

returned. Sometimes it seems that the church is paralyzed because the tasks of the church can be so tremendous – the needs are so immense! Good planning leads to focused implementation, allowing us to do a few things very well, truly making a difference in the lives of others! Praise God!

### Thursday, July 2

Read Luke 24:44-53. Verse 45 tells us that Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to understand scripture. Jesus further spoke of his death and resurrection. Jesus reminds the disciples, “You are witnesses of these things.”

The word witness in the Greek is connected to the word which we translate “martyr.” While we are not required by our faith to suffer death, we are to lay down our lives in service to God’s Kingdom. The Apostle Paul called for a “living sacrifice.” (Romans 12:1)

For what would you offer a “living sacrifice?” What needs in the world – in our own area – capture your heart? Where can you Find A Need And Fill It? Write your thoughts here and pray that God will open your eyes to new possibilities for our church!

### Friday, July 3

We hope you’ve dreamed a bit this week. Is there something you’ve always wanted to see the church do? Is there a need which you believe we can meet? Do you have the beginnings of a plan for that ministry? Do you have an idea of what talents and abilities will be required to meet that need?

Why not set up a meeting with Pastor Jack or attend our Church Council Meeting on the second Monday of every other month. Contact our Council chair, Mark Strobel, and begin the process of “Changing our world with the love of Christ!”

## Message Notes – June 28, 2020

### FANAFI\*

- I. It’s a classic “riches-to-rags-to-riches” story: Steve Gottry was a successful entrepreneur who, by 1992, had \_\_\_\_\_ his advertising agency into a multimillion dollar company.
  - A. By 1994, the dream had become a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Having hit bottom, he decided to go back to basics and retool his life and business according to one simple principle — FANAFI — an acronym for “find a \_\_\_\_\_ and fill it.”
  - C. FANAFI works for businesses, but as I began to look at our passage from Acts 1 this morning, I believe we can see the principle at work on a global \_\_\_\_\_ scale.
  
- II. Using a couple of Gottry’s common-sense steps, we can tap into \_\_\_\_\_ own world-wide strategy.
  - A. First, says Gottry, begin with a \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. Jesus had given his disciples a vision — a dream that he called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
    2. The message was clear: They weren’t to spend their time looking *up* into \_\_\_\_\_, but looking *out* at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
  
  - B. Second, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to achieve the dream. Once you’ve identified a need, says Gottry, \_\_\_\_\_ is the way to fill it.
    1. Strategy, tactics and \_\_\_\_\_ are not afterthoughts but are the primary structures upon which successful ventures are built.
    2. An experience with \_\_\_\_\_ was not something that his followers could keep to themselves.

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\* Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53

- C. Third, \_\_\_\_\_ the plan. In other words, get to work!
1. The problem was that when Christianity went from a start-up entrepreneurial venture to the dominant \_\_\_\_\_ paradigm, the basic FANAFI principle went out the window.
  2. Perhaps it's time we recaptured a simpler vision — a Jesus vision — for \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
  3. Consider this: If the word “gospel” means “\_\_\_\_\_ news,” then why is much of the world's news so \_\_\_\_\_?
  4. What would it would it take to make more good news \_\_\_\_\_?
  5. How will you FANAFI with that \_\_\_\_\_ news?

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, June 29**

Read Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53. Luke is the author of both the gospel that bears his name and Acts. You could say that Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke! This week's meditation and study guide is all about dreaming. Our dreams give us visions of a future; hopefully a future that is guided and blessed by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Today, think of a ministry or event in the church (Central U.M.C. or another church you've attended) that was exciting and successful. What made that ministry or event successful? Write your thoughts here and give thanks to God for such meaningful experiences in the church!

### **Tuesday, June 30**

Read Acts 1:1-11 again focusing on verses 6-8. We can learn much from these three verses. First, there are elements of our work that we need not worry about, like the timing of God's Kingdom – we have our work to do within God's Kingdom and should focus on that work. Second, we will be given the power to accomplish what God has called us to do. Third, the scope of the work will have a “ripple effect” to the “ends of the earth.”

There is a plan – God's plan. We pray that God's plan will happen each time we recite The Lord's Prayer; “on earth as it is in heaven.” While we seek to do God's work in the Kingdom, we should spend time planning our own work within that Kingdom. As for any organization or individual: “When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” Our task, as the church, is to make sure our plans as a local congregation are God inspired and Holy Spirit empowered. Pray that Central U.M.C. will develop plans that will make a difference in the lives of others and change our world!

### **Wednesday, July 1**

Again read Acts 1:1-11 focusing on verses 9-11. After seeing Jesus ascend into heaven, the disciples just stood around gazing upward. It took two messengers from God to jar them from their paralyzed state to realize they had work to do! There is a saying, “We run the risk in the church of being so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good.”

For the disciples in the early church, there were certainly the awe-inspiring events involved in knowing Jesus personally. There was also the thought in those ancient days that Jesus was about to come back very soon, so why do anything? Many believe that they should just “sit tight” and everything will be fine when Jesus