

Profile Communication

Dick Hardy

I got back from my winter in Tucson in May, and self-quarantined for two weeks. I now have resumed working for Habitat for Humanity one day a week, wearing a mask, of course. I am excited to tell you that, with the help of some great coaches, I was able to organize and hold a five-day tennis camp for High School Tennis players. The camp was sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Northeast Ohio United States Tennis Association. Tennis is a sport that naturally allows the athletes to social distance. Each day the young athletes were coached on their tennis skills by two USTA hall-of-fame coaches in the Cleveland area. And, each day we had a speaker share a faith message about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This is a first in the Cleveland area, and a dream-come-true for me personally.

I continue as the church Financial Secretary, with the help of wonderful church members, and I participate in the POP Men's Bible study each Monday night. I grew up Lutheran. My grandfather was a Lutheran Minister and Teaching Theologian. But, I have to admit that church, and faith seemed more academic rather than personal. I knew the stories and Bible verses, but I didn't have a close personal relationship with my Lord. I have friends who know the exact date and time they came to accept Jesus as their personal savior. I think that is wonderful, but my story is more of a journey. That personal journey started with my wife, Ilene, who taught me how to pray. I continued when I lost Ilene to Leukemia three years ago. Over time I came to understand and know that Jesus is present in my life, every day, guiding, pulling and correcting. And this journey continues in the back nine of my life, if I am allowed to use a golf metaphor. In this time of change, I am thankful for friends; I am thankful for my best buddy, Petey; and I am thankful for the wonderful blessing of giving back, and thankful that the Lord continues to open doors for me to do so.

Dick Hardy, Prince of Peace Profile Reporter