

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you would daydream about what life would be like if you had it? Perhaps it wasn't a physical item, but rather a type of achievement. Whatever the case may be, what kept you from it? Sometimes the Lord knows better than us and wisely guards us from our very desires. Other times it is simply a missed opportunity or as Langston Hughes described it, "A dream deferred."

Soon after I came to faith I entered my senior year of high school. My desire was to reclaim the former glory of being a "track star" prior to my mischievous lifestyle. My goal was to run the 200m dash in 22 seconds (to be honest, I would have taken that split in a relay race). If you're not familiar with track, that was an audacious goal especially for someone who had let themselves go. I trained with great intensity and fervency. I worked out twice a day for the entire year. I did everything my coaches told me to do and a little more. Even in negative degree days in January I'd be cruising down a country road at 5:30am to try and achieve my goal. But I never did. In fact, the closest I ever got was in my last race, but I was still 2 seconds off.

In my experience, lines in the sand often trip us up in ministry. I've seen my fair share of churches express the desire to plant a church, but they never feel like they have enough people or enough money. Despite the immense amount of wealth that the Western Church has it is pretty easy to live with a scarcity mindset and call it stewardship. I don't say this out of naivety or a prosperity mindset. What I do want to convey is that there may be more resources available than we realize especially when we start taking calculated risks in kingdom investments.

What I lacked in high school was the ability to lift my head up and look around at all of the potential resources instead of just the ones in front of me. Perhaps nutrition, cross training, better sleep and so forth would have been the missing pieces to achieving my goal. In a similar way, the scarcity mentality facing many churches is that we only see what we have. We miss that the Lord has resources that we don't know about. Perhaps what is missing for us as leaders is to lift our eyes to the Lord and ask Him to provide what it would take to plant a church instead of convincing ourselves we simply don't have enough.

*Pastor Gerad Hall
Quad Cities*

