



Intentional Authentic  
Evangelism



## **Straight paths?**

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<sup>5</sup> *Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.*

<sup>6</sup> *In all your ways acknowledge God and God will make straight your paths.*

~~ Proverbs 3:5-6

In my prayers this morning, I was pondering with God where I've been and what I'm doing with you all here in Wisconsin. In getting to know you, I'm learning who's who and where the churches are geographically. I'm hearing about your pasts and presents: mission projects complete or ongoing, pastoral relationships beginning and ending. Yet as I often do, I wondered with God about the future.

Whenever I'm getting hung up on where the church is headed individually and collectively, God brings me back to the present moment. So I pray: "God please show me the step I/we need to take today." I envision a path being traveled and I often see it as going straight ahead.

This morning, tho, God reminded me that the path usually isn't straight at all. Not only can it twist and turn, go up and down, but sometimes it even goes backward. It can look more like a dance, twirling around. And not a dance like a graceful waltz, traversing the terrain with ease, but one that is chaotic or silly. Instead of a step, God may need us to flap our arms or put one foot in and shake it all around. Considering I'm not a fan of either the chicken dance or the hokey-pokey and am anything but graceful, these images of the path as a dance and what step God might want me/us to take today are outside my comfort zone. They did make me smile, tho.

The reassurance that came from all these peculiar images was that God is the partner in our dance. If we follow instead of trying to lead, God will guide our movements into what comes next ... even when today's step is uncomfortable or seems strange or is one we'd just rather not take, thank you very much, God!

It all comes down to trusting God. It's a lesson God has been teaching me over and over again these last few months as I moved from New York to Wisconsin, from pastoral ministry to TEP.

The future and the path to get there is securely in God's hands. And Jesus is with us all along the way. That's something we can trust in, wholeheartedly.

Grace and Peace.

*Lisa*

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