



"Instead of counting Christians, we need to begin weighing them!"

Dr. Dallas Willard



June 4, 2009

YOU CAN



Chip Hosford, Tim, and Dan Zollinhofer at Panera Bread

"Tim, do you think you can do that for us?" Dan Zollinhofer, pastor of Talbot Bible Church (Eastern Shore of Maryland) asked me this question, having just described the necessity of developing mature leaders.

I paused. My mind was racing. I replied, "No, I can't but I know who can."

Dan quizzically asked, "Who's that?" Looking him in the eye I said, "You ... you can ... and I would be honored to serve with you as you grow in leading the elders to create a healthy environment in which disciples of the Lord Jesus can thrive."

I had met Dan and his wife, Sue, months earlier in Colorado when they attended The Navigators CDM Pastor's Conference with Chip and Kathy Hosford. The Hosfords are CDM Staff Associates with our Baltimore/DC team. Having recently moved to Easton, they invited Dan and Sue to come with them to the conference. During these past couple of years, Chip has become an elder and now partners with Dan in leading their fellow elders toward their mission, *"To Know and Love Jesus Christ and Make Him Known."*

Essentially, our work together began that day at the restaurant in Annapolis. We meet twice a month, either in Annapolis or on the telephone along with many e-mails and occasional onsite work in Easton with the leaders and saints at TBC. Watching Dan lead his church on this journey, a journey he has come to call, *'THE JOURNEY from Root to Fruit with Jesus'*, has been a rich pilgrimage for me!

You can catch a glimpse of their discipleship strategy at: www.talbotbible.com by clicking on the tab, *'The Journey'*.

I asked Dan to share about our work together so that you can labor with us through prayer:

"Tim Ferrell has been a huge encouragement to me. Being a 'bullet-point kind of guy', here are some of the ways in which his encouragement has come to me:

Staffing

When Tim began to serve TBC, I had a complex staffing situation. He helped our leadership team develop a wise transition strategy in which one of our pastoral staff left to pursue further theological study. We crafted a win-win solution for his departure, blessing this colleague with financial support for his study. Next, we brought in a very able pastoral administrator – the right guy for the right job. Through Tim, I am learning to conduct great (not just, 'okay') staff evaluations that empower our ministry and support staff toward owning our mission.

Tim and Amy Ferrell

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Priorities

As a pastor, the 'tyranny of the urgent' is ever beckoning me. Tim provides continual encouragement to not get off track but to be intentional about our direction, where we are going and what we are doing. He helps me with accountability for the important. I now set aside and guard my weekly time for planning and implementing a discipleship strategy just like I do my sermon prep time. Once I decide something is important, he asks me, 'When will you do that?' ... 'What day?' ... 'What time?' ...

Discipleship and Leadership

Tim knows about, asks about, and prays for my family. He helps connect me to people and material as potential resources appropriate to what we are experiencing as a church. He has not sought to vicariously lead the church through me. Rather, he has prepared and positioned me to lead. He puts his insights and wisdom 'on the table' never saying, 'you must' but rather, 'I suggest' -- this allows me room to discover and arrive at my own convictions. Instead of providing me with the *right* answers, Tim asks me the *right* questions!

One Liners

During conversation, 'one-liners' just seem to flow from Tim – words that convict, challenge and glorify God. I take them and pass them on to others with great enthusiasm.

- *"You have educated your church beyond her obedience"*
- *"Dan, you do not have to be omni-competent"*
- *"Eric Liddell once said, 'God made me fast and when I run, I feel His pleasure' ... Dan, when do you feel God's pleasure?"*
- *"God made you a human being, not a human doing"*
- *"Live within the rhythms of time. Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light"*
- *"Don't accommodate unfruitfulness"*
- *"Have you ever noticed that 'sinners' were comfortable around Jesus, the most righteous and holy one to ever live? What does that tell us about our perception of holiness?"*

Twenty-five years from now when I look back over my Christian walk, ministry, and personal maturation, I will no doubt have Tim Ferrell at which to point my finger and say, "He is the guilty one. God used him to help mold and shape me into the person I am today!"

Please join Amy and me in concerted prayer for these requests from Dan and Chip:

1. **That Talbot Bible Church would glorify God by bearing fruit for the Kingdom, proving that we are His disciples.**
2. **That we at TBC would walk in and remember the words of Richard Foster from his book, LIFE WITH GOD:**
"God wants relationship with us, not mechanical transactions."
3. **For wisdom with intentionality for the elder team as we continue to need to add ministerial staff.**

*With Our Love,
Tim, for Amy*