

THIS IS US
Holy Discontent
May 20, 2018

Why do people devote endless amounts of energy to volunteer causes? What motivates American adults to invest 20 billion volunteer hours each year to various organizations?

What causes a dad who loses a son to a drunk driver to start a support group for parents in a similar situation? What motivates a corporate executive who loves kids to invest hours and hours of volunteer time to teach kids about Jesus?

It all goes back to a spark of discontent that got fanned into flames of passion which prompted them to invest their lives in a cause bigger than themselves. When someone is discontented over an issue that

also brings discontent to God, we call that thing that wells up inside a “holy discontent”. A “holy discontent” is an overflow of concern that causes people to attempt something that they wouldn’t ordinarily try. Once a person takes action because they are convinced that things don’t have to remain the way they are, then God uses them to make a significant difference in this world.

Today I want to introduce you to three of our key family ministry staff members, Julie Smoldt, Kingsley Kantanka and Clay Gorrell, who each in their own right are doing what they do because of their holy discontent”. I want you to get to know them and I want them to share their stories about how God has used a certain “holy discontent” to fuel their passion for ministry. And when we are all done, my hope is you will understand what it means to be motivated by a “holy

discontent” in your own life and then we want to give each of you an opportunity during the service to contemplate your “next step” in fanning the flame of your own area of personal passion.

So let’s begin with some introductions and having each of them tell you about themselves:

Introductions of Julie, Kingsley, Clay

Holy discontents

- Julie

Defining moment:

Holy discontent, God breaks our hearts for the things that break his heart.

1. You, family, background

2. Role at NHCC

3. For me when I first heard about the concept of holy discontent from Bill Hybels, and thought on it personally, I learned that my holy discontent is for families and children- to help them grasp God's love for them

**despite all the others things fighting for their hearts,
their time and attention in this culture!**

There's so **many things fighting for our kids and families**, but the truth is the only thing that matter in a hundred years in the life of a child or an adult for that matter is their relationship with Jesus!

I decided that I want to do everything I can to insure that my kids and kids in our community understand how to slow down to connect with God and love people. I desire for our kids to learn how to prioritize it.

I remember my interview for the Director of CM position 13 years ago, Rick asked me what qualified me for this job. I was a 23 year old lead preschool teacher at the time. My leadership experience included leading the Orchestra counsel in High School and being the captain of my JV Cheer squad. I'm sure I mumbled some random thoughts trying to sounds wise but I do remember very clearly saying "well... I love God and I love kids". Seems like such a basic answer, but through the years I have recentered myself on those two words over and over again.

In the past few years, I believe this issue of helping kids and families slow down to connect with God and love people, is becoming an urgent issue in our community; mental health issues in kids and teens right here, in our church and in our schools! is rising, rapidly. (Stat?) Suicide rates are simply unimaginable. But what I know for sure, is that we have an unmistakable opportunity to be part of the solution.

I know we all have thoughts on what the "real" problem is and what the solution could be...

But the reality is there is no quick fix, our kids are going to face really deep and difficult issues. And I think We also all know there is no perfect formula to parenting and raising up the next generation,

BUT the TRUTH is that there is POWER in walking with Jesus and deep deep VALUE in community.

John 16:33 **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

Hebrews 10 24-25 [24](#)And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, [25](#)not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

When it comes down to it, Kids and teens want to be seen- not just shuffled around and preached at, they want to be known. They will seek that out somewhere... so really it's our choice if we want to be proactive or reactive with this generation.

When I was growing up, even though I was very blessed to get to grow up in a caring church, I still sought after validation and my identity in other things, things apart from God.

I strived for **validation** through performance, through my violin: I made all district orchestra for 4 years and all state orchestra 2 year in HS. I got a 1 rating on every solo and Ensemble that I took to district and state competition, I lettered 14 times in music, breaking the school record, I received a full ride violin scholarship to Wichita State University to study music education. And I loved every minute of it, but I didn't realize that

achievement was becoming my validation. I became a perfectionist, still to this day I can be insecure when playing my violin for others. What started as a gift, as a talent slowly was becoming who I was. If I missed a note or even if the tone didn't sound perfect- I would beat myself up over it, to the point of having great anxiety to play in front of anyone.

I sought for my **identity** in relationships, through many unhealthy dating relationships. I gave parts of myself away, too early, to the wrong people, hoping for attention and to experience AGAPE love and the unconditional acceptance that we all long for. I didn't understand growing up that that would never come from a boyfriend or from my friends. And what I've learned is that God's unique design is for that ONLY to come from Him.

So my "holy discontent" was obvious in my story... as soon as I prayed for God to use me AND made myself available- he did.

This discontent in my life gets stirred up when kids are lead to believe their performance- whether it's "good behavior", their skill on the court or field, their grades... that their performance defines WHO they are.

It bothers me to see kids not get the chance to just PLAY; because every week night is committed to obligations (my family included at times).

It wrecks me when teens feel alone, to deal with extreme emotions and serious issues because they haven't had an adult they can trust step into the mess with them.

It also wrecks be when families raising children with special needs feel alone, or not welcome, or even judged for the incredible challenges, out of their control, that they face daily. Did you know the divorce rate of parents raising a child with special needs is 90%? That's heartbreaking. Many of these families do not feel they can do typical activities like go to the movies, go out to dinner, have a date night, or even simply get consistent rest at night. Church should never be a place that they feel unsupported, not welcome, not loved.

If you've been around North Heartland this spring, you know that we have made a HUGE investment in our existing PALs program...our new PALs Room is about to open and we hope to provide even more- much

needed love and support for these families in the near future! So stay tuned!

My holy discontent is for kids, all kids, to learn that they are made in the image of God, and they are loved more than they can ever comprehend. NOT because of performance, simply because there are sons and daughters of God.

I desire for kids and teens to know That no matter what they do to seek validation, where they go in life, no matter where they seek their identity, or how long it takes them to fully trust God, nothing will change the immeasurable grace and Love God has for them.

I want my kids (our church kids and teens) to be able to look above the noise and the pressing issues that face them everyday and see a bigger picture. The best part about working with kids is that they just want you; your undistracted focus, your ear to listen, your advice, your friendship.

Family ministry is also a ton of fun! Kids remind you not to take life too seriously. They teach me so much about life and the nature of God. Kids teach me to slow down and enjoy at least SOME part of each day.

I've learned there are many different holy discontents, God knows there's enough Brokenness and Injustice in this world. Which is why he has wired us all uniquely. For me, and many other amazing people and leaders in this church, its kids and families.

An influential Christian leader said " not every societal ill is your personal assignment but there's one out with your name on it because it wrecks you and it wrecks God, and he wants you to do something about it."

The other thing important thing to mention about Holy discontent is that God does not *need* us. The restoration of creation is done solely through Jesus. But he *wants* us! This is so encouraging to me when my energy or passion varies- when I find myself in seasons of discouragement or when I'm running on empty.

God invites us to come alongside him in the redemption of this world- but He is a big God and transformation of others is not dependent on any one person. So I've learned that I can take a break, I can take a nap, I can take a season to re-set my heart if needed and that's okay.

I'm so thankful for the opportunity to be on staff here, and to GET to serve alongside the most amazing-servant hearted leaders. It's been a life changing journey for me, for sure.

- **Kingsley**

Talk about who you are and a little about yourself and family background.

My name is Kingsley Kantanka.

I was born to James and Sylvia Kantanka in Ghana, West Africa.

I have 5 siblings: Ben, Freda, Mabel (who went to be with the Lord in 2011), Brian, and Jim.

I came to the United States at the age of 12, with my sisters Freda and Mabel.

We briefly lived in Worcester, Massachusetts and then moved to Kansas City in 2002.

My beautiful wife's name is Courtenay, and we will be celebrating our 4th Wedding Anniversary next month.

We have two amazing daughters, Esrah (21 months) and Jael (3 months).

Talk about your role current ministry responsibility at NHCC.

My current title at NHCC is Family Ministry Assistant. My focus is to work with church leadership as we as church seek to grow younger. I am currently leading a Bible Study Small Group targeted at 18-35 year olds. We are having a lot of fun going through the Book of Acts as we take a look at how Jesus continues His ministry through His disciples indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We are also learning how to be the kind of community the first Christians were.

Talk about Holy Discontent

So I had a pretty good idea of what my Holy Discontent was when I was asked but I wanted to see what my wife's response would be, since she's knows me best. And just as I thought she said that my Holy Discontent comes out whenever the word of God is being perverted.

I was born into a Christian family but Jesus wasn't my personal Lord and Savior. My family was involved in a

charismatic church when I was younger. And as a kid, I learned to do church rather than have a genuine relationship with the Lord because for the most part that was what the adults did. I saw being a Christian as something you did on a Sunday. I didn't see many of the adults around me growing in grace or patience. They'd come to church with their Sunday's best behavior but then during the week, it seemed everything that happened on Sunday didn't matter.

It wasn't until I went to College where I truly understood the Gospel, by God's grace, that I came to see faith as an integral part of the Christian. And as I read the Bible with new eyes, one of the things I saw was how fervent Scriptures warn against false teachers and false prophets.

I read it in the Old Testament in places like **Jeremiah 23:16** "This is what the Lord Almighty says: Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds,

not from the mouth of the Lord (NIV).

I also read it in the New Testament in places like **Matthew 7:15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves (NIV).**

As I read more and more, it seemed to me that putting an end to false teaching and the wreckage they bring to people were near and dear to God’s heart. And I realized that refuting false doctrine was also near and dear to my heart.

As a young boy I saw the kind of damage false prophets and false teachers can do to families because my family suffered from their tactics. They brought division into our family and caused us to resent each other and mistreat one another.

I came to realize the similarities of false teachers in the Bible and the ones I was exposed to as a child the more I read the Bible. There are many ways these

false teachers pervert the Gospel. But how they pervert truth and grace sticks out the most to me.

They twist the truth and use it as a weapon to oppress others, and create a legalistic environment for others but not themselves. Jesus talking about the teachers of the Law and Pharisee in Matthew 23 says:

Matthew 23:4 “They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

The other way false teachers pervert the Gospel is by twisting God’s grace into a license to continue to live in sin. They teach people to believe it’s okay to continue to live in sin as a Christian because there is more of God’s grace the more sin you have.

What I finally came to realize was that false teaching, especially as it pertains to truth and grace, seeks to defame Christ--it is an affront to the glory of God.

Because John 1 says that Jesus was full of grace and truth and false teachers seek to pervert these. By

pervverting grace and truth, false teachers lead people away from God. And many of these false teachers do so for the sake of money and/or control!

They either convince people they can gain God's approval by following rules (legalism), or they give people false hope that they are saved even though they continue to live in sin and there's no evidence of fruit in their lives that show they belong to Jesus.

So I've made it my life's goal to contend for the faith wherever the Lord has me. To accurately handle the word of God. And I am so glad that I belong to a church where we seek to help people discover and keep on discovering the grace and truth of God. Because accurately teaching the word of God brings God glory and allows people to meet the Glorious God. And my charge to all of you is to be a student of the Bible. In order to know counterfeit, you have to be very familiar with what is real.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,

correcting and training in righteousness so the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

And that's my prayer that as we become students of the Bible, we will be able to quickly spot and fight against false teaching that gets in the way of fruitfulness in believers and that keeps unbelievers from experiencing the one true God.

- Clay

Matthew 9:37–38 (NIV)

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. And when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. And then he said to his disciples, The harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Mat 9:35-38).”

Where my discontent comes from:

- Willingness to be discipled
 - Growing up in a Christian home with great parents and family surrounding

me, but when I was younger I was in desperate need of someone outside of my family speaking into me and giving me direction. I loved my family and they raised me well but something I lacked was biblical understanding and the reason behind why we try to follow the Lord. I was thirsty and willing to be molded, and boy howdy did I make plenty of mistakes and go down roads I wished I hadn't, and sure wish I had someone pouring into my life, discipling me, encouraging and challenging me in my faith, teaching me how and why to read the bible. I don't think I had an actual quiet time until college. I was ready to be discipled, but no one did.

- The group that was always dropped
 - I was in a small group for my graduating class, but I think we went through 6 or 7 bible study leaders in high school, and most only lasted for 2-3 meetings before they got busy or stopped meeting with us
 - This went on well into my senior year until second semester we finally found a leader who invested in us until we left for college, and I finally got a tasted of what I was missing, but about the time I started opening up is the time I left for college.
- Never pursued
 - Never pursued individually, only in a group for tiny amounts of time. No true one on one relationship
- I was an attender, available, but not picked up
 - I came to church every sunday, came to every wednesday night, every event,

every small group we had when they were going on

Discipleship:

- At NHCC
 - If you ask any of the volunteers back in The Well, they could attest to this, but discipleship is something I am desperately trying to grow and develop discipleship. We are doing so well on the evangelistic side getting students in the door and feeling welcome, but we want to go further and not just get them in the door, but get them to stay and to be deeply invested in. To be challenged and poured in to.
- What is it?
 - The way it was explained to me is See One, Do One, Teach One.
 - See one, someone pours into you
 - Do One, you pour into someone
 - Teach One, Teach someone how to pour into someone else.
 - How to see success in discipleship, if (By the work of the Holy Spirit) You make a disciple who goes out and makes other disciple makers
- Where is it lacking?
 - Not enough people discipling or being disciplined
- People are ready and available to be disciplined, they don't know how to ask and no one is asking to be that mentor to them, just as it was for me.

Challenge:

- If you are a young believer, new to the faith, seek someone wiser and more mature in their faith to disciple and pour into you.
- If you have been a Christian for a while, find someone younger in their faith and ask if you can mentor and pour into their lives.
- Straight out of the Great Commission

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV)

- 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

So now that you heard from the three of them, let me ask you a simple question: “What is it that you simply cannot stand? What breaks your heart as you look around this world of ours?” Answering this question is all-important if you want to make a difference in this world. The greatest contributions are made by people who see an unmet need and are willing to fill it. In other words, they are willing to be the

answer to their own prayer. This is the way we work out this idea of holy discontent.

Unfortunately, many of us tend to assume that if someone is going to make a huge difference in our broken world, they must be smarter, richer, stronger, more talented, or more creative than the average person. But that assumption is simply not true.

God doesn't need another Billy Graham or Mother Teresa. He just needs you. God is looking for someone just like you to right some wrongs in our world. Think about it: There is a reason you have experienced certain things in your life. There is a reason you grew up where you did and traveled to the places where you have traveled. Are you willing for God to use your life experiences and to speak to your heart in this area of holy discontent? He didn't leave you and I on this

planet just to take up space. He has us here to make a difference in this world.

Each one of us gets one chance at life. You can't wait for another life to go all out. This is it. You have one shot to leave a lasting legacy. And if you've gone through life so far just maintaining the status quo, you don't have to spend the rest of your life doing the same thing. You can pray and ask God to stir in your soul something that is beyond your own self-interest. You can ask God to for something bigger than yourself to pursue. And as He stirs in your life a holy discontent, you can begin to take steps of risk that will move you out of your comfort zone into the realm of making a difference for His kingdom. God is looking for people just like you.

For the next few minutes, we want to provide you with some space to contemplate what we just talked about. In your program, there is a card with some questions. Read over the questions, and consider how you might respond to what you heard today. Whether you are a Christ follower or still just investigating Christianity, it never hurts to take some time to think about your life and your legacy. If you want one of us to follow-up with you after the service today, please fill out the card and place it in the offering during the next song. If you don't have a card, raise your hand and the ushers will provide you with one. Thanks.

Song: Do Something

Ladell: Well just as the song says, "It's time for us to do something". There are so many ways to can follow our "holy discontent" and

make a difference in this world. One of the ways you can do something is to consider getting involved with the mission of Team World Vision. Today we have a representative from Team World Vision, Alyssa Kriz, and she will share a bit about the mission of World Vision and a bit about her story of transformation. Alyssa come and share with us.

Closing comments:

As we bring our service to a close:

- You receive a flyer in your program for Summer classes that begin in June. Sign up for these classes on the church app or website under “Sign Me Up” tab.
- Those of you who are staying for the 10 minute World Vision presentation, we ask that one parent pick up your child from AL while the other parent

stays in the room. Thanks and have a great weekend!!