

A STORY ABOUT ABOUT GOOD SOIL BEING A SOWER:

Mr. Jim McGinty, a member of my church, was an 84 yr old widower. He was always early at church - smiling and feeling like all he could do was be a greeter. He was a retired colonel in the Air Force. When I was invited by the Minneapolis Air Reserve Unit for a ride on a C-130 Hercules - and that's a story for another day - I said yes, if they let me bring Retired Colonel McGinty. He excitedly came with me. Of course the crew and officers on board were all outranked by him and were in awe, asking him all kinds of questions. Then, by Grace he started to think like a leader again and believed that he could talk to even younger people about life and faith again. His young neighbors who checked in on him to care for him were having marital problems. Jim heard that their problem was a spiritual one, so he spoke to them about Jesus and after trying to teach the husband the basics, he referred the young man to me, and we met one-on-one for confirmation. The couple later started coming to church. I spoke with the wife too. Sadly, he stopped coming to church and they eventually divorced. But the point of this story is that the 84 year old Mr. McGinty was not only an old smiley usher. He was an evangelist and he died actively witnessing the gospel to people.

BEING GOOD GROUND IS ONE THING, BUT WHAT ABOUT BEING GOOD SOWERS?

1. But are we sowers or do we say, there's still time to sow, I'm just too busy now
 - a. Even some of you in retirement may have discovered that your family responsibilities have not ended. Even

grown children, not forgetting grandchildren and other loved ones - family or friends - still want or need something from you.

- b. It could be money, advice, emotional support, to draw on your wisdom or your connections.
- c. Some people complain in retirement that they seem to have more responsibility.
- d. Others say, "I should be receiving now, from what I sowed"

2. Yet, this world, outside of your personal life, needs you.

- Many of you give generously of your treasure, time and talents, as you are able.
- Yet it's still a time to sow more. There are more seeds to be sown. **Jesus needs you** to be an evangelist. Not just a witness by your deeds, but also by word. Telling the Gospel story
- How many have told at least one person about salvation through Christ or the Grace of God in Christ in the last week.
- If you cannot talk about the Gospel in its simplest form, let's do some work to equip you. Jesus still needs you to make disciples. People still need to know about the grace of God. It's not just the job of the pastor.
- Do you love and care for people enough for them to experience John 3:16? For now, at least invite them to church.

Conclusion:

Mr. McGinty, was a sower. His son, whom I only met during the time of the funeral, sent me a FB message years later. He thanked me for what he described as, "what you did for my dad, so he died happy and fulfilled and was able to deal with the loss of his wife better when he met you". No it was not about meeting me, it was Jim rising to the call to sow the seeds of the gospel so it would bear fruit in others. This week and going forward, let's take time to consider how we can be sowers, even if we are busy. You and I are called to be sowers in Christ's field, and he has equipped us to do that - to simply tell about him. Being a sower is a mindset. We are in the season of Pentecost. After the Holy Spirit comes on us, we are equipped to be witnesses in word and deed, as Peter was on the first day of Pentecost. By Grace, so can we! Amen.