

07/01/10

Rolling Acres Alliance: Real People. Real Faith. Real Love.

Dear Friends,

Mark 2:13-17

Bridges or Barriers

I read of Mark's account of the call of Levi this week as part of my devotional reading. It really stood out to me that on the same day that Levi (aka Matthew) began to follow Jesus, he invited many of his co-workers and friends to have dinner with Jesus. Then at prayer meeting, our esteemed head elder spoke of our need to pray for bridges to be built into the community and specifically into the neighborhoods we have been praying for as outreach ventures. When he said this, I immediately thought of Levi. He was a bridge for those in his life to have the opportunity to follow Jesus. He invited them to his home for them to get a chance to experience Jesus for themselves. Sure, Levi had the advantage that Jesus was right there eating dinner with them. But the same can be true for us when we take the risk and invite people into our lives so they can come to know Jesus. Jesus promises to be with us as we go about the Great Commission. He said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt. 28:20b, NIV, emphasis mine.) Even if your name isn't Shirley ("surely"-sorry, I couldn't resist!), He is with us. It is His will for us to be His witnesses. It is His express desire that people come to have a saving faith and personal relationship with Him. As His people, we simply are the bridges for people to know Christ. Let's follow Levi's example: leave our old life behind to follow Jesus. In the process, invite people to come and see Jesus for themselves. Either we are bridges that lead to Jesus Christ or we are barriers to people coming to Christ. Which are you?

Excited to see you Sunday as we worship the Lord who gave us our Independence from sin,

Pastor Andy