

# **SESSION 4: SHARING JESUS AT WORK**

- **Welcome & Review Last Week's Homework: 15 minutes**
- **Session #4 Teaching: Sharing "Jesus" while at "Work:" 10 minutes**

Alan Partain worked for one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world and one that is in the news almost every day due to the Covid19 vaccination initiatives, when he was faced with a very difficult decision. For a bit of context; here is a summary of the background:

- Alan was responsible for leading a group of 122 sales reps and 12 district managers across the Mid-Atlantic region selling pharmaceuticals, with a quota of over \$385MM per year
- The company was very supportive of Alan; however, due to all the legal pressures and political correctness - no one was really allowed to express their religious views...especially if you were a leader of people.
- Many individuals in Alan's company knew him as a man of faith...and also knew a bit about his passion for the orphans and widows of the Sub-Saharan region of Zambia - Africa.

So...when Every Orphan's Hope and Purcellville Baptist Church asked him to lead a team of individuals on a Short Term Mission trip to Zambia, Africa - he jumped at the opportunity, and began preparing his heart, his young family, and his spiritual strength for this awesome trip.

Then, God started working on Alan and began to plant a seed in his heart that he wasn't prepared for. He began impressing upon him that there were individuals at the company who needed to be asked to join him on this trip. Alan assumed that he would certainly experience a high degree of stress and possibly undergo some ridicule, up to and including challenges from an HR standpoint if he began talking about the organization and the trip to his co-workers. But, God impressed upon Alan the need to actually ask some individuals who worked directly under him - to actually join him on this trip. God kept putting individual names in front of Alan...while at work...while he slept...basically - non-stop for about 3-weeks. Sounds simple huh...just ask people if they are interested in going with me to Zambia to help with construction etc? Not exactly. He also had to ask each person that God put on his heart about their walk...about their relationship with Jesus...about their spiritual fitness. He had to do this BEFORE he actually brought up the trip and responsibilities associated with the short term mission trip. He had also been to Zambia multiple times and knew how spiritually rewarding and challenging this trip would be and the impact it would have on whoever came along.

So...what happened? You can probably tell the rest of the story since God always works things out for His Glory while blessing everyone along the way. Every person who God put on Alan's heart to invite, was not only receptive to the line of questions, but completely sold out on making this monumental decision to join him. For many, it was their first mission trip and first time to actually travel to Africa.

Now, here is 'the rest of the story:'

One individual who went on this trip was an atheist but had donated money to Alan a year earlier and was now searching for Jesus in his life. Alan's ask of him was the perfect timing that motivated him to give his life to Christ and serve Jesus by going on this trip. He is now serving as an active board member for the missionary who serves the widows and orphans ...in...you guessed it...Zambia, Africa.

Another individual was an African-American young man who worked in South Jersey. Alan did not know him that well but God impressed upon him the need to reach out. He accepted the invite to go... flourished in Zambia...and returned to America and his job with a higher calling. He came back...quit working for Alan...and became a youth pastor.

Another individual who worked with Alan, without hesitation - invited two other members of his team to join us. Within a couple years upon his return - he left the company, started his own company and is now one of the leaders of the very impactful non-profit called Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

### **So, what did Alan learn?**

- 1) God calls us to do 'uncomfortable' things in our lives because He loves you, He built you for His purpose, and knows that you will be stronger and more full of joy when you follow Him
- 2) God will take the 'impossible' and make it possible ...plus some. He will magnify a blessed outcome and surprise you along the way
- 3) God will 'protect' you along the way...not always how you see or envision protection but how He sees it

### **Small Group Discussion: 25 minutes**

*Can you share Jesus while you work in a secular world? Absolutely...and don't be surprised with how God allows you to see and experience how powerful and inspirational He is. Don't limit Him...chase after His calling knowing that He is the perfect shepherd and father to you and the people you have been entrusted to lead.*

- *Talk about how Alan's story impacted YOU personally.*
- *Are there people in your professional life that God is nudging you to reach out to?*
- *Are there any innovative ways you have found to reach people for Christ in your workplace?*
- *Have you ever done a mission trip (locally or globally)? Talk about what you experienced and how easy that type of experience is to share with others.*

### **Group Prayer Time: 15 minutes**

*Wrap up by praying for the courage to step out in faith and reach out to people in your professional life with the love of Jesus! Name their names if you are comfortable and watch God do His work in YOU and in them!*

### **Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes**

*This week, think about what Alan learned and about the people you prayed for. Review again and apply these teachings to YOUR life. Be ready to discuss with your group next week.*

- *God calls us to do 'uncomfortable' things in our lives because He loves you, He built you for His purpose, and knows that you will be stronger and more full of joy when you follow Him*
- *God will take the 'impossible' and make it possible ...plus some. He will magnify a blessed outcome and surprise you along the way*
- *God will 'protect' you along the way...not always how you see or envision protection but how He sees it*