

Fast Fruit: Knocking on Heaven's Door

'Because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice' (Lk. 18:5).

Prayer and fasting are not sexy. As this 40-day 'Becoming Good News' ends, I am hungry and ornery, more inclined to fantasy donuts than holy apparitions. We as a staff have chosen weakness, a downward mobility, a reduction. We have gone without and prayed a lot. We are sensitized to the foul air of a clueless culture and worldly Church. And we have positioned ourselves near the Source, the oxygenated stream where 'living waters' first gushed and still flows.

Reduced to Jesus alone, we knocked. We admitted our defeat. 'Unless You act, we've no hope.' We remembered His saving action and bothered Him: we asked and asked and asked for Him to extend that victory to specific loved ones, to churches, to city hall and national courts. Here is some 'fast fruit' from the staff.

Like most of you, we knocked for family and friends dazed by the rainbow. And God answered. During last year's 'Becoming Good News' fast, I had fought daily for a young man who was seeking Jesus but had no intention of giving up his 'gay' self. Early on in this year's fast, he questioned me about what it might mean for him to begin pursuing women. Hah! Fluidity works both ways.

Amanda rejoiced that a woman she loves at her Living Waters group just let go of her 'lesbian' self in favor of Jesus' reflection of her. Daniel's chosen loved one just left a 'gay' marriage; he's praying that Jesus would stir up her baptismal waters and reveal Himself as unfailing Love. Marco cast a vision of transformation for a couple worldly friends who are considering Jesus' healing for their broken lives.

Dana was nearly overcome by a deepening experience of Jesus' heart and sight for her lost loved ones. During the fast, two of them went from darkness to light—hitting bottom and asking Jesus how to live out of His kindness. Ann had a Spirit-led breakthrough with a neighbor and Dean who prayed for several families rocked by LGBT+ realities said they experienced a spiritual 'overflow' resulting in renewed hope and courage to engage estranged members afresh.

We knocked and God opened (or we trust, WILL open) effective doors of ministry. We broke through to a couple of key communities with whom we have sought partnership; we prayed big for bishops overseeing areas where we want to dig deep wells of 'living water.' Amber has experienced an upswing in her ministry to young adults who are seeking help for shameful areas of their lives. As the therapy ban hit Kansas City at the onset of the fast, therapist Abbey began to reach out to colleagues who like her love Jesus and clinically serve teens. She was provoked by the fact that most are now worldly and theologically disintegrated in their care. Erin, a grad student in a clinical Christian program, has taken up this burden as well. Her fellows are clueless about

how to apply their deepest Christian values with their care of persons. We prayed together for effective engagement with conscientious peers. A smog hovers over the clinical community; we ask King Jesus for an awakening.

And we knocked relentlessly for Kansas City's ordinance to be overturned. Our ministry rallied the only opposition to the bill--friends of DSM/LW made up half of those attending the City Hall battles, LGBT+ persons composed the other. A river of 'living water' ran through our efforts and gave us an ease and grace that would have been impossible without this prayer stream. Our good-natured joviality contrasted beautifully with the lamenting 'victims' draped in rainbow flags; one confused man dressed as a woman seethed an "I hope you burn in hell!" at me. And I thought we were pegged the ugly fundamentalists...

We keep knocking. Doors of effective legal warfare are opening for us and we will see this battle through to the end. Like the persistent widow, we will pound at heaven's door until justice is served. He answers. He will answer. Our hope is well-placed and sure.

'Will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones who cry out to Him day and night? He will see that they get justice, and quickly' (Lk. 18: 7, 8).

You can purchase "Becoming Good News" in book form directly from [Desert Stream](#) or get it from [Amazon](#) for your Kindle.

Please take time to watch our new video and become '[Chaste Together](#).'