

Do You Know a Social Entrepreneur?



The term social entrepreneur is new to many people. It is so new, that most of the social entrepreneurs I have talked to do not recognize themselves at all as belonging in that group.

Let me illustrate it in a simple way. Where do you think God wants to use you – in the church or out of the church?

Forty years ago, it was a no brainer. God worked through the church. If you felt the call of God on your life, there was no question. You belonged in “full time Christian ministry.”

God still calls many people to the overtly religious side of the spectrum. There are pastors, worship leaders, Bible study leaders, conference speakers and a host of other familiar, valid, essential callings in the religious sector.

Today however, there is a second choice. God is also calling many people to the myriad other sectors of society.

I talked to someone recently who has a brilliantly clear vision for ministry to athletes.

He wants to help them bring their spiritual skills to the same level of finely honed excellence as their physical skills.

I know someone who opened a bank to bring the presence of the King into the lives

of ordinary people doing ordinary financial transactions.

Someone else envisions day care done with a focus on spiritual nurture, not just the physical care of the children.

Each of these people is a social entrepreneur.

“Social” means they are active in some area of society outside religion. They want to take their message to the people, instead of bringing the people to the message.

“Entrepreneur” means you want to start something new. You are not just copying a successful model someone else used somewhere else. You want to use a different process to get to a different product.

So think back through the people you know who are marked by a floating discontent. They are doing good things, but are not fulfilled. Then replay the tapes of your conversations with them, listening for that dream that was shared one time.

Maybe you need to go to that person and ask him or her, “Is God reminding you about that dream you shared with me awhile back?” They may need you to give them a nudge to recognize that their discomfort right now is not the devil messing with them but it is the beginning of labor pains. ■