Yesterday while working in the Library a man I know came by to get some legal copies. Though not what I would say personally, I knew this individual and a little about his upbringing because I had worked with him for a while and had spoken to him on different occasions; and I also heard some of his discussions with others. He is very much what one would call a political junkie, with many of those views being openly anti-Christian. He is also a person who has trouble getting along with others and has few, if any friends.

One day as I was waiting to go to service he stopped by and said a few words and as we were talking I noticed he glanced at my Bible, and so I’m sure he perceives me to be Christian. Nevertheless we have always been cordial to each other and for all practical purposes have gotten along, though his heart is not open to hearing Scripture.

Whenever he speaks of his personal beliefs he is always emotionally charged and you can tell that he appears to believe deeply in what he is saying. At least this is how I perceived him to be. Then after reading Edward Smith’s book on “Healing Life’s hurts Through Theophostic Prayer” (read it if you haven’t) my own perception of him has changed. Now I clearly see a man who isn’t
actually reacting to present day realities, but to events from his past, and those events originally caused him much pain.

Early this morning as I was sitting quietly and having a cup of coffee this man entered my mind. As I was thinking of him I recalled that the door to his heart has never opened to me to the point where I could speak to him about Scripture, and so I was wondering if he would ever believe the truth and overcome his past. Then another thought came to me and it came in the form of questions, the essence of which was: Do you think anyone has ever really loved this man? Even now does he have anyone who cares enough about him to faithfully pray for him? It was then at that moment when I knew how I could love and help him, and so he is now, and will always be amongst those whom I faithfully pray for.

Can this man’s life be turned around? Yes it can! Remember the people, who after Jesus’ statement concerning how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, ask him the question: “Then who can be saved?” The wonderful answer Jesus gave them is as true now as when he spoke it; and is also true in all situations in life: “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.” I now believe therefore, that the door to this man’s heart will eventually be opened, but whether it opens to me or to another believer doesn’t really matter, for whether I plant or
water, or someone else does isn’t important. What is important is knowing that God gives the increase.

A.W. Tozer in his book Pursuit of God says that “only God can move mountains, but faith and prayer move God.” Upon reflection of that statement I now realize that though the door to speak to a person’s heart may not always be open, the door to pray for them always is, and so prayer is an important aspect of reaching out to others; and a vital part of the ministry of reconciliation. It is also a wonderful way to do good to those who are of the household of faith.

As far as I know, God has not yet opened this man’s heart to hear, but He has moved in mine to pray for him and so I will. He is in my heart and prayers, and so are you.

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