

# Missions



## DAVE & JAN MILES

The Miles are missionaries in New York City who work for Church Resource Ministries, an organization which works with churches in transition or crises to provide hope and reconciliation. They have been with the organization since 1990. Dave and Jan have three adult daughters. Dave grew up here at Five Points.

Please pray for...

- Grace as their youngest daughter and her family has moved-in after losing an apartment.
- Jan who has lost her job teaching in the NYC public schools due to cuts and no longer has the same opportunity to minister with immigrant kids.
- Strength and perseverance for Dave as he works through difficult and draining situations with churches.

## THE FIVE POINTS STAR

July, 2012

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# Friends of Sinners - Like Us!

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’” (Luke 7:34)

The religious leaders weren’t flattering Jesus when they made these comments. “A glutton,” they said; “he eats too much.” “He’s a drunk,” they pointed out, shaking their heads in disgust. “And on top of it all, he eats and drinks with ‘those kinds of people.’” Their condescending finger-pointing horrifies modern Christians! But are we any different? Do we find ourselves repulsed by those whose life-styles and looks are radically different than our own? Here’s the reality: Jesus enjoyed good food and good drink with lots of different kinds of people. More often than not, those individuals didn’t have the same religious standards that he did. But those times of social interaction became redemptive opportunities he took advantage of that led to changed lives. Consider Zacchaeus, the tax collector. One meal with Jesus and the guy’s giving half his money to the poor and reconciling with people he’d cheated (Luke 19:8). I’d say that was time well spent.

Many believers today, without even meaning to, adhere to unwritten codes and social mores that pretty much cut out any significant interaction with those like Zacchaeus. Sadly, this often translates into pharisaical attitudes, repulsion, and social barriers towards those who have yet to experience the grace of God. We let tattoos, alternate life-styles, entertainment choices, the behavior of their children, styles of dress, and a whole host of other things get in the way of spending time with 21st century Zacchaeus. If we are perfectly honest, we feel uncomfortable around those whose actions are less than savory in our eyes. This results in the loss of opportunities to share the gospel. So what can we do to participate in a robust, 21st-century version of eating with tax gatherers and sinners? I’d suggest the following, with a caveat:

Remember that we are no different. Even if we grew up in a Christian family and have few of the vestiges of sin’s ugliness on our lives, we are no different. You and I are tax gatherers and sinners. Never forget that.

We don’t have to share the gospel every time we hang out with someone. Most of the opportunities I get to share the gospel come after extended times of honest interaction with people I genuinely like. Be likeable, genuine, and authentic. There is nothing non-believers dislike more than a religious phony. We don’t have all of life’s problems solved. Don’t pretend to. And forget the Christianese and religious language! It’s offensive. We must quit pretending everything is okay in our lives because it’s not! Admit it.

We must pay attention to our spiritual formation. If we find ourselves taking on the character qualities of our non-Christian friends, something is wrong. We must be able to give a reasonable explanation of why we are a Christian. Why does it make sense to follow Christ? Again, avoid the religious jargon. Be real.

To be with non-Christians we’ll have to go where non-Christians are: pubs, coffee shops, health clubs, running clubs, hair salons, parks, malls, golf courses, etc. These are all good places to go to be with people.

Here is the caveat: as soon as we start eating and drinking with tax gatherers and sinners, some in the Christian community are not going to like it and will criticize us. Don’t worry about them. Follow Jesus on this wonderful journey of eating with tax gatherers and sinners and eventually we’ll have our own Zacchaeus stories to share!

## Dave Miles

MISSIONARY, CHURCH RESOURCE MINISTRIES, NYC

To be a community of light from which the light of Christ will emanate, we need to be intentional in our relationships — to love the unlovely, forgive the unforgivable, embrace the repulsive, include the awkward, accept the weird. It is in contexts such as these that sinners are transformed into disciples who obey everything King Jesus has commanded.

Tim Chester & Steve Timmis, Total Church, 113

# Community Life

## CONDOLENCES

**Klinkenberger Family:** We send our condolences to Jim and Melissa on the death of Milissa's father, Glen Moses.

**Murray Family:** We send our condolences to Bruce and his family on the death of his sister, Joan.

**Williams Family:** We send our condolences to Claudia and Wes on the death of Claudia's mother.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Dave & Bonnie Mackley:** Congratulations to Dave and Bonnie who celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 30.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Perhai Family:** We praise God with them for providing all the financial support needed to return to Ukraine this August. Pray for them this month as Rick finishes his doctoral studies, their son Brian is married, and they prepare to leave for Ukraine.

**Rush Family:** Pray for Mike & NJ as they travel to Ukraine to finalize the adoption of a son.

**Rettger Family:** Pray for Tim and Kelley as they continue to work through the international adoption process.

**Ukraine Short-Term Trip:** Pray for the team being formed and all logistics and planning taking place for the trip this August.

## PLANTING JOY: A VISION OF FIVE POINTS

Beginning July 1, all adult Bible Study Hour classes will meet together in the sanctuary. Each week, one of the elders will teach on an aspect of Planting Joy, our vision for expanding the mission of Five Points in the coming years.

## UKRAINE TRIP GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

The team will be holding a garage sale July 19-21 at the Hulderman home. If you would like to donate items for the team to sell, contact Jeff Hulderman before July 18 or drop small items off at the church.

## JULY EVENING FAMILY GATHERINGS

There will be no Evening Family Gatherings in the month of July. Shepherd groups will continue to meet based upon the leader's preference.

## JULY OFFICE HOURS

Our church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the month of July as well as July 4.

# This July at Five Points

## SUNDAY, JULY 1

9:30 am Planting Joy: A Vision of Five Points begins

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

All programming postponed & offices closed

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

6:30 pm Resolved Youth Game Night & Bonfire

A frightening proportion of our churches are trapped by what Frank Tillapaugh calls the "fortress church" mentality. That mentality is made up of attitudes that may be conscious or unconscious: "Let them come to us! Our doors are open." "We come to church to have our needs met, to escape the cold, cruel world." But there are biblical truths that knock flat the walls of our fortress. Every member is a minister. Every member has kingdom power to destroy strongholds. Through us Jesus continues to immerse himself in the needs of the world.

Tim Keller, Ministries of Mercy, 172

## GOD'S PROVISION

YTD Giving:	\$758,984.00
YTD Budget:	\$847,100.00
5/27 - 6/24 Giving:	\$81,411.00
5/27 - 6/24 Budget:	\$98,500.00
Building Fund:	\$529,643.00
Fellowship Fund:	\$6,992.00