

Yes-Man? No. By Fred Wilgenburg

Come to think of it, I'm not the "Yes-Man" that I once was. My hope is that I haven't lost too much generosity and compassion along the way, though I may have lost some. Are you a "Yes-Person" to most requests made upon you, especially by people you know? Here are reasons why I am less of a yes-man:

- I protect my calendar more than in the past. The cliché, "getting spread too thin," is often fitting. It can cause me to not give quality time to others, and for myself, it can cause my attitude to suffer. I once had a book titled something like Self-Care for Pastors. My wife became frustrated by the book because whenever I wanted to get out of some chores or I wanted to go out for myself, I referred to the book's message that I need self-care time. But joking aside, being the known "yes-man" doesn't allow room for self-care, and at least for myself then, I'm not as good for anyone, including God; my personal connectivity to God really suffers then. Have you



noticed that for yourself?

- As we all know, "yes" isn't always the best answer for someone. In ministry, this often can become a cause of enabling more dependency in people. For Center of Hope, we truly want to empower people into more self-sufficiency, to levels that are possible for each person.

I say "yes" less often (of course we still say "yes" often in our ministry), and "let's make a deal" as well as "there are some strings attached" more often, without using those words of course. I love to work with people, like in our Mutual Support Work Program, where someone can help us out with cleaning or other essential duties, and in return, we can help them financially with things like ID, birth certificate, or with a bike or bike parts.




Sometimes, the only extent of help that we can offer is to listen to people, and to sit with them in their pain. "Yes" is not always an available answer.

I believe the best minister ever was Jesus so that's who I look to as

an example, sometimes asking, "what would Jesus do?" He was extremely generous, not only with his life, but also to those who were hungry and who needed healing. Generosity was to be offered naturally and humbly, rather than announcing your giving; he said, "when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing..." (Matthew 6:3).

But Jesus was not always a Yes-Man. He had expectations that people be responsible and make choices as they were able, including to know Him. Sometimes people were not ready. Matthew 13 is a passage about how seeds of Truth are spread, and people respond in various ways. Some will not receive it, and sadly that's just the way it is for them, at least at that time. At times, Jesus spoke harshly to people, but it was always Truth that would help them if they accepted it.

Jesus, the perfect minister, seemed to offer a good, balanced approach. He wasn't extreme, yet at the same time, he didn't offer watered-down truth. What he said and did was right and it was profound. Yeah, that's how we need to do it!

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Welcome Calvin Ver Mulm, Center of Hope's new Development Director! Here are some words from him! Blessings come in many forms, and I feel blessed to be a part of the ministry happening at Center of Hope. While I am new on staff I don't consider myself new to the ministry. I have served on the board for the past two years and worked to help start Journey Camp at Inspiration Hills which serves many of the families who come to the center.

More words from Cal Ver Mulm... My heart is to see people come to Christ and grow in him, and then help them find how they might use their gifts to serve Him. In the role of Development Officer I hope to help people grow in joy and faith through giving, whatever form that may take.



My wife Jane and I currently live in Rock Valley, Iowa. We have four children Curtis, Andrea who is married to Maurice McFalls, John and Abigail and one grandchild, Ben.

I grew up in northwest Iowa. I have served with several ministries over the last 20 plus years, Jackson County Ministries in Annville, Kentucky, Countryside Camp and Conference Center in Cambridge, Ontario, and Inspiration Hills in Inwood, Iowa.

What does the Center of Hope do?

- 1) we distribute winter clothing & bikes-for-work at minimal prices. As well, our bike shop is open to guests.
- 2) we meet most guests in our Care Center.
- 3) we do many Pastoral visits.
- 4) we have Sports Night for young men and their families.
- 5) we have Bible Studies, including CoffeeBreak & Transition to Transform.
- 6) we do Faith Community nursing.
- 7) we offer Journey Camp for children.
- 8) we coordinate "Sharing Christmas"
- 9) we have a Mutual Support Work Program
- 10) we write "Iron Sharpens Iron."



Fall Benefit

October 24 at

Sioux Falls Christian Schools, located at 6120 S. Charger Lane, approximately a quarter-mile east of the 69th Street and Cliff Ave. intersection. Come for fun, good food, and helping Center of Hope out with your finances and prayers.



CENTER OF HOPE MONTHLY DONATION PARTNERS

Would you be willing to be a monthly donation partner? Center of Hope relies on wonderful people, churches, organizations, life groups, etc. to keep a steady supply of winter outerwear, black & khaki pants, blue jeans, bikes, and baby items to distribute. This can only happen if you are willing to donate. Center of Hope gladly takes donations year around but it would be wonderful to have some dedicated partners whom we could count on each month to help us to keep on "sowing seeds physically and spiritually."



Center of Hope needs... your gently used winter outer wear items! We are really in need of xx-large and xxx **Men's** and **Women's** coats, **Men's** mittens, gloves, and boots, **Elementary** age coats and snow pants, black and khaki pants for **Men**, and **Women's** and **Men's** blue jeans.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciate the gift made ...

*In memory of: Edna Van Abbema, Roger Parham,
& Dorothy Kirchner*

As always, we are happy to have you on our mailing list. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our list or have your newsletter sent electronically.



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