

Two Men: One Mission

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by Dr. Steve D. Whitaker

The view from the hospital bed is so much clearer than from the couch. He had seen the movie before, as he sat at home with Gracyn, but now Kris was truly watching "Little House on the Prairie" for the first time as he sat next to his daughter at Shands Hospital. "It's her favorite movie," he told me. So what changed? The distractions of business had been removed and now this CEO's highest priority was to be with his daughter and share deeply in each moment as she waits for her new heart. Kris is now on a mission of *regret prevention*. Now, more than ever, he wants every moment to count. He wants to celebrate every sunrise and every sunset. He knows how to sit and listen – he's even learned to hear what's not being said.

Dr. Marvin Hardy Jr. was at the top of his game from an earthly perspective. He was one of the leading pediatricians in Orlando with unlimited potential for upward mobility. However, on December 31, 2008, Dr. Hardy left his successful practice and started Grace Medical Home whose mission is to provide comprehensive medical care for the uninsured working poor of Central Florida. He now depends on donations to support his faith-based ministry. So what changed? The temporal distractions and comfortable support systems were removed and now this doctor is on a mission of *regret prevention*. Now, more than ever, Marvin wants to see every patient through the eyes of Christ - he wants to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Two men with one mission. God has placed a special calling on both lives. For Kris, it's a calling to make every moment count with those he loves. For Marvin, it's a calling to live like Jesus as he brings healing – both physical and spiritual – to those in his community. These two men are learning to live with an eternal perspective – they want to finish with no regrets. While Kris and Marvin don't know one another, they have both impacted my life in a powerful way this week and for that I am truly grateful – thanks guys!

So what about your life – will it end with regrets? Regrets like . . . I wish I would have loved more deeply, I wish I would have laughed more frequently, I wish I would have given more generously, or I wish I would have lived more boldly. Jesus provides a remedy for regret-laden lives - it's found in Mark 8:35 and Luke 17:33. The remedy is to serve others and give your life away. Read these passages from God's Word and ask the Holy Spirit to shine His search light on your life as you pursue a life free of regret. For another inspirational story about a life lived with no regrets, Google this phrase, "William Borden – No Reserves, No Retreat, No Regret." Share this story with your family during mealtime this weekend and let me know how the discussion goes.

Serving You Joyfully,

Steve D. Whitaker