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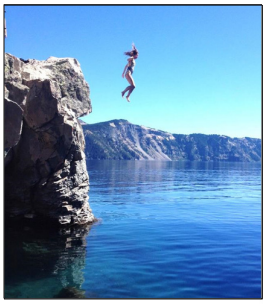

A Faith Jump

The time had come. After 37 years of ministry, I took a sabbatical this summer that was well needed. God was reminding me of dreams and questions that I had journaled that reflected my heart, soul and spirit. *It feels like a jump off a cliff?* Questions flooded my thoughts:

Will I step out to respond to the requests I asked of God many years ago? Can I make a faith jump not knowing the full ramifications of this new ministry challenge? Oh, the endless questions. I've been so long with only college students. What will those that know me think? What if I fail? "What if" is a vision killer. "Trust" is a vision keeper!

This is my cliff. Will I jump in faith-TRUST? I have the opportunity to remain on staff with Cru but with a city focus with the gospel. ***What will this look like?*** I will be giving much of my time to utilize my gifts as an athlete, coach, leader and gospel communicator.

Who will I work with? Ethnic-minority, athletically gifted, at-risk high school students. ***What is the missional-goal?*** To provide a stable environment from negative influences, where the student-athlete will be able to: (1) Develop socially/spiritually in character and life skills; (2) Develop educationally to be acceptable for college; (3) Develop athletically to excel to the fullest potential in their sport.

Who are the collaborative partners necessary to see the Academy be reality? I will work with urban schools, city officials, county social services and city-wide churches. There is an African Proverb which says, "It takes a village to raise a child." In God's sovereignty, He has already allowed me to exercise many of the skill-sets necessary to see this vision become reality.

In Minneapolis, before focusing with the Impact Movement, I was the president of a neighborhood association that operated a million dollar plus budget. I coordinated working with the mayor, police and city services. While there and in Orlando, I became a certified track coach that produced state champions and was asked to do track clinics across the city. The last three years as Impact's Associate National Campus Director, I have learned skills to mobilize, train and develop ministry workers on a broad scope. Now I have the opportunity to expand my skills, training, and my heart to live out the gospel in an even greater capacity. *This is a faith jump!*

As I officially transfer to Cru City, our vision is: ***Kingdom citizens advancing the mission of Jesus for the well-being of the city.*** We have a presence in 35 cities across the nation. The vision is God size but God is the rewarder of those who walk in faith-TRUST.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6

PLEASE PRAY . . .

- **For wisdom and favor with key partners in this faith endeavor.**
- **The right people for counsel with each step of engaging the reality of working with high risk ethnic-minority student/athletes.**
- **Meeting the right people that can move this forward in the urban community.**
- **That this Academy becomes a catalyst for cities across the nation.**
- **For me as I step out in this faith driven vision to believe God will instill hope, ignite faith and restore these precious youth to blossom into their full potential as a child of God. For truly it does take a village of God's people to raise up Godly men and women who will make an eternal difference for Christ!**

Check out this link for more on Cru City: www.cru.org/city
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Thank you for your faith & genersoity over the years to link arms with us and our family in ministry. THANK YOU!