

Getting to the Positive Side of Inertia

People have asked me (Dave) as we have been on the road visiting churches, "What is the most difficult problem facing the Mexican church today?" To that question I have always answered this way: "The greatest problem of the Mexican church, and the church worldwide is inertia."

Now I understand that a word like inertia may stir up memories of tenth grade physics class, but give me a minute to explain.

When it comes to momentum, inertia can be described as the tendency of an object at rest to remain at rest. My old friend Gilbert could explain it best. He would sit in his chair after a long day working in the Evangel University Chapel and deadpan, "I suffer from dropsy and heart failure. I've dropped down and don't have the heart to get up!"

As a church, we can tend toward this negative aspect of inertia. In this day and age, we often look to the church as a type of refuge, a place to rest. While this is true, an over emphasis of this one aspect can lead to negative effects. We can get so used to sitting in the pew that we lose our heart to get back up to meaningfully engage the culture.

But we don't need to be stuck in a state of inactivity. Inertia can also be described as the tendency of an object in motion to remain in motion. The New Testament church is a clear example. Although certainly given to times of teaching and fellowship, their compassionate involvement in the community led to the Lord adding to

their number daily those who were being saved. Success led to success. By the end of the book of Acts, Christianity was being preached and disciples were being made in the heart of the pagan Roman Empire.

But how do we return to Acts 2? How do we get to the positive side of inertia? It's certainly more complicated than simply starting over. I believe that it is two-fold. First, it requires proclamation. A call must go out to return to the Bible, to the model of Jesus who was criticized for frequenting the homes of sinners. Second, it requires modeling, a living out of the biblical pattern. This is the vision that we feel that the Lord has given

us for Mexico, to partner with the Mexican Assemblies of God, reaching, equipping, and releasing people to fulfill God's redemptive purpose.

We proclaim as we train and equip, but we model as well, reaching out to the lost and giving opportunity to become salt and light, offering new life to others. This breathes new life into church programs that may have faltered along the way, and gives rise to new church plants that leverage positive inertia as disciples in turn make new disciples.

So inertia is the problem, but it can become the solution as well. The key is moving to the positive side. We believe we have the solution for Mexico, a solution that can be universally applied.

Thoughts? Comment on this article at: <http://www.disciplemexico.org/2010/03/inertia.html>.



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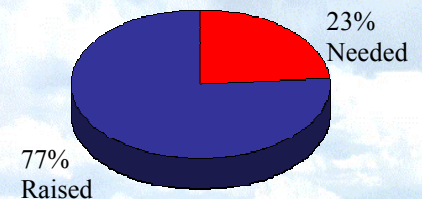
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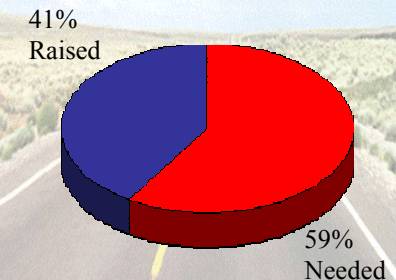
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Irish Wilderness

Whenever we get the chance, the family stops at historical sites and parks. Earlier this month, we were driving through the Mark Twain National Forest and saw a sign for the Irish Wilderness. My first name has Irish roots and my hair is auburn, but apparently I (Kelly) do not have a drop of Irish blood in my veins. However, I've always had an attraction to that country, possibly for the above reasons.

Imagine my surprise when I saw something with Irish connections in the middle of the state of Missouri! Since I was behind the wheel at the time, I determined to stop and discover what this place was and why it existed. Everyone got out of the car as I pulled into the parking area. The

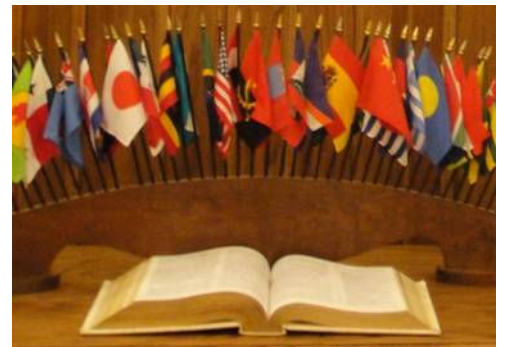
kids had a chance to run down the trail a bit, and I took a few photos. There was no history or explanation to the name on site, so I had to do a bit of research. The site dates back to before the Civil War. The hope had been a new beginning for Irish immigrants, thanks to a Catholic priest by the name of Father Hogan. It didn't last long, however, and much about it still remains a mystery. But what has been discovered is documented in a book that recently won the Gold Medal Award for non-fiction.

Although our visit lasted all of 10 minutes, the kids were able to let out some energy and I was able to satisfy my curiosity. Sometimes we just need to stop to taste some history even when there aren't any roses to smell.

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The words "I believe in you" can be very affirming, even more so when they come from people that you have come to love and respect. Since 2004, we've had a wonderful relationship with the Southern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God. They've licensed us and sent us out as their representatives to Mexico. This April 21st, the leadership of our district will lay hands upon Dave during the ordination service of the district council, effectively saying, "We believe in your call and ministry."

We are honored and humbled by this formal recognition of the ministry that God has laid upon us. Still, we haven't forgotten all that we have received along the way to this milestone. We're thankful for your affirmation in the prayers, gifts, and kind words you have shared with us during our time as your missionaries to the Yucatán. Our prayer is that we will continue to prove faithful to the confidence that you have placed in us.



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Where can you find us in the months of March, April, and May?

3/3	First A/G Bolivar, MO	4/4	EASTER SUNDAY	5/4	First A/G Malden, MO
3/7	Church on the Loop Mount Vernon, MO First A/G Butler, MO	4/7	Grace Point A/G Carthage, MO	5/9	Peace Chapel Upton, MO Bethel A/G Hermitage, MO
3/10	First A/G Potosi, MO	4/11	First A/G Nederland, TX First A/G Leesville, LA	5/12	MIDWEEK SERVICE AVAILABLE
3/14	First A/G Carl Junction, MO	4/14	First A/G Pomona, MO	5/16	Abundant Life A/G Kennett, MO First A/G Bernie, MO
3/17	MIDWEEK SERVICE AVAILABLE	4/18	Friendly A/G Gerald, MO First A/G Sullivan, MO	5/19	MIDWEEK SERVICE AVAILABLE
3/21	Ozark A/G Ozark, MO First A/G Mountain View, MO	4/19-21	District Council Springfield, MO	5/23	New Life A/G Barnett, MO Lakeside A/G Pittsburg, MO
3/24	Ozark Bethel Chapel Roach, MO	4/21	Dave's Ordination Service Springfield, MO	5/26	Winona A/G Winona, MO
3/28	Grace A/G Florissant, MO Westport A/G Maryland Heights, MO	4/24-5/30	Family Reunion Hilton Head, SC	5/30	MORNING SERVICE AVAILABLE Praise Fellowship, St Louis, MO
3/31	Ava A/G Ava, MO	5/2	First A/G Caruthersville, MO Bethel A/G Gideon, MO		We are looking forward to our services with you!