

the CONNECT

MONTHLY NEWS & EVENTS AT NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH



Knock, Knock It's Mr. Hardship

Paul David Tripp

It was a surprise visit from an unwelcome visitor. I didn't know that on October 19, 2014, Mr. Hardship would knock on my door, barge his way in, and take residence in the most intimate rooms of my life.

And I didn't have any idea how his presence would fundamentally change so many things in my life.

I watched Mr. Hardship go from room to room, rearranging everything. I wondered what life would be like if and when he finally left. If I could have, I would have evicted this unwanted stranger. But I failed in all my attempts, and I could no longer deny the fact that he was here to stay.

I spent way too much time asking questions. Why had he knocked on my door? Why had he chosen this particular moment? I never got clear answers to my questions.

Sure, I had known that Mr. Hardship was out there, and I had heard the stories of how he had entered other people's doors, but somehow I didn't think it would happen to me.

Embarrassment washed over me as I thought of the silly platitudes and empty answers I had casually given people when they'd been caught in the confusing drama I was now in. And I thought about how foolish I'd been to believe that this unwanted stranger - who, somehow, somehow, enters everyone's door - would for some reason omit mine.

Once I realized that I couldn't kick Mr. Hardship out of my life, I ran to the place where I have always found wisdom, hope, and rest of heart. I ran to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in so doing, into the arms of my Savior.

As I dove into the narrative of the gospel, which is the core message of God's Word, I realized something profoundly important and wonderfully comforting: I wasn't unprepared after all.

I was equipped with:

The message of God's sovereign control over me
 The gospel's honesty about life in this fallen world
 The comfort of the right-here, right-now presence and grace of the Savior
 The insight into the spiritual war that rages in my heart
 I am no longer angry or discouraged that Mr. Hardship entered my door unexpectedly that day. Although I still struggle with the pain and weakness that he has left me with, I know that I am better off because of his presence.

No, I don't like the travail of pain or loss any more than you do, but in my suffering, a miraculous thing happened: Mr. Hardship became a tool of my Savior to produce beautiful fruit in me, fruit that I am sure could not have been produced any other way.

Sure, there are times I get tired and wish he'd up and leave, but I don't get despondent. I know I haven't been ignored or forsaken, because long before Mr. Hardship entered my door, my Savior had taken permanent residence in my life.

Through all of this drama, I have not been left alone to deal with Mr. Hardship on my own. My Savior has been with me, for me, and in me, and he works to take very bad things and produce through them very, very good things. †

PARENT DEDICATION

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH

MEN'S BREAKFAST

May 18 / 8:00 AM / \$5

DISCOVERING NCC

Beginning Sunday, May 12th at 9:00am
 In Classroom 300 | Sign up online or at Info Center

MAY EVENTS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS:

visit ncc-stl.org lobby or information center registration required church app

SATURDAY, MAY 11 // 8:00 AM

EAST ST. LOUIS, IL

R3/CITY OF JOY WORKDAY

Serve together for the sake of the gospel and change the narrative of the metro east.

Paul DeYoung paul@ncc-stl.org

SUNDAY, MAY 12 // 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

PARENT DEDICATION

Parents will commit to raise their children in the discipline of the Lord.

Ray Mehninger ray@ncc-stl.org

SUNDAY, MAY 12 // 9:00 AM

CLASSROOM 300

DISCOVERING NCC

Learn more about NCC and the importance of committing to a local body of believers.

Jeremiah Kirberg jeremiah@ncc-stl.org

SATURDAY, MAY 18 // 8:00 AM

CLASSROOM 200

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men, enjoy a great breakfast and a time of fellowship all for \$5.

Paul DeYoung paul@ncc-stl.org

THURSDAY, MAY 23 // 6:00 PM

WALNUT GRILL

SWEETHEART'S DINNER

Couples from the Sweethearts study gather for food and fellowship.

Ray Mehninger ray@ncc-stl.org

MONDAY, MAY 27 // 11:00 AM

SCHROEDER PARK

CHURCH PICNIC

Gather together as a church family for fellowship and fun!

Virginia Hankins virginia@ncc-stl.org

THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEED TO CONNECT AT NCC?

We send out a weekly newsletter, prayer requests and special announcements through email and the app. Stop by the Information Center or the website to sign up for our communications.

MISSING SOMETHING?

Lost items are waiting to be found at the Information Center. Items are purged once a month so be sure to stop by and see if your items are there!

LOOKING TO SERVE?

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." How are you serving the body of Christ? Stop by the information center to discuss service opportunities that best utilize your gifts.



to glorify God // to make disciples // to share God's love

CONNECT WITH US

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OFFICE HOURS

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NCC ONLINE

WEB
ncc-stl.org

TWITTER

@NCCWildwood

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/NCCWildwood

INSTAGRAM

@newcommunitystl

NCC ON AIR

CUTTING IT STRAIGHT
KSIV 91.5 FM
Saturdays: 9:30 am



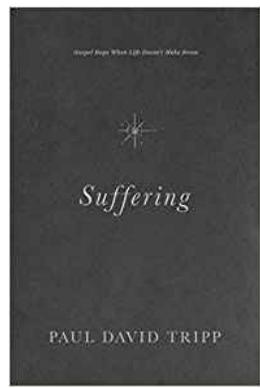
Book of the Month

Suffering: Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense
Paul David Tripp

Sometimes life just hurts.

Out of nowhere, death, illness, unemployment, or a difficult relationship can change our lives and challenge everything we thought we knew leaving us feeling unable to cope. But, in the midst of all this pain and confusion, we are not alone.

Weaving together his personal story, pastoral ministry experience, and biblical insights, best-selling author Paul David Tripp helps us trust God in the midst of suffering. He identifies traps to avoid in our suffering and points us instead to comforts to embrace. This raw yet hope-filled book will help you cling to God's promises when trials come and move forward with the hope of the gospel.



MINISTRY STAFF

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