoming special campaign and to help with Hospitality and ministry outreach ideas. Check it out today!

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[OWLS Celebration](#)

Older, Wiser, Livlier Saints
September 18 - 19

**[FALL 2012 Homestead
Presbytery Session Records](#)**

[Review Schedule](#)

Saturday, October 6

9:30am @ North Bend

2 pm @ Wayne

[Saturday, November 3](#)

2:00 pm @ Beatrice

**[Presbyterian Youth
Triennium](#)**

July 16-20, 2013

high school age youth
(Fall 2013 freshman thru
graduating spring of 2013)

Cost: \$469.00 per person

Homestead Presbytery covers
transportation costs

Registration

January 31- May 31, 2013

Currently looking for

Group Leaders.

Registrar: Rev. Cathy Allen
tworevs52@yahoo.com

everyday language. It's time to break out of the boundaries of Christianese to say it so they get it.

If we hope to reach the dying folks through an event we're having, we're going to have to go out-of-bounds and make it a non-religious event - Christ-focused, but non-religious, in a non-religious place, with a non-religious program, addressing needs and issues that aren't just "religious."

Paul got in trouble for "disobeying the rules" in order to help people go to heaven. A lot of the religious folks slammed him for becoming "all things to all men that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). But saving the lost was his non-negotiable, not pleasing the found.

And remember, they said, "Jesus, you're a friend of sinners." I imagine He said, "Why, thank you for the compliment." Indeed He was, and He had trouble with the religious folks too. They didn't like the fact that He was going out-of-bounds because that's where the dying people were.

Rescuing? It always means risking, including the misunderstanding, the criticism of people who love the "rules" but aren't reaching the lost. Jesus knows about that. Remember? Yeah, He made the "rules people" very uncomfortable. So they crucified Him, and we were saved

The Homesteader is looking for some help...

We are looking for a few folks who would be willing to regularly touch base with a few specific congregations, solicit articles and pictures - maybe do a little writing or editing of those articles as well - and forward them to the editor of the Homesteader for publication. If you think you'd be interested, please contact Kris Peterson krisp@homesteadpres.org or 402.580.0947.

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!
Please submit articles to krisp@homesteadpres.org
or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson

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or 402-892-3362

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The scoop on [Per Capita](#)



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Gina Meester now has a blog
about her life in Africa as a YAV -
check it out at
<http://gmyav2012.blogspot.com/>

