

MAC Ministries

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“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not dwell in temples made with hands.”
(Acts 17:24)

The culture and identity of Israel in Biblical times was centered on God. God birthed this nation when He chose Abraham and promised to give his descendents the Promise Land. Then, through Moses, God designed the culture with astonishing detail in what amounted to be 615 laws and a calendar replete with events and annual festivals. Most importantly, the culture was held in orbit around a particular structure: The Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It was the single most holy place on earth as this was where God Himself dwelt. In fact, it was the largest religious structure of the ancient world and could be seen miles away shining like a star in the sun’s reflection. Specifically, God dwelt in a section known as The Most Holy Place. It was separated off by a tall heavy curtain and was strictly forbidden for anyone but the High Priest to enter behind. In the gospels, we discover that at the moment Jesus died on the cross, the skies grew dark, earthquakes shook the ground, and this curtain (or veil) of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15:38). Many have said this signifies that we now have open access to God—that we can approach Him and enter in. I agree, but maybe there is another angle to this. Perhaps, God now has access to us. He is not contained in a building. Instead, He pursues us relentlessly with a love no longer hindered. He too has been freed by the cross.

We see this modeled in the person of Jesus. The living God came to us in the form of a man who was not confined to a building. Rather, Jesus wandered outside Jerusalem into towns and villages and everyday scenes of people who have lives like many of us. Some were greedy living for themselves, some were sick, many were poor, many had lost hope, many were guilty of terrible sins. The message of Jesus is this: “The Living God is not confined to a building, but He has come to you, right where you are.” **“The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory” (John 1:14).** This is still true today. I love gathering for worship in a church, yet I realize that Jesus dwells in us, not a building. And through us, He wanders through streets, towns and churches, relentlessly pursuing those who live outside the light of his love.

Pat and I met years ago through an introduction of a mutual friend. In the last year, we have been meeting regularly at a McDonald’s on Tuesday mornings. I am in full-time ministry and I have recently gone through a difficult season of brokenness where I needed a friend to connect with

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outside my circle of influence. We share life, questions, and ministry experiences during this time. One thing in particular that I admire greatly and celebrate about Pat's ministry is that his influence is not confined to a building or an organization. Rather, he is "out there" wandering and seeking relationships that result in intentional discipleship. Its bold, its risky, its passionate. It challenges my comfort zone, frankly, to move from a mode of people "coming" to our ministry for help, and going "out there" courageously and creatively—encountering people and their need for a meaningful life connected with God. Yet, this aligns very much with the heartbeat and model of Christ.

by Tim Galloway

Grace Ministries

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP