Tuesday

TUE MAR 25 2014

Can I Get a Witness?

1. 1 John 1:1-5

We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

— 1 John 1:3 (NRSV)

While a pastor in Three Rivers, Michigan, I became good friends with one of the other pastors in our community. Over the 18 years I ministered in that community, he and I exchanged pulpits often. On other occasions I was privileged to hear him preach. After making a particular point he would say, “Can I get a witness?” He was saying, “Is there someone who agrees with me?”

Perhaps that is the essence of witnessing — agreeing with Jesus by sharing with others the experiences we have had since we turned our lives over to him. This includes the good, bad, and ugly experiences that we all have during our lives; Jesus has been with us through them all. In his defense before King Agrippa, the apostle Paul told of how he persecuted believers and then later how God had chosen him to “bear witness to the lowly and the great” (Acts 26:22, CEB).

Thomas Aquinas once stated that when you want to convert a person to your view, you go over to where he is standing, take him by the hand, and guide him. You don’t stand across the room and shout at him. This is what we need to do: take the hands of those around us and guide them to the love and salvation of Jesus Christ.

Dear God, open our hearts to those around us who need to hear the good news of your love and eternal life. Amen.

Who around me needs to be guided to Christ?

Derl G. Keefer (Wisconsin)

1. Courage to witness

Evangelism, Mission/Outreach