

INSIGHTS FROM THE OUTSIDE

Column 3

TEMPLE OF DOOM, PART II MR JONES AND JESUS

by Tony Campbell (Legion)

“Do not listen and look to find what answer emerges. There is no Indiana Jones. You are the answer.” That was my concluding appeal in the previous column addressing the stigma that prevents 90 percent of needful people from experiencing the “new age” that surrounds them. Needful people include those of us who have the conditions and our family members.

We face two enemies. One is the condition within that causes us to suffer. For that the rescuer has come, and continues to come with increased effectiveness. Its form is new knowledge, enabling healing therapies and medical treatments.

Enemy Number Two is the one from the outside of us causing most of us and our families to live in denial, fearful of detection if we accept help for our inner hurt. That enemy is the stigma of negative attitudes resulting from misinformation and insufficient information.

Who will depart from the ways of stigma and give us a SAFE PLACE to be open with our condition? Who will learn new ways to show love so that acceptance and healing can occur?

Good news! The super hero is here. It is you. It is me. It is all of us together. It is every Mr. or Ms. Jones (whatever your name) in the local church. It is of us that Jesus made the most stunning remark in comparison with his own ministry: “You will do greater things than these.”

Suddenly the solitary Indiana Jones type is petty compared with you, Mr. or Ms. Jones. You who are bound together by your mutual commitment to Jesus’ purposes and motivated by his spirit are the solution. Jesus’ statement is believable only because we see it as a fact all around us.

Look at the marvelous ministries in the local churches in every community. Look also at what you are doing beyond your congregation. All of this is Mr. or Ms. Jones being the body of Christ through the local churches and reaching out to human needs everywhere.

I have already seen evidence, Mr. or Ms. Jones that your compassion is moving in your churches to minister to the long-neglected needs of people suffering from mental/emotional disorders. It is also evident in the lay and clergy persons serving you on the district and conference level. Evidence declares that you are doing “greater things” and that you will increasingly do so.

Mr. or Ms. Jones let us humbly accept the greatness to which Christ calls us. Through His church, we will give comfort and relief to suffering people everywhere. It will be done best through the local church. After all, this is where both the pained and the comforters reside together.

We are the one, and now is the time.

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