



May 17, 2010

At times I get a little frustrated with the church (the church in general and my church). My needs don't get met, they don't do things the way I would, the church doesn't look like my view of the early church, and they don't embrace CLC the way I wish they would. I confess to having a critical spirit at times even though I am an active member, on the elder board, and was one of the founding members of my church 27 years ago.

Lately, however, I am so proud of my church and the church in general in the Nashville area. As you know we had 13+ inches of rain in 48 hours which caused floods like no one has ever seen in this area. 31,000 houses were affected. At my church, CLC facilitators, participants, my senior pastor and many others had huge damage, with some families having to move out of their homes for months, and some with no flood insurance. It has been beyond comprehension. The flood of help has been beyond comprehension as well. Our church set up a command center focusing on neighborhoods of need and matching the need with those who could serve. One good friend said about 35 people came to pull up carpet, drywall, etc in order to stop the molding and prepare for drying. The body of believers stepped up in such a powerful manner that Jesus was glorified.

Last night our church had a special praise time where stories were shared and we celebrated together in the pain because of the sense that God was in charge, He is good and He is Sovereign and He is working good out of all of this mess. As Linda and I shared salsa and chips with two couples, we all commented on how we would love to see this "church-life" continue. The main way that could happen would be if we keep sharing our needs and seeking God's help together. The body of believers must be vulnerable and be ready to receive help. I believe we all long to serve one another.

In many ways a CLC group is a mini church. It is a time where men have a chance to be real, be available and be involved with another. When that happens, God shows up and Kingdom things happen. I love it.

Sincerely,

Hal Hadden