

# God's Hand Tools

MTS Alumni Stories Web Journal



During a break in the action of a football game on television, the camera will often pan out from the stadium to a view of the local cityscape. Some of those skylines are quite impressive, especially in the evening when the skyscrapers are silhouetted against a fading sunset. Those cities usually grew up as local leaders pursued their vision to make their hometown a more desirable place. Then architects, engineers, and skilled tradesmen applied their expertise with building materials and all manner of tools to make the vision a reality. As Christians, we serve a God who, like a visionary designer, is building for himself a glorious kingdom. And just like a skilled craftsman, God uses tools in his work. The wonder of God's kingdom is that he expands it through the lives of people who come into the community faith. The wonder of God the Artisan is that he employs people like you and me as his tools!

Building a city requires many different tools, some as basic as a plumb line, others as complex as a computer network. Specific tools are designed for specific tasks, and each one has an important function that no other tool can duplicate. It is the same with us as God's people. Your life is like a tool in God's hand. God gifts each of us with skills and abilities according to his intention to use us to build his kingdom. Yet we often compare ourselves with other people and start to believe that they have a more important, or less important, role in God's work than we do. We focus on the differences in our abilities or evaluate the position we hold relative to theirs. When we do this, it is easy to make wrong judgments about who has the more important role. In truth, each of us must apply our gifts in our present position and in our current relationships in order to have the effect God intends as he employs us.

You exert a unique and significant influence on the people in your life. As you interact with co-workers, you show them what it looks like to be committed to your faith and to work with excellence in your career. A Christian mother has the opportunity to demonstrate to other moms how she raises a godly family. A seminary student in a professional career can show other professionals how pursuing spiritual growth can be of greater worth than obsessing on career advancement. In my case, the Lord led me into the army chaplaincy so I could minister to the men and women in our armed services. He has placed you in a position to influence other people in a completely different community. Such a far-reaching kingdom as God's requires the use many different tools, and he has an important purpose for every one of us.

Our God is like a skilled artisan who is at work extending the breadth of his kingdom into the lives of the people around us. He uses us to bring his vision to fruition. Reach out to the people around you! Nobody else can influence them like you can. When God's kingdom is complete, we will share in the joy of knowing that through us the Master accomplished some of his greatest work.