

August 2023

BEcome all that you can **BE!**



My name is Nick Koogler. Few of you likely know who I am. I am grateful to John for his willingness to tell my story. At least some of it. If you'd like to hear more of my story or the ministry God is calling me to, please reach out. Seeing that this newsletter is going to Pastor Care affiliates I would like to start by telling a story from the Bible that I have recently been meditating on.

Moses dies. Joshua is no longer under the shadow of his mentor and leader. God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous multiple times. Why? Because Joshua was scared and rightfully so. But why? Didn't Moses prepare him well. Well, the answer to that is yes and no. Moses trained Joshua to be a good leader but there was still the matter of calling. Moses led a band of grumbling people through the wilderness wherever God directed. Joshua was called to a new role. Not one of wondering but of battle. There is no way Moses could have prepared Joshua for that. Moses did learn a ton along his journey through the wilderness and Jethro, his father-in-law, helped him set up a system that would be very useful, but Moses never had to lead his people to take over a city and Joshua's path would soon bring him to the walls of Jericho. But God's promise in Joshua 1:5 was this "Just as I was with Moses, I will be with you." God reminded Joshua that all he had to do to gain strength and courage was to look back at

the provision of God to Moses. And know that God is faithful and dependable. God essentially told Joshua, when you are unsure of your future you can find reassurance in your past. Soon, Joshua would be put to the test. Would he have what it takes to lead God's people on the next leg of their journey? Before Joshua could stand in front of the formidable walls of Jericho, he had one more obstacle in his way. The Jordan river stood in his way. The command was simple. Take the Ark with you, get into the water and watch as God shows up. You have no staff to smack a rock all you have is you and your feet. God said, Joshua, you must step in before I can show my power.

And this is where my part of the story begins. For the past six to seven years, I have been blessed to serve under the leadership of a Ministry Called Man in the Mirror. I'm sure Patrick Morley would not like being associated with Moses and nor would Brett Clemmer. But these men have been giants in the world of discipleship for men. Patrick has written several books and Brett has been part of the ministry for nearly all of its history. And although Man in the Mirror is still very much alive, like Joshua I have been called to a new role. The experiences that I have gained through my years with Man in the Mirror will be crucial to my new role but more than that I can trust that God will continue to show up in my life as He has in the past. And also like Joshua I have been told to get my feet in the water so that God can show up. My closest mentors (Dr. John Smith being one) have been speaking the words of encouragement to me and urging me on to fulfill my unique calling in my unique environment. With much excitement and some trepidation, I have accepted the call to start a nonprofit that honors Gods call on my life.



Last month John sat in on a vision casting meeting where I got to share my heart with prominent men and women of faith. With the support and encouragement of these incredible people I have chosen to get wet. As of September, I will be stepping off the bank of the Jordan and into its waters. I am excited to see what God is about to do. And if what I am about to share with you strikes a cord with you I want to talk further with you about how you may want to engage with the ministry.



Have you found yourself stuck in a pattern? Are you frozen by what the future “may” hold? Are you haunted by past failures or even past successes you can no longer live up to? Maybe what you need is to stop asking yourself “what did God call you to?” and start asking yourself “what is God calling you to?” There is a never ending string of books that talk of incredible stories and valuable insights in discipleship but none of them fit perfectly for you. You are unique. Your calling is unique and so is the environment that God has placed you in. Whether in a church building, a store front, or even in your own home, your path is determined by God for you alone to walk. Now, there are similarities. You can absolutely learn from the experience of others but no one but you can live your life. I think this is true for individuals but also for organizations.



The purpose of BE Ministries is to help the global church in its local expression grow in their unique discipleship journey. BE Ministries wants to walk hand in hand with you, as an individual or as an organization to help you fulfill the universal mandate to make disciples. For over the past ten years I have devoted much of my learning to disciple making. I have read books and followed programs and many of them have helped to shape my understanding of discipleship, but they all lacked one thing. None of them could answer my unique struggles as I tried making my own disciples for Christ. Some of them answered pieces or gave good advice but not one of the cookie cutters fit the shape of my life.



I believe God has given me gifts and experiences that can help others become the disciple makers Christ called us all to BE. I have devoted my life to the service of Gods Kingdom here on earth to that end. I want to help YOU BEcome all that you can BE. And if you are a pastor I want to come alongside you in the trenches and help you build momentum and strengthen your team around God given principles of discipleship. I have no book to offer you. There are plenty of those out there. I offer you my passion, my talents, and my partnership. My vision is to see you succeed.

Do not let your past define you. Let it refine you.		Let the vision of your future inspire you. Not paralyze you.
Ministries Most importantly rest in who God called you to BE, today!		

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Friends, when you are ready take a fresh look at discipleship in your church, I encourage you to contact my friend, Nick Koogler.

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Pastor John and Sue Smith

**John serves as President, Chief Encouragement Officer, and Confidential Coach
Sue serves as Chief Discernment Officer**

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