

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - SEPT. 25, 2011

Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

'SMILE'

BY REV. TOM REHLING

Is your church the warmest friendliest place in town? We often think so, but our guests sometimes report that they are greeted more quickly and friendly by local businesses than in our churches. So, why don't we put more importance on friendship in the church? After all, it should be the friendliest place in town? We have the best news (Acts 20:24, Ephesians 3:6), have experienced the greatest love of all (John 3:16, 1 John 4:9-12), and have been told to spread that to everyone in the world (Matthew 28:19-20)! In fact, in John 13:35 Jesus says everyone will know we're his followers by our love. Not by our bumper stickers, by our shiny new building, or by our clean nurseries. By our love!

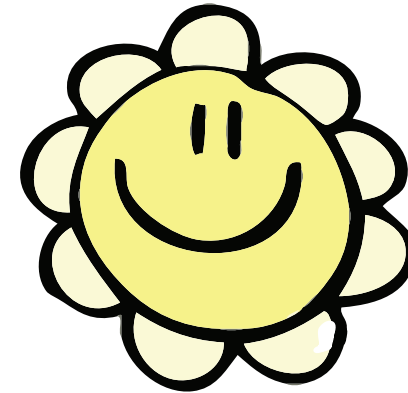
But, clearly we haven't made the inroads we'd all love to see – the church works as a relational magnet, drawing people into a discipling relationship with Jesus. We still, unwittingly, do things that push people away, despite our best intentions. And sometimes that means we are not as friendly as we think we are.

How does this happen? It's a simple phenomenon called being "home blind." This happens when we're so close to a situation that we can't see things as others do. You're already invested in your ministry, you already have friends there, and everyone there is already friendly to you –so it seems friendly to you when it might seem very unfriendly to some people who experiences are off of your radar.

Here is the Challenge:

Start smiling already. For the next two weeks, every time you are at church, smile at every person you encounter, just to see how it impacts them and you. Every time you smile, remind yourself that a smile can be an offering to God, who has filled your life with grace and welcomed you into the fellowship of Christ. Smile and dare the whole world to smile with you.

Smile It Looks



Good On You!

Interested in submitting your own Reflection for the RMCUCC to use? contact us:

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