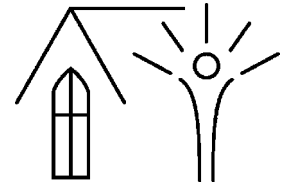




ROSELLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 S. Rush Street
Roselle, IL 60172
(630) 529-1309
www.RoselleUMC.org



Our Mission Statement:
*“To Know Christ,
To Grow in Christ,
To Show Others Christ”*

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“What Kind of Dreams Do You Have?”

Genesis 37:1-11

Reverend Thomas Kim

In 1984, Carol Kane started small like the mustard seed ... operating out of her garage, financed by her own money, and with the help of her husband and children. She believed that through her efforts, small as they were, she could remove some of the boulders from the mountain of obstacles facing the homeless, the elderly and single—parent families in their transition from the “street” to once more becoming productive and whole members of the community.

Two years later, she moved her overflowing inventory to a small leased industrial space in Longwood. This soon expanded into two additional adjacent warehouse spaces. In June 1988, The Mustard Seed of Longwood, Inc. was created as a non profit corporation.

From a single woman’s dream of wishing to help one family per month, the Mustard Seed has grown into an organization that helps over 1,000 families a year with furniture and 700 families with clothing. Over the course of a year, an estimated \$1.5 million of furniture, clothing and other household goods are distributed free of charge. (The Mustard Seed of Central Florida Web Site, Mustardseedfla.org. Retrieved April 23, 2004.)

The people who make a difference in this world are the people who dream and work to realize their dreams. We all have our dreams, don’t we? The saddest day comes in our lives when we give up on our dreams.

People who influence the course of human events begin as dreamers.

If you want to achieve your dream, you have to have a dream, and need to love to dream, and need to love dreamers, and need to pay the price for the dream. Joseph owned a dream, paid the price for it, and achieved it.

There are people who live without dream, and even among those who have dreams, only a few achieve their dreams because not many people want to pay the price for their dreams.

Walter P. Chrysler said, “The reason so many people never get anywhere in life is because when opportunity knocks, they are out in the backyard looking for four leaf clovers.” Or as someone else has put it: “Don’t wait for your ship to come in; swim out to it.” There are some people who spend their lives waiting for a break, an opportunity, a winning lottery ticket. That is not how life works. That is not how God works. God plants the seed of a dream in a human heart, and then waits to see what will happen.

One of the ways you can differentiate your life from others is through your dream, and through paying the price for your dreams. God wants you to dream dreams, and wants to restore your dreams. When

a community or a country or a life encounters a trial, we notice that dreams collapse and setbacks happen. However, when a trial comes to us, we have to focus our concerns on dreams. A dream that comes from God does not fade away easily. God gives visions and dreams in the midst of trials, and looks for people who are willing to pay the price.

Joseph's story tells us the importance of having a dream.

For long time, I thought I would like Jacob better than Joseph. Jacob was similar to me. He was not honest, even cheated others, used all means and ways to get what he wanted, even used God for his own favor, kind of like me. Joseph's characteristics seemed too far different from mine.

But the more I studied Joseph, more I found that he wasn't such an extraordinary person. The Bible says he brought a bad report of his brothers to their father.(v. 2) He did not have a matured personality from the beginning. In Proverbs 17: 9, it is said, *"One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend."* Joseph did not forgive nor overlook his brothers' mistakes, but reported all to his father. In Proverbs 19:11, the Bible says, *"Smart people know how to hold their tongue; their grandeur is to forgive and forget."* But Joseph wasn't smart enough to hold his tongue. Do you know what made a difference between him and his brothers? His dream. His dream made the ordinary boy so extraordinary.

Joseph wasn't from a good, functional family either. His family was a complicated and difficult one. His father lived with four wives, and two of them were sisters, and the other two were the two sister's maids. The Bible records conflicts, jealousy, hatred, revenge, and genocide among them. Joseph was born and raised from that kind of a complicated family. His family was far from an ideal one. The lesson we can learn from this truth is that not all great men or women are always from a good family. Why? Because of their dreams. Dreams make a difference. One of the more recent examples we can find is the former President Bill Clinton, forget about his morality today, that's not my point. His family background is worse than most of ours. But he became a President of the United States of America.

Joseph was an ordinary shepherding boy from a complicated family and had to deal with his brothers' jealousy and hatred. But he had a dream and was a dreamer. The Bible says, *"Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more."* (Genesis 37:5)

One of the most important matters for children is not the environment or the condition but a dream. How they are raised or what environments they grow up in are important, but a dream has the power to overcome their obstacles. A person who conceives a dream God gives has the future. The Bible says, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* (Proverbs 29:18)

A dream is the main ingredient of your future. A dream motivates you to go forward the future, and makes a dreamer great. Your dream does not leave you as you are today, but changes you. You will experience an amazing change and growth. A person may dream a dream, but the dream makes the person. A dreamer's life is not boring, but exciting. Every great man and woman and every great achievement begins with a dream from someone's heart.

I told you about Jesse Owens last week. When he came back home after the 1936 Olympics in Germany, a boy approached him and said to Owens, "Someday, I will be a fastest man like you in the Olympics." Owens replied, "Son, dream big, and put everything you have on it." He was Harrison Dillard, and he became an Olympic gold medalist with an Olympic record in the 100 meters with 10.2 second in 1948. Do you know who Jesse Owens' coach was? Charlie Paddock to Jesse Owens, Owens to Harrison Dillard. A Dream passes it on. How many talented people fade away without any significant contribution to a society because they have no dreams?

Do you have a dream on which you are willing to put everything you have now? Do you possess a dream which will be a turning point in your life? Do you have a dream for which you would not spare anything? Do you have that kind of dream in you?

Elie Wiesel, a Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, has written on Ezekiel in the book *Congregation: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible*. He points out that there is no date on Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones because every single generation needs to hear, in its own time, that these bones can live again.

Dreaming is not only Joseph's story, but also ours. It is our children's story. One of the most important things we have to give to our children is vision and a dream. If there is no vision in our children's heart, their lives will be miserable. If they own a dream they can invest in their whole life, they are the happiest people on the planet.

In the middle of a conflict, Jacob asked Joseph, "*What kind of dream is this that you have had?*" (V. 10) What would you say to God if he asked you, "Do you have your dream to answer to the question?"

Are you an ordinary person? There is hope. God loves an ordinary person like you and me. However, your ordinariness must be extraordinary. That is to have a dream like Joseph. Dream dreams, waken your dreams, restore your broken dreams, and stand up with your dreams. Conceive a dream in your heart, see above, walk forward the future. God will walk a walk with you. What kind of dream do you have today? Asks God.