

Who Makes the Bed?

By Dr. Greg Wiens

Who makes the bed you sleep in? It may surprise some of you but I make my bed every morning. I should clarify that to say both Mary Kay and I make the bed together. But our rule is: *the last person out of the bed has to make it*, so it usually is me! Actually, I grew up having to make my bed before I left the bedroom. It was just part of the routine I grew up with and has followed me to today.

However, you don't have to make the bed too many times before you realize that it is far faster for two to make the bed than with one person. This is because so much time is wasted walking from one side to the other. I recently read that two people can make the bed four times faster than one person!

Isn't that a lot like ministry? According to *1 Corinthians 12-14*, *Romans 12* and *Ephesians 4-5*, the church was intended to operate in the context of teams of people working together. Just like making the bed, if I want to make sure it looks the same on both sides, I need to do it by myself. There are a lot people in the church who are doing ministry by themselves because they too want everything done their way.

As pastors, we see it happening and get frustrated, because we know that it would be so much more effective if they could develop a team of equally but differently gifted individuals. I think it is much easier to see this in others than to see it in us. Last year, the Florida Church of God Ministries Elders had a talk with me about the same thing. I was trying to do things that I really shouldn't have been doing. They asked me to bring someone in (Al Ells) who could help me see where I was refusing to find more gifted people to do what they had been called to do.

What resulted was a very painful process, but it was productive. Al helped me realize how I needed to change the way I lead. He helped me to learn to give things away that I was previously keeping under my control. I was no longer needed in some areas because others could do things better. I needed to communicate clearer when I allowed others to work on what I had done before. I needed to be more careful when planning my work and I needed to figure out how to more effectively use non-paid staff.

Working on a team is always more difficult than doing it yourself initially because you must communicate, cooperate and coordinate the work. Often when MK and I make the bed together I will complain about there not being enough "sheet" on my side. But then she will hold her side up and I realize that she has the same amount as I do. Working on a team requires speaking the truth and hammering out solutions that work for everyone. I am convinced that is why in each of those three passages God deals with LOVE right in the middle of them.

Working with others in a team requires that we all remind ourselves why we are on the team together and how effective it can be if we give up our own interests and keep the Kingdom interests in mind. The most effective times of ministry for me have come through the times the team I was on was functioning well. And the most frustrating times have also come when communication, cooperation or coordination was broken on a team.

Let me encourage you to remember that it is four times faster for two to make the bed than one, don't ever settle for doing ministry without a team.