

# February 15, 2006 Newsletter

## Family Relationships:

### Men, when your wife or daughter comes to you with a problem do they leave satisfied or disappointed?

Men, we are fixers. When our wife or daughter comes to us with a problem our first response is to analyze the problem, come up with a solution and tell them how to fix it. When we tell them how to fix it we congratulate ourselves on a job well done and get ready to move on. There is this sense of satisfaction that we have made our female family member's world a better place. We feel satisfied, content, fulfilled, or wise. Then why is it that many times the reaction is not, "Oh, thank you that is just what I needed", or "you're the wisest person I know," or "I could never have come up with that answer."? In stead the reaction you get is tears, or a sigh and they turn around and leave, or "I know that!!!" or "you never understand, why do I even try?" You are bewildered, and they are disappointed. What is the problem? Why did our wonderful "fix" not solve the problem? Because many times when they come to us they don't want a fix they want a hug or understanding, or perhaps sympathy or a shoulder to cry on. Most of the time, they know how to fix the problem but they just need some emotional support, encouragement, or to know someone cares. We often speak before we find out what it is they really are looking for.

It was a while before I figured this out. (I finally did with the help of my wife! A 2x4 to the head gets your attention!) I was not very good at knowing what my daughters or wife needed when they came to me, a fix or a hug. So after my wife explained it to me, I set down with my two girls and said, "Dad's not very good at knowing what you need when you come to me with a problem. So here is what you can do to help me. When you come to me with a problem I'm going to ask you a simple question "Is this a fix it time or a hug time?" Just tell me which you need, and we will all be happy. My girls (after rolling their eyes, of course and sighing) got to the point that they would tell me which it was before I even asked. They would come up and say "Daddy, I need a hug" So I would give them the hug and emotional support they needed and say "tell me about it." I would listen carefully and sympathize and three-fourths of the time that was sufficient. Some times they really wanted the hug AND a fix. That little question saved me and my girls (including my wife) a lot of frustration. Let me encourage you to try it, you might have a happier household if you do.

### Praise reports:

- I had a wonderful meeting with the president of a seminary in our area. He was very excited about Pastors Heart 2 Heart partnering with them to mentor their graduates. Pray that we will get between 40 – 50 pastors and their churches willing to enter into the 3 year mentorship. Pray that we can work out all the details to make this happen. Pray that the graduates' church will support them in the mentorship with time and a monthly donation to pastors heart 2 heart.
- I met with another seminary as well. I will meet with some more of their leadership soon.
- Pray for me as I work through all the details to make this happen. If this works out it will take the remainder of my available time. De

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Kathy's health. She is having trouble with her blood pressure spiking to dangerous levels. She goes for a while with no problem then it goes through the roof.
- Pray for wisdom in the use of my time. Pray that as this mentoring grows to know to let go of and what to keep.
- Pray for our income to continue to grow so Kathy can cut back on her studio to help me.

Thanks for your prayers and support. May the Lord bless you. Mike and Kathy

- Pray for me as I work through all the details to make this happen. If this works out it will take the remainder of my available time. Because this is an ongoing long term mentorship I will work with fewer veteran pastors, but I believe I will have a greater impact on their success as a pastor.

the Lord bless you. Mike and Kathy



### **Mentoring ~ Prayer Summits for Pastors**

*If you do not want to receive e-mails from Pastors Heart 2 Heart, reply with "remove" and you will be removed from the list.*

*Mike Sparks \* Pastors Heart 2 Heart \* 5205 Tomahawk Tr. \* Raleigh NC 27610 \* 919-773-9656 Work  
\* 919-631-1641 Cell*