

"On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." (2 Cor.1:11)

July, 2021

Leader Spotlight



Dan Dahle

Application Processing Software

After retiring in 2016, Intel funded Dan to consult with Catalyst to manage the development of our application processing software. Since that initial period, he has continued as a volunteer. This tool has become an integral part of our work, and the updated 2.0 version just went live and was handed-off to JJ (below). Dan has spent hundreds (thousands?) of hours volunteering for Catalyst in many ways, and continues to be part of our extended family. Thank you so much Dan!



JJ Milmore

New Operations Manager

JJ has been part of the Catalyst family since 2012 – volunteering on projects, serving on our board of directors, and many other ways. In June, JJ became part of Catalyst's paid staff as Operations Manager. I told him that his job was to do everything I didn't want to do, but for now he's been spending lots of hours with Dan on the Application software (see above), finance, and becoming part of the staff culture. I'm delighted to have him on the team, welcome JJ!

A Call For Unity in a Cultural Intersection

More than ever before in my lifetime, it seems like nobody is on the same page. Different versions of reality are portrayed by competing news agencies, Scientific & social experts in bitter disagreements, while Christians and their churches continue splintering alongside political and social chasms. Where is Jesus?

As we read through the Gospels, we find ourselves enveloped in the story of a master intersector. I'm not even sure that's a real word, but I'm going with it anyway. Similar to the words "orchestrator" or "arranger", but with a sense of taking hold of situations - and the people who find themselves in the midst of them who seem to be traveling in opposite directions - and forcing them into the same space for the kind of crucible-learning that most of us avoid like the plague. Paradigm-shifting collisions between former enemies, humbling redefinitions of the rich and poor, role reversals between the powerful and the servant. Jesus approached the socio-political issues of His day by hacking a new path that basically challenged everyone to lay-down their arms and walk in a new way.

Most of Jesus' teachings and interactions have a distinctly "redirecting" force to them, causing the people involved, and us by extension, to reexamine our inbred beliefs and traditions. These are our worldviews; the human cultures that we wrap ourselves with, and through which we interact with people who are different than we are. Some of these cultures are more closely aligned to Jesus' way than others, but none of them belong to Him...and our Lord simply loves us too much to leave us inside of them. He's always shaking us up so that we can learn to see with Kingdom eyes, and abandon whatever grievances we think we're due.

Like the time when *"An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."* (Luke 9:46-48).

...Then the disciples looked at each other and said "sorry Jesus, we're idiots" (my editorial comment). Just one example of Jesus turning people upside down to make a point. The problem is, Jesus isn't here (bodily) with us right now. All we have is each other, and sometimes it seems like the American Church is just as divided as the world. It's like we're out of control, or we've lost our way, or we've suffered a terrible injury in some way that has disabled us from embodying the unified and loving community Jesus desires us to be.

"My prayer is not for them [the disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21) Just after this, Jesus went to the garden where He was betrayed, arrested and subsequently crucified for your sins and mine....so you might say that "church unity" was His dying wish." It's how the world is going to recognize us as His. So, how are you doing at prioritizing that in your daily interactions? Are you part of the solution or the problem?

As we live through this time of upheaval, the world is watching the church and rolling it's eyes because we don't seem much different. Let us remember that breaking fellowship and slandering people with whom we disagree about social and political issues is dishonoring to our Lord Jesus and destructive to our witness as His people. Let's take the advice of the Apostle Paul, *"Whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God...Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to building each other up."*

Praises & Prayers

- **THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS** – We're having a fantastic project season in 2021! Volunteers are pitching-in and thanking us as they leave, needy people are being served and loved in Jesus' Name, and spiritual fruit is popping-up all around us all the time. Thank you for your prayers, please keep them coming...that God's Kingdom work will continue to advance in peoples' lives, and that our volunteers remain safe on projects!
- **ENVIRONMENTS OF ACCEPTANCE** –Please pray that, as various volunteers come from all beliefs and walks of life, that conversations remain respectful to all people. Also that project leaders will be enabled by God to dissolve disagreements, speaking the truth in love.
- **DISCIPLESHIP COACH** – Please join me in praying that God will provide the funding to hire a discipleship coach. This person will work directly with our Project Advocates, Church Partners, an others; increasing our effectiveness in producing Kingdom fruit in our projects and partnerships.

CATALYST NW VISION

We envision a reality where followers of Jesus are valued for their kindness and generosity toward people in their communities; demonstrating God's presence in ways that transform neighborhoods, equip ordinary people to become His heroes, and draw new people into His family.