

TEDDY TALK WITH MARTIN UMC FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Boldness is contagious. When we are bold for Christ, enduring hardship for our faith, others are provoked to do the same. *Philippians 1:14.*

Being Bold in Every Situation

Those of us who are writers, preachers, motivational speakers, and the like are often attempting to tell others how to live their lives. It has occurred to me, that only by being bold and demonstrating the way to live on our own, do other people sense, feel, and determine to be bold for themselves. After years in public business and deciding to make ministry my second career I question, where do I go now? I have discussed my desires to remain active in the United Methodist Church with pastors I've known over the years and with various Martin UMC clergy. As with all of us, those are decisions that must be boldly made in my mind and guided by my heart. So, expect more Talks, prayers, and teaching.

Regular journaling ideas for writing, teaching, research and keeping ideas for Valentine poems for my Bride, has been part of my routine. I randomly extract a journal from a steamer chest drawer for inspiration for a TEDDY TALK, sermon, or teaching resource. Today, I found a quote I recorded from a book published in 1921. My journal entry was 9/13/2001. Let that date sink in. The author, Basil King, was an Anglican Priest. His book "The Conquest of Fear" described his struggle with his health and spiritual growth. The words lay out his somewhat mystical approach to religious understanding and influenced my thinking. In my journal, I wrote "...the best advice I received from Rev King was: BE BOLD—AND MIGHTY FORCES WILL COME TO YOUR AID."

King's words were significant for a post-world war time. They are appropriate for the post 9/11/2001 worldwide chaos, war, and divisions politically and theologically we humans are experiencing daily. Now is the time to be bold, and now is the time for all of us to act on Paul's words to the church in Philippi: When we are bold for Christ...others are provoked to do the same. The impact can be significant when people like us talk and act boldly as examples for others. Small steps can ultimately lead to change in our neighborhoods, then cities, then states, then countries. When we are bold, we influence others to be strong trailblazers to a more positive world.

Elated by this recovery of Basil King's words, I realized that whenever I fell short of achieving my goals, it was seldom because I had tried and failed. Fear of failure stopped me from trying at all. Generally, I plunged into deep water and moved forward under the momentary flash of courage or a push by the forearm of circumstance, always able to swim until I got my feet on the ground again. I'm believing you have similar memories from your life. I encourage you to think about them, discuss your wins with others, and set your desires for a positive future in action.

Peace always,
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