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*Helping people discover
and follow the God
who is far more than
they imagine*

Spiritual Reflection: Communion and Dialogue:

The Spiritual Journey of Keeping a Listening Prayer Journal

As I now sit in my Springfield office in the middle of a sunny summer mid-day, I look behind me and there on the floor lie my Listening Prayer Journals all titled *Communion and Dialogue*. I took them out of a wooden box in my office a couple of weeks ago because I wanted to see the history I had written down over the years all 33 of them. My first journal entry began my journey of journaling with the Lord and is dated November 19, 1986. The format I have followed since is to write something about who Christ is in my life and how I am walking with Him through the happy and good times, the ordinary times, the tough and the sorrowful times. What I realize is (and Tricia in her own journals dating back to age 14) they capture three decades of following my Lord through the undulating hills, deep valleys, desolate deserts, soaring peaks, and sunny days of working out my salvation while seeking to be of use to Him and His people. What a ride!!!

My Listening Prayer Journals, all 19 of them, are testimonies to a spiritual relationship lived in real-time with real people and real losses as well as gains. More importantly, the Wondrous Maker and Sustainer of the universe would take the time to call me into His Kingdom so I could walk with Him and reflect His grace-filled values as I experience each day. Whether it was a great day, an ordinary day or a disastrous day, He would be there with me. If I didn't notice His voice or recognize when He was trying to get my attention I would miss out on His love, grace and wisdom. Not because he withheld it, but because I was distracted or too preoccupied on something else to stop and listen. Normal life can be very insistent and distracting.

So what caused me to write about this you might ask? First, it was my decision to read all of my journals. In so doing, I have been traversing a historic life story partnership and a Kingdom journey together. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit at times in different ways and for different purposes have influenced and guided me beyond what I would have conceived would be my life and legacy. Tricia and I have been blessed to do the Kingdom work whether it was counseling for individuals, couples or families, Spiritual Direction, *Listening in Christ* and Individuals or Couples Immersion Retreats, and PLAYMAKER Profiles of Motivational Design.

To be honest, I think it is critical to write in your journal about your life with God and how it has transformed you into a man or woman after His own heart. In it you tell the truth of the joys and sorrows you experienced with Him. You also tell the spiritual struggles you had and worked through together. You note and even tell stories about people you encountered and how they influenced, led, helped or hurt, abandoned or let you down. Your story is chocked-full of real life and real experiences. Once you have some stories to tell, if you choose to do so, commit to writing an hour a day in the evening after work or on the Saturdays where you have free time or maybe Sunday evening. You pick the time and the place and the focus.

You see, all of us who walk with God are compiling a story to tell about our relationship with the Triune God over the years. If we reflect on that we begin to see whether in our personal spiritual life, through church life, in ministry or relationships with other believers and unbelievers we can notice our stories have a structure; they reflect an eternal purpose; they reveal our weaknesses and strengths, and gifts; they illuminate our joys and sorrows. Finally, they reveal as we walk this life for days, months, years and decades that we are in the Shadow of the Almighty, led by the Holy Spirit, and buttressed by the Saints in Community so that we can reflect His love to all God brings in our daily path.



What We Have Been Up To:

The ministry that we started at the Center for Renewal in Simsbury, CT in 1990 is still growing and moving forward. It has had many different locations in the last 11 years, but it has never changed in its focus. It started in Connecticut as Klesis Ministries and is now DBA imagine/Northampton Ministries in Springfield, Massachusetts.

In June Tricia did a "Day of Reflection" for 40 women at Hope Community Church in Agawam. It was a gift to see these women go off in the quiet of the afternoon and share how specifically Jesus spoke to their individual need. She taught on the benefits we have access to when we are in a relationship with God. We overlook what He actually is able to produce in our lives and gives to us. The benefits that Jesus wants you to reflect on and remember are the direct results of being in relationship with Him. Tricia has been reflecting on His benefits these last 6 months and it has opened up a deeper spirit of gratitude in a whole new way.



We also finished an Immersion Retreat with a woman who was a big part of helping us launch our ministry in Massachusetts. Here are her comments about the retreat with us at Pine Brook Camp: *"I needed time to hear from Jesus about some decisions in my life. I also knew I was tired and had a lot more tough times to go through over the next few months. I asked Tricia if I could go for an Immersion Retreat, which I did for two days, and I was not disappointed. The place was rustic but lovely, the time spent was sacred, the care was excellent and I heard from Jesus just like I needed. I felt loved and supported and I'm so glad I went. Thank you Kit and Tricia."*

Tricia will be doing a Day Retreat at College Church in Northampton in October so please lift her up in prayer and all those that are coming. She is also seeing more women coming to process their past wounds that are affecting them outwardly through anxiety. They are also seeking a deeper longing to be intimate with Jesus and develop a deeper relationship with Him.

We have had some setbacks healthwise for the last 3 months. Just as the Immersion Retreat was ending, Kit was having such pain in his left hip, to the point he was unable to walk. He ended up in bed for almost a month with back and forth visits to the doctor until we finally were able to get an MRI. We found out he has a tear in his anterior labrum in the hip joint which was causing all the pain. The tear was flipped causing pressure and pain. It is something that you don't usually have surgery on, a hip replacement is easier. He also had a sleep study done with sleep apnea as a diagnosis. As many of you know it is getting a machine and sleeping with a mask over your face which Kit has found very difficult to use. Please pray for healing for Kit.

Continuing The Call To Minister Through Time:

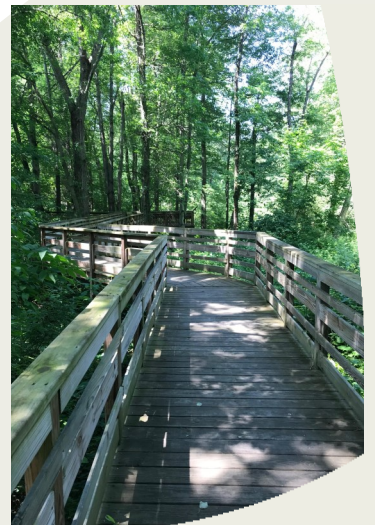
First Laps On The Senior Pathway Called 70

The 19th Century French writer and playwright Jules Renard said that "It is not the question of how old you are, but a question of how you are old." In other words, what kind of life are you fully engaged in or passionate about or struggling through will reflect how deeply connected and fully alive you still are. Obviously, you don't have the abounding energy of a 20 or 30 year-old, or even a 40 year-old. On the contrary, being less energized or quick on your feet does not condemn you to lounging ensconced in your favorite easy chair and staring into space for most of the day. Sure, if you're seriously sick or chronically fatigued you may not have much leeway to get up and get going.

About a decade ago, I realized that while all us on this planet do get gradually older and it is inevitable. However, sinking into becoming psychologically and temperamentally *old* in heart and mind is a learned attitude and seen as a foregone conclusion. Sure, as we age we can get injured or get sick to a degree we have to go slow and easy. If not, our mind can slip away gradually so as to alter how we think and act daily. We might grow bitter or withdrawn, or we have no filter and say whatever comes to our minds appropriate or not.

For me, it is a blessed opportunity to take stock of my life: joys and sorrows, losses and victories, being a husband, a father, an uncle and a grandfather; being a drummer and a counselor; becoming a Christian who has served the church as a musician, a counselor, a retreat leader, an Elder, a church planter and currently on the Prayer Team (that Tricia and I launched) as a volunteer at City Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. I am currently playing drums (my daughter is our vocalist) with a jazz group I helped found with friends, called One Flight Up.

Also, Tricia and I need to take care of ourselves physically as well. For me, being 70 says I need to focus on myself in a way differently from when I was 40, 50 or even 60. My muscles, joints, and ligaments need attention so as not to push beyond where it makes no sense. At the same time, I want to be physically fit and substantially healthy. I'd love to make it to my 90's! So we find walking on paths in the woods not far from us as refreshing and rejuvenating, especially where there are healthy woods and streams, ponds or lakes. Interesting as well, there are folks near our age and younger who are disciplining themselves to get outdoors and get beneficial exercise for the body, the mind and the soul. We experienced that just this morning as we walked a couple of miles around the Westfield Public Water Reservoir and were refreshed by God's grand works of nature and the friendly people who were enjoying the outdoors with us.



Clearly, I want to spend more time with Tricia continuing to share love, life and new adventures together. I want to bless her in ways I haven't yet! I want to see my children thrive and flourish in their lives and loving relationships. I want to see my grandchildren grow up to meet and marry someone and have families of their own as they walk with Christ. What a blessing that will be! I want to see my brother, Stacy and sister-in-law, KayKay and our nephews in New Mexico and my best friend Dick Orr and his wife Jackie.

Lastly, I have come to realize and feel my time each day is carrying me to the day or night when I will leave this "mortal coil" to go to my real home in heaven where the Trinity, the angels and the saints co-mingle in the astounding joys and freedoms of being utterly known, perfectly alive and free. I also know Tricia will join me or go before me. Either way, we will spend eternity together.

Playmaker Profile Concept:

The word "playmaker" captures the idea of a person taking specific action toward a personally meaningful end. Used as a term primarily in sports, it denotes "a key offensive player who executes plays designed to put one or more teammates in a position to score." Put simply, you are the "playmaker" and "scorer" in your life. You constantly try to move toward results which express your motivation and fulfill who you are, whether you are conscious of it at any particular time or not. You make things happen or respond to situations that engage your nature, acting according to your specific design. When you are frustrated, the cause more than likely stems from not being able to express your motivational design. **No one can express your motivation as you do!!!**

What a PLAYMAKER is:

- PLAYMAKER provides a detailed picture of how you express what most motivates you to take action and achieve productive outcomes.
- PLAYMAKER is an efficient tool to help you make wise decisions about the work that will fulfill you and sustain your interest.
- PLAYMAKER provides a picture of what you have to offer any organization by clarifying strengths and motivations.
- PLAYMAKER sheds light on job fit and performance providing verifiable means by which organizations can optimize its human resources at every level.
- PLAYMAKER reveals areas of frustration between people because of their motivations clash in key areas of behavior.

What a PLAYMAKER isn't:

- PLAYMAKER is not a personality test.
- PLAYMAKER is not an aptitude test.
- PLAYMAKER is not a temperament profile.
- PLAYMAKER is not a self-assessment tool.
- PLAYMAKER is not a one-size-fits-all computer boilerplate.

PLAYMAKER helps identify and solve problems such as::

- Consistently poor task or job performance.
- Job-fit issues.
- Malaise.

What does the PLAYMAKER process look like?

1. You begin the PLAYMAKER process by filling out a Script. It helps you tell us about your motivated activities throughout your life that you found stimulating or fulfilling. There is a persistent sense of achievement in them.
2. When you finish writing the Script, we interview you on 8 to 10 of those activities. This conversation is recorded for analysis.
3. Next, your interview is analyzed and a detailed PLAYMAKER Profile is written highlighting your unique design of motivated strengths.
4. Then, we meet to review your PLAYMAKER and answer your initial questions. This is also recorded and sent to you. We want you to be able to use it.
5. Different versions of the PLAYMAKER process are available to you with varying degrees of report details and follow up. We recommend 2 Application Sessions to help you apply this knowledge to the issues you want to address. Additional application sessions can be purchased separately.

Who would PLAYMAKER benefit?

1. **High school or college students** on the journey to find a career path.
2. **Couples** needing to understand one another better, or preparing for marriage.
3. **Individuals** in career or job transition.
4. **Organizations** looking to hire the person(s) who best fit the job or role.
5. **Managers** looking to build a team or improve a team's performance.
6. **Entrepreneurs** looking to go into business for themselves.
7. **Counselors** wanting to understand who a client is motivationally designed to be.
8. **Colleagues or business partners** wanting to better understand work styles.
9. **Professionals** feeling stagnant in their career.
10. **Retirees** looking to transition into a productive and meaningful retirement.
11. **Anyone** who seeks meaningful, engaging, and fulfilling work.



**What is the Cost of a
PLAYMAKER Profile?**
\$400

How Do I Get Started?

Contact Kit McDermott

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kit@imagenorthampton.org

Current Need: Prayer

A main focus of our ministry is prayer. We have seen how by spending time in prayer with groups on retreats and individuals, it can deepen and restore one's soul and heart towards an individual relationship to God. We have experienced that praying for others and with others for emotional, psychological and spiritual healing can set the captive free by processing issues through inner healing, soaking prayer, spiritual direction and counseling. Ministry this way, takes place in time through processing with those who participate, and it can produce the good fruit of knowing and experiencing the love Jesus has for us instead of living in the lies and pains of one's own woundedness. We are asking for your support in praying for us to continue to bring to groups and individuals the call to connect to the heart of Christ, and place first, their relationship with a loving God. As I always say to my clients and to retreatants, "No matter what, invite Him in. He is there waiting to speak to you about every area of your life. Whatever has stood in your way, Jesus is open to inviting Him in, to break that wall down, that lie, that area of shame and that area of pain or sin."

PRAY for those we see and minister to that we have wisdom, mercy and discernment. PRAY that we can open doors to new churches. PRAY that we can live by faith and trust in God's provision. PRAY that we find a support community. PRAY that we can expand our Board. PRAY we can find a facility for offices, a place to live and an Imagine Retreat Center. PRAY we can raise the funds to cover expenses for updating material, much needed computers, and website updating.

We are deeply grateful for your prayer support and your financial support. If you are interested in coming on a retreat or having us do a retreat for you or your church please contact us.

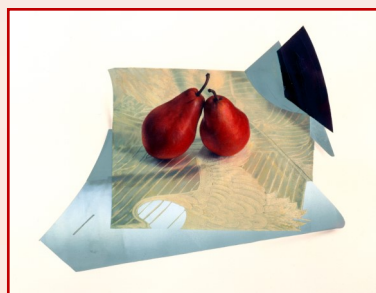
Our Gift to You:

When you donate, we would like to bless you and give you a gift in return. Below you will see 5 images of original paintings by my brother, Steve Hawley. He has been an artist for over 50 years, and his paintings are in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, the Saint Louis Museum of Art and many more. Each image is a Gisele Limited Edition numbered print, signed by Steve in a 16x20 matte. He has generously given us these prints to help raise money for the ministry. He has qualified a value of \$600 for each print.

To receive a print from us, we are asking for a donation of \$600, which is tax deductible. Please let us know which print you would be interested in receiving for your donation. We will be shipping it to you or delivering it if you are in the area. Please send us your address as well. However, no donation is too small! We appreciate anything that you feel led to give towards this ministry.



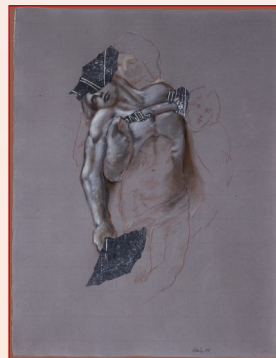
Portrait of a Shell



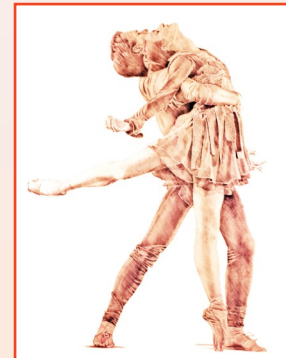
Wedding Pears



The Ship



Study for the Descent



Ballet Study

OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP



As outlined, we are obeying the call of God's mission this year.

Imagine has raised \$11,000 and is committed to raising **\$40,000**, and we are asking for your help to attain this goal, both through **prayer** and **financial support**.

Donations can be made through our website at:

www.imagenorthampton.org,

PayPal, or *imagine*/

Northampton's Facebook page.

We also have a GoFundMe page; "Growing the ministry of *Imagine* and the McDermott's." You can also donate by sending a check made out to *imagine* @ 96 Byers Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Thank you for partnering with us!