

December 31st, 2010Teamltr

To: Team & Friends

From: Jerry (Jake) Crafton

To: Bishops 100/ Men & Women of Indiana/ Supporters and Assistants

I wrote a letter much like this one in 2002. I enjoyed writing it so much I decided to take some information from it and use it once more. There is always something you can use for ministry -even if it is aged and has a little dust on the surface. Use what you got and God will give you more.

Start thinking today about what you can use for ministry in 2011. You have more in "idle storage" than you perhaps realize. It is just sitting there waiting to be used.

I want to be the first to challenge you to shake the dust off some of the time, talent and treasure that God has given you and put them to work doing kingdom work in 2011. "They are useless sitting idle."

You may quote me on that last sentence.

As I write this letter let it be understood that I am talking with my finger tips and a plastic set of little buttons attached to a computer screen to special men and women. That screen instantly sees all my typing errors. I am committed to the thought that you are special. We all have flaws but we must move forward in 2011. Stealing the words from my daughter: "You are special-----no contest." Anyhow if you are a recipient of this communication understand that I am speaking to you personally and that this is not just another mass mailing of verbiage. I hope you realize that your partnership with the Bishops 100/MWOA is essential for the projects we encounter in 2011. Everyone is needed. We are a team. I trust this letter will lodge in your heart and attitude nudging forward your expectations for 2011.

Greetings: is a normal way of starting a letter of this nature. "As it be" - we are going to do a change up and be a little different. It is OK to be a little different than others. That is exactly what separates you from the majority. The Bishops 100 is a unique team of volunteers. The Bishops 100 is a little different than most of the society we call home. The difference in your presentation of ministry encourages me to the utmost. Keep up the good work. It works – lives are being touched in a positive way for Christ.

I want to have some verbal fun now sharing my thoughts of a special team not mentioning any names but on the other hand not forgetting anyone or the sacrifices to the Lord that I personally witnessed from you in 2010 - which is now history. I give you my personal thanks for all your efforts utilizing your time, talent and treasure.

All cumuli possess a valuable edging or in other words every cloud has a silver lining. You specifically are the human side of this silver lining. God uses you. He is in control of every breath you get to take.

In an unsure world be sure of this: "God knows you, your attitude and you potential". Make a conscious effort to do something for the family of God in 2011. In doing something - wonderful things happen.

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The Men and Women of Action Rally will be in February on the 18th & 19th, 2011 in Kodiac, Tennessee. This is a great time to celebrate and reflect on accomplishments as well as look ahead, get involved and touch the lives of others.

Over the years I have learned not to enumerate. I have learned not to enumerate my domestic fowls prior to the incubation period or not to count my chickens before they hatch. Perhaps you are in a state of incubation. I pray that 2011 will bring about a hatching for kingdom work. I understand this is symbolism on paper but your incubation can be real. Babe Ruth would say it this way: "Step up to the plate". My daughter would say it this way: "It's your turn now." If you are in a state of incubation turn the heat up a little and let the hatching begin. I am touched by your dedication and availability.

Some think that a pardine beast is unable to change his markings or in other words a Leopard can't change his spots. I am not a scientist but I do know this: "A man or a woman can be saved from hell and touch the lives of countless others by his or her actions." Things that were meant for bad can be turned around for the good. One simple example: The Poland chapel. Think of the goodness that you were a part of in 2010. I have seen this and now repeat it: "You are special."

As I look back to 2010- over my shoulder -the realization that you are an outlaw to the expectations of Satan is very real. You have gone into the enemy's camp and helped retrieve what he meant for harm in 2010. I saw you do this in 2010. Let us do it again in 2011.

If the foot apparel is the correct size for one's foot then one should put it on and take a walk in ministry that touches lives around the globe daily. It sure feels good when we accomplish a project. It is a joy to be a part of a unique team of volunteers that are caring and consistent. In 2011 I request that you "lace the shoes that fit your feet and take a walk of ministry." Once again- if you are in an incubation stage- turn up the heat and get on with it. In other words find a ministry that works for you and get involved.

Many of us were taught that deeds communicate louder than speech. Seemingly we can find talkers without looking very diligently. One of the things I really appreciate in each of you is that you are doers. We talk as we work. We share the lord as we work. We demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ with hands on personal ministry as we labor together in faith, fun and fellowship.

The old verbiage tells us to combat a blaze using a blaze or in other words fight fire with fire. In 2009 a Community Chapel was set on fire but our "fire department" also known as the Bishops 100/MWOA, was motivated to help restore the devastating situation in Poland Indiana. There was much talk but I assure you there was much more ministry than idle conversation. You are special.

In closing - looking forward to 2011 you will find there are two basic personalities around your presence: talkers and doers. My advice is to align yourself with the latter because there is less competition. Thank you for being a person who ministers using action and care as you work for the Lord. God bless your actions of love in 2011.

Remember to pray for our leadership, our churches and our Pastors.

