

Kingdom Dreaming in Orlando

March 3, 2014



Over the weekend I sensed the Lord inviting me to take a prayer walk in the city. Monday morning, a friend texted and encouraged me to get out into the sunshine. I wrote her back: “Funny enough, I’m just about to leave my house to take a walk!” She responded, “The Lord must be really excited to talk with you today...”

I almost picked up the card I use for monthly expenses from the bureau, but realized, “If I need something while I’m out, the Lord will take care of me.” Stepping outside, my route was unclear, but as I walked I greeted every person I encountered with a smile and “Hello!” I felt the love of the Lord pouring out.

Making my way by our new performing arts center, I viewed the progress, amazed by the way God is shaping Orlando. Passing it, I knew where I was headed--He was leading me toward the Amway Center, home to the Orlando Magic, on the other side of I-4.

The highway acts as a dividing line in our city. Generally speaking, in the downtown area, one side of the freeway prospers while the other struggles. From my perspective, it stands as a monument reminding me

that God has more for our city. Crossing under it, I walked along the side of the arena and saw a concrete sign which read: “Orlando.” I stopped to look at it, then peered up noticing the intersection. One sign read “Division Street,” the other “Church Street.”

I couldn’t move. I had no doubt that this was the reason for my walk. As far as streets go, I knew this intersection existed in our city, but I’d never seen it. So many thoughts flooded my mind, but a movement near me brought my awareness back to the street. A man had walked over and was now sitting on a concrete block a few feet away, watching me.

“Good morning!” I offered. “How are you?”

“Hungry,” he said.

“Oh, I’m so sorry, but I don’t have anything with me today.”

“You don’t even have a debit card?”

“Actually, no,” I replied. “I’m just out saying hello to people and praying for our city this morning, so I didn’t bring anything with me. In fact, I was caught up in thought for a moment... Do you see those signs?”

He nodded.

“Do you know it’s not God’s heart that His church would be divided?” I asked. Then, quickly realizing what I said, I added, “I’m so sorry... Do you believe in God?”

“Yes,” he said.

We continued to have a lovely conversation about the Lord’s heart for our city and for His church. Before I left, John-John allowed me the privilege of praying for him. Once we said goodbye, I continued to walk. I prayed for those I encountered and I prayed for the global church.

Jesus once said:

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

John 17:21

This is still His heart today.

Thankful for you,

**musings
in
ministry**

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