

Moving Forward - Making a Difference

You and I save things. In fact everyone saves things. But how many of you realize that there is difference between saving things and being a Pack Rat? How many of you have ever seen a "Pack Rat"? Do you know a Pack Rat? Ever seen one? By definition, Pack Rats are people who simply hoard things, without ever throwing things away. Don't look now, but you may be sitting next to a Pack Rat!

Homer and Langley Collyer hoarded things. Everything. Newspapers, letters, clothing — you name it, they kept it.

Born in the late 1800s to an affluent Manhattan couple, the brothers lived in a luxurious three-story mansion at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and 128th Street. Homer earned a degree in engineering; Langley became a lawyer. All seemed good in the Collyer family.

But then mom and dad divorced in 1909. The boys, now in their 20s, remained in the home with their mother. Crime escalated. The neighborhood deteriorated. Homer and Langley retaliated by escaping the world. For reasons that therapists discuss at dinner parties, the duo retreated into their inherited mansion, closed and locked the doors. They were all but unheard of for nearly 40 years. Then in 1947 someone reported the suspicion of a dead body at their address. It took seven policemen to break down the door because the entrance was blocked by a wall of newspapers, folding beds, half a sewing machine, old chairs, part of a wine-press and other pieces of junk. After several hours of digging, policemen found the body of Homer, seated on the floor, head between his knees, his long and matted gray hair reaching his shoulders.

But where was Langley? That question triggered one of the strangest searches in Manhattan history. Fifteen days of quarrying produced 130 tons of junk — gas chandeliers, a sawhorse, the chassis of an old car, a Steinway piano, a

horse's jawbone and, finally, one missing brother. The stuff he'd kept had collapsed on and killed him. You know it is easy to talk about people like Homer and Largely, or maybe someone you know. But what I've come to realize is that people hoard a lot of things, other than "physical" junk. You see, people can hoard pain, or they can hoard success. They can hoard fears and failures. It doesn't matter.

So my question today is: How many of you want to remain where you are, or are you will to move forward? Move forward in the plan and purpose of God.

As I arrived home after our service on Thursday Night, God spoke to me about transitioning. What was interesting was, with just one millisecond difference, we left behind 2009 and entered into 2010.

To want nothing new is a self-indictment, that I will settle for what I had last year.

If I don't pursue new friends, I settle for the same friends; If I don't pursue a new job, I settle for the same job; If I don't pursue a new attitude, I settle for the same attitude.

In 2010 we have to be forward thinking people. Not just forward looking, but forward thinking and forward living.

I had a conversation with someone, last year and we were talking about their relationship with God. They were explaining that it wasn't where it used to be ... But they were hoping to get back there.

At that moment, God spoke to me to tell them, that He was no longer there. He had move on. And if there were to re-

Moving Forward - Making a Difference

engage God, they you have to go to where He was, and not where they wanted Him.

PRE-INTRO

- The Australian coat of arms pictures two creatures--the emu, a flightless bird, and the kangaroo.

The animals were chosen because they share a characteristic that appealed to the Australian citizens. Both the emu and kangaroo can move only forward, not back. The emu's three-toed foot causes it to fall if it tries to go backwards, and the kangaroo is prevented from moving in reverse by its large tail.

Those who truly choose to follow Jesus become like the emu and kangaroo, moving only forward, never back

- I think the saying is basically true: we are either going forward, standing still, or falling behind.

- We all have our time machines. Some take us back, they're called memories. Some take us forward, they're called dreams.

- Getting over our past is like crossing monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order to move forward.

An article in the **Harvard Business Review** called '*Market Myopia*' talked about how some people didn't understand what business they were in.

For example, the railroad people didn't realize they were in the transportation business; they thought they were in the railroad business. Had they realized they were in the transportation business they would have invested in the airplane. The telegraph people thought they were in the telegraph business instead of the communications business. In 1886 or so, they could have bought all the telephone patents for \$40,000. So obviously these people didn't know what business they were in."

"I used to think these guys were really dumb because they didn't know what business they were in. Then I asked myself, 'What business am I in?'

There is a difference between motion and movement.

INTRO

Luke 9:62

Gen. 26.12-13 - Isaac went forward ... (KJV)

Exodus 14.13-15

And God said... "What are you crying to me for? Tell Israel to go forward."

But there was no apparent way to go forward.

No boats or bridges.

They couldn't possibly swim across

But God said "Go Forward."

And when they did, God did something He had never done before, and Israel escaped on dry land.

The unexpected happened when they began to MOVE FORWARD!

There is only one way to move in the Kingdom: MOVE FORWARD!

When we MOVE FORWARD the Lord will open the door!.

The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious.

THREE QUESTIONS RESOLVE TO MOVE FORWARD

There are three questions we must resolve if we want to move forward:

1. What has God done in my past? (Known)

Moving Forward - Making a Difference

- a. This is a **retrospective** question - It gives thought to what God has done ...
 - i. "When I think of His goodness and all that He has done for me; I can dance, dance, dance all night."
- b. When we live out of our past, it becomes the lens out of which we view our future.**
- c. The past will never give meaning to your future. And because of such, it will only lock us in the past.**

The past is accumulative. Everything adds to our past.

Why did the Israelites want to return to Egypt?
When we live in our past, we are relishing in "Faded Glory"

Ex. 34

2 Corinthians 3.7-12

2. What is He doing in my present? (Experienced)
 - a. This is a **reflective** question.
 - b. Do you know that in spite of your failings and inadequacies that God has given you everything you need to be the man and woman of God for this time in this place?

We pass through the present. Your present is no longer than a blink of an eye.

3. What will He do in my future? (Unknown)
 - a. This is a **prospective** - It gives thought to what is in front of me.
 - b. When we live out of our future, it becomes the lens out of which gives meaning to my past.**
 - i. Joseph said, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good..." Gen. 50.20 He had a future perspective, which gave meaning to his past.

We always pull from the future.

Why people cannot move forward?

1. Lot's wife:
 - a. Genesis 19
 - b. We hold on too tightly to the glory of man.
 - i. Prestige and power.
 - ii. Lot was rich and prominent in Sodom.
2. The Israelites:
 - a. Unrealistic appreciation of the past
 - i. In some cases, the good ole' days were really not so good.
 1. Duet. 32.7
 - b. Were afraid to move forward.
3. Peter on the mount of Transfiguration
 - a. Maintain the "This is good" experience.
4. Pharisee and Sadducees
 - a. Maintain the status quo
 - b. Looking for change, but don't want change

MOVING FORWARD WITH VISION

Phil. 3.13

Exodus 14.13-15

Bring out canvas.

Have the people write down what they see; and please don't discuss it.

Your ability to move forward is directly related to your ability to see your future.

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Myopia is the clinical definition for being near-sighted. While near-sighted can occur naturally, today people are advancing this condition. Because of computers, more people are becoming near-sighted. Why? Because of the continual distance from your eye to the computer screen, the muscles in your eyes become fixed, and ultimately, you lose 2-3 feet of your vision.

The Story

Genesis 50.24-26

Exodus 1.8

Exodus 2.23-25

If it is possible that there was a king, who didn't know Joseph; isn't it equally possible that the Children of Israel didn't know him as well?

The israelites may have lost sight of the promise, and only cried out to God regarding slavery.

Have you ever lost sight of something before?

Maybe as a child you were promised something, and the promiser didn't fulfill the promise as and when you expected. Although we were hurt then, as time passed, you forgot about that promise.

When you lose sight of the promises of God, then there is nothing left.

I find it interesting that doesn't say that the Children of Israel remembered ...

Remember:

1. In order to move forward, you have to ask this question:

What has God done in my past? Why? Because in your past is a promise of your future. If you lose sight of that promise, you will also lose sight of your future. Just like the Children of Israel.

What is Vision?

Vision is nothing more or less than being able to see what

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God sees and being able to see things God's way.

Why do I need a Vision.

Proverbs 29.18

There are three areas where I need vision.

1. Personal Vision
2. Vision for my family
 - a. Children
 - b. Finances
- 3.

The Law of Vision.

1. **We only reproduce what we see.**
 - a. Genesis 30.37-39
2. **Vision will sustain you, through tough times.**
 - a. Genesis 37.

Acts 16.10

3. **Vision is the driving force in our lives.** (*Immediately*)
 - a. There wasn't a lot of questioning. They were ready to do.
 - b. Because most people are afraid of their vision, they let other things drive their vision: Money drives the vision, situations drives the vision, other people drive the vision...
 - c. Nothing is to drive the vision ... but the vision is to drive everything else.
 - d. Is your vision driving your life,
4. **Vision unifies like-minded people.** (*We*)
 - a. This is teamwork. You need to determine who is to help you achieve your vision.
5. **Vision brings action.** (*Go*)

- a. Having vision allows you to accelerate your pace.
- b. Habbkuk 2.

6. **Vision brings direction** (*to Macedonia*)
 - a. You have to know where you are going.
7. **Vision confirms purpose** (*for the Lord had called us...*)
8. **Vision is not for you but others** (*to preach the gospel*)
9. **Vision will reward you, once it has been completed.**

Back to the canvas: What did you write down that you saw? How many just saw a blank canvas. How many saw a fabulous painting.

Your vision, in the proper place, increase value: Canvas - \$2.00; Mona Lisa on that canvas - Priceless. In other words, when your God-inspired vision is manifested, it should increase the value of those around.

Pray for people who may have lost sight of their vision.

Moving Forward with Courage

Proverbs 28.1

Joshua 1.1- 9

I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it. - W.T. Sherman

"Mr. Ricky," I said, "It sounds like a dream come true. Not only for me, but for my race. But there will be trouble ahead for you, for me, for my people and for baseball."

"Trouble ahead," Branch Ricky rolled the phrase over his lips as though he liked the sound. "You know, Jackie, I was a small boy when I took my first train ride. On that same train was an old couple also riding for the first time. We were going through the Rocky Mountains. The old man was sitting by the window. He looked ahead and saw that just ahead of us there was what looked to be a sheer drop off. He said, 'Trouble ahead, Ma!. We're high above the precipice and we're going to run right off.' To my boyish ears, the noise of the wheels repeated it, 'Trouble ahead, trouble ahead, trouble ahead.' I never hear train wheels to this day but what I think of this. But our train course bent at the last moment into a tunnel right after the old man spoke, and we came out on the other side of the mountain. That's the way it is with most trouble ahead in this world, Jackie, if we use the common sense and courage God gave us. But you've got to study the hazards and build wisely. God is with us in this, Jackie. You know your Bible. It's good, simple Christianity for us to face realities and recognize what we're up against. We have to fight our problems together with tact and common sense."

We'd like to be Christians in a no risk environment, but that never happens. Living the Christian life faithfully takes courage.

Courage - action in the face of fear.

Courage is needed because you've not done that before.

Courage is derived from the old French, which is associated to the word - Heart. Courage is not a head matter, but rather a heart matter.

Psalms 31.24

4 shades of courage:

1. Bravery in the face of danger.
2. Steadfastness in the face of opposition.
3. Action in the face of resistance.
4. Optimism in the face of despair.

The first one says ***I won't be afraid.***

The second one says ***I won't give up.***

The third one says ***I won't be intimidated.***

The fourth one says ***I won't lose heart.***

Matthew 14.27

How to take courage

1. Proper view of God
 - a. Moses - Who shall I say sent me...
2. Proper view of yourself
 - a. I am what God said I am. I am...
 - i. A Son,
 - ii. A Joint Heir
 - iii. A Victor
3. Proper view of your circumstances
 - a. They are not greater than you are...

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4. Proper view of where you are...

- a. 1 Samuel 30.6 - David encouraged himself.

Roadblocks

In 1954 a man named Rodger Bannister broke the 4 minute barrier. It had never been broken before that time. But just over one month later, his record was broken.

Once the barrier was broken, people knew it was possible.

Three manifestations of roadblocks

1. **Chaos** - To bring chaos into our lives.
2. **Challenge** - When you are tested to produce results.
3. **Calling** - When life prepares you to play a suitable role.

Roadblocks to overcome

To move forward we have to overcome roadblocks:

5 Roadblocks we have to conquer

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

1. Lack of understanding

- a. Idolaters

i. Time

Time itself isn't a roadblock, but our perception of it is...

1. Exodus 32.6
2. Moses was taking too long. So they wanted to do things their own way:
 - a. They had an idea
 - b. Manifested that idea
 - c. They worship their own idea(s).

2.

Prov. 7.21 - with her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him.

a. They co-mingled with Baal

b. Stay true to God. Don't mix with anything ungodly.

- i. Ps. 1 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...
- ii. Sexual Immorality
 1. Numbers 25.

3. Endurance - The journey was tough.

a. Temptation of Christ

- i. The journey was too tough.
- ii. Numbers 21.1-5

4. Popularity - Fame - Power

a. Complaining

- i. Korah and his group were tired of working and not being seen.
- ii. Numbers 16.1-3
- iii. Numbers 3.27-32
- iv. When we are not content to serve God in the way we have been ordained to serve Him.

5. River

a. Joshua 3

b. The Jordan was larger than it usually was (1 mile)

- i. They had to walk an extra 5280 feet
- c. The Jordan was fluid - It moved. It never stayed the same.
- d. The Jordan contained hidden things
 - i. Buried under the water.

How do we overcome Roadblocks?

Joshua 3

1. Rehearse
 - a. Exodus 17.14
 - b. Look back at what God has already done.
2. Face them
3. Focus on God

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4. Follow God
5. Expect a miracle
 - a. EVERY PROBLEM IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PLATFORM FOR GOD TO WORK A MIRACLE IN OUR LIFE!
 - b. Instead of a problem, you should see a miracle opportunity.

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The Difference Between Strength and Courage

It takes strength to be firm,
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to stand guard,
It takes courage to let down your guard.

It takes strength to conquer,
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain,
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in,
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain,
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to hide your own pains,
It takes courage to show them.

It takes strength to endure abuse,
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone,
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love,
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive,
It takes courage to live.

If you feel you have neither,
May the world hug you today
With its warmth, and love.
And may the wind carry a voice
That tells you there is a friend
Sitting in another corner of the world wishing you well !

Why move Forward?

1. We were created for forward movement. Everything about our creation, indicates that:
 - a. Eyes in the front of our head.
 - b. The way our knees bend, aids in forward movement.
2. The miracles are ahead of us not behind us.
3. We are heading into something better than what we left.

Isa. 43.18-19

Phil. 3.13

The Lord is always working to take His people forward into greater revelation of who He is, that we might share in the experience of His presence, discover the joy of committed, loving relationships, and find the inner fulfillment of living with purpose. Ex. 15:22

A. Even when we follow where the Lord leads, we will encounter times of dryness. v. 22

- Dryness in our walk with God does not necessarily mean we are in the wrong place. v. 22
- Often, dryness coincides with a sense of disappointment, frustration and unmet expectations. v. 23

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- Our personal dryness and frustration is not an excuse to fix blame or point the finger at others. v. 24
- The answer to a dry life is not to take matters into our own hands but rather to cry out to the Lord. v. 25

B. As the Lord brings us provision, He also calls us to a higher level of obedience. v. 26

- The Lord is interested in not just meeting our needs, but seeing faithfulness arise in us. v. 25b
- When God calls us to greater obedience, He does so in order to unfold greater blessing. v. 26

C. God's provision is well able to meet our need with abundance if we will only move forward with Him. v. 27

2. Any decision to really trust God and move forward will experience a strong attack, often even occurring after seasons of tremendous breakthrough and victory. 16:1;

[Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13](#)

A. The enemy uses many schemes that work to destroy our walk with God and keep us from moving forward.

THESE INCLUDE:

- An attitude of complaint and grumbling. v. 2
- Undermining the Lord's vision through our words and actions. v. 3
- Giving voice to an accusatory spirit against leadership, either publicly or behind the scenes. v. 3

B. The temptation to attack others when we are frustrated and disappointed is a divisive tactic of the enemy that tends to reoccur with each new trial in life. 15:24, 16:2, 17:1-2

3. Moving forward in our walk with God depends on our learning to believe in and trust Him day by day. v. 4

A. Faithful, loving obedience is the framework for being able to recognize and receive God's provision. v. 5-18

B. A reliance on mere human reasoning and effort will never result in true blessing and advancement. v. 19-20

C. Moving forward isn't possible unless we trust God even when He doesn't seem to make sense. v. 21-31

D. We should be careful not to forget the Lord's faithfulness to us or ever take it for granted, yet we can't live in yesterday. We must choose to trust God today and move forward. v. 32-36; **[Philippians 3:12-14](#)**

Enemies to Forward Movement

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1. Complacency
2. Comfortability

Areas to move forward

1. Our vision
2. Our Mind
 - a. We must "Move Forward" in our way if thinking. We have been thinking too small for too long. We must think bigger for our Church, Home, Family, and Life in general. We must expect bigger things to happen in our businesses. We must anticipate open doors in our witnessing. We must want more for our family. We must want God to do bigger and better things in our life.
3.
 1. God wants us to be an outreaching church. (witnessing, providing for needs, caring, nurturing)
 2. God wants us to be an outspoken church. (knowing what you believe and standing for it)
 3. God wants us to be a growing church. (in numbers and in maturity)
 4. God wants us to be an expanding church. (that requires looking beyond what you think we can be and look to what God is telling us to be, taking steps of faith.)
 5. God wants us to be a faithful church. (faithful with what He has given us – individually and as a church)
 6. God wants us to be a loving and compassionate church. (reaching out to the lost and hurting and undesirables)

7. God wants us to be a Holy Ghost church. (operating in the gifts of the spirit, in the Baptism in the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit and the power of the Spirit)
8. God wants us to be a forward moving church. (always running toward the prize and looking for His return.)

This is the Lord's Church...

It is composed of people just like me.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will do great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous

It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them

Its seats will be filled if I fill them

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service.

If I who make it what it is, am filled with these

Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being

All these things the church should be

THOUGHTS

Ezekiel 47.1-12

How not to live in the past

Romans 13.11-12

1. Live with a sense of urgency
2. Live with a sense of eternity
3. Live with a sense of priorities

i. Acts 5.38-39

b. There are 6 benefits of God inspired Vision:

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a.