

## *I Was Doing Nothing Well*

*S*ome months ago, at a ministerial luncheon in Jefferson City, Missouri, we were privileged to hear Peggy Kirkpatrick, founder of the Food Bank For Central Missouri, share how she began this outreach ministry to the poor and needy. As Peggy was sitting in church one day she became convicted that as a Christian she was doing very little for the Lord in terms of active ministry. As she listened to the passage in James 2:14-17, which says that faith without works is dead, she realized, "I was doing nothing well." She prayed and then took a step of faith and began raising money and collecting food to start a Food Bank for the needy of Mid-Missouri. Last year her food bank distributed over 21 million pounds of food to food pantries and other organizations that give food free of charge to needy families and school children. Thousands and thousands of people have been blessed because one woman decided to step out in faith and do something.

Without wanting to lay on a guilt trip, what are you doing for the Lord to advance His Kingdom here on this earth? If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We only get one shot at life. Heaven and eternal life are gifts we inherit the moment we become a Christian. However, as I understand passages such as I Corinthians 3:10-15, the rewards we receive in Heaven will be based on the works we have done while on this earth.

If you are a pew-warming, watch-everyone-else-do-the-work type of Christian, may I lovingly challenge you to earnestly pray that God will assign you a work to do for Him. When Jesus told His followers to "Follow me," He was asking them to enlist in active service for the Kingdom of God. According to Ephesians 2:10 the Lord already has good works planned out for you to do. As you pray and partner with the Holy Spirit, He will guide you into the good works He has planned for you to do.

If you want an abundance of fulfillment and joy, if you want to be able to look yourself in the eye in the mirror and be proud of what you have done with your life, it will probably not happen by passively watching TV, sitting in front of your computer, or texting friends all day long. At some point, you must be willing to roll up your sleeves and get involved in the work of the Kingdom. As you consider all the Lord has done for you, how sad and utterly embarrassing it would be to enter Heaven empty-handed.

"Lord, use my life to make a difference in this world. Give me God-sized dreams and the ability to carry them out, that Christ may be glorified in and through my life."



