

# Just BETWEEN FRIENDS



July 2008

Dear Friends,

What is the greatest invitation you have ever received? Perhaps it was to a big deal event - an inauguration or an opening. Or maybe it was special because of relationship - a party for a loved one. Or could it be that the greatest invitation you have received was memorable because of the invitation itself? Sometimes invitations set the tone and build our anticipation for what we are being invited to.

Over the past several weeks, our community has been talking about Inviting. First, what is the invitation God extends to people? To know Him....To experience Him....To be formed by Him...To relationship... To be part of His story... These are grand things indeed! Therefore, your understanding of what this invitation is to makes a pretty big difference. It may actually determine if you accept the invitation. And should you accept, it will drastically affect how you life your life.

It is interesting that God chose to invite us by becoming one of us in Jesus. Sure, God had been talking with people throughout history. He showed up in some pretty major ways, and gave lots of instructions on how to relate to Him. BUT, He gave his most profound invitation in the most personal of ways. Not only did God invite us to full, eternal life, but God did it in a most remarkable way. Doesn't this reveal how important the invitation is to God?

That leads us to a second thing we have been talking about related to Inviting... BEING an invitation. Just as Jesus invited us to God, we are now given the task of inviting others. Sadly, this invitation has often been conveyed in uncaring or manipulative ways. Strange, since we are inviting people to something so life-changing. More recently, some have begun to shy away from the invitation all together. We are so fearful of inviting poorly that we don't invite at all.

The thing is, God has actually made it so that we aren't just passive couriers of His invitation. Instead, we are part of the invitation itself! Who I am somewhat influences who I invite and how. And, as one who has accepted the invitation myself, I become a witness of the effects of the invitation. We are not inconsequential to the equation. Do you find that daunting or liberating? I hope you find it freeing - God has chosen you - not despite who you are, but BECAUSE of who you are - to invite

This One Thing—  
We empower  
leaders

A Note for Arthur & Melissa Stewart

July 2008

## YOUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

will be greatly appreciated. Use this space to write a brief message to your CRM partner. We will forward your note as quickly as possible.

A young boy wrote a letter to Mother Teresa. He asked her how he could make a difference with his life, like she had with hers. For months he didn't hear anything from her. Then one day he received a letter from Calcutta, India. He expectantly opened it up and read four words that changed his life.

"Find your own Calcutta."  
- Mother Teresa

I believe those serving around the world with CRM have, for the most part, "found their own Calcutta." And one of their primary roles in ministry is helping others who are serious about following Jesus to do the same.

The results of your gifts, your support, and your prayers for those described in this letter is precisely that... coaching, mentoring, and training men and women to find and missionally engage that part of God's creation to which he is calling them to serve.

There could be no greater investment in the future and the health of the Christian movement than this.

Gratefully,

*Sam*

Sam Metcalf  
President, CRM-US



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." —II Corinthians 9:8

others. Fortunately, we are not required to have everything in order before we can be invitations ourselves. I wonder what it says about God that He chooses curious people like you and me to invite others?

Three specific things we have talked about that you might like to ponder as well:

1. Write what you think God's invitation sounds like. It should be true for all people and describe why we exist. It should reflect God heart for us and be compelling. Don't write a theological statement, write an INVITATION from God to us. If your invitation comes out like most of ours have, it may just bring a tear to your eye because of its beauty and expression of love.
2. Which people have been instrumental in delivering or affirming God's invitation to you? Take some time to thank God for them, and maybe even thank them yourself.
3. Ask God if He wants to invite anyone to Him through you right now. What might that invitation look like? Ask God to guide you in extending His invitation.



*Arthur + Melissa*

The Stewarts

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