



A Contagious Hope

December 16, 2012

[Romans 15:20-23](#)

²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹ Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²² This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. (Romans 15:20-23)

Consider & Discuss

1. What ambitions do you have? How have your ambitions changed over the years?
2. Have you ever had a conversation about faith in God with anyone who doesn't attend Renaissance? If so, how did it go? If not, why not?
3. Why do you think people are reluctant to talk about "religion"?
4. What connotation do you associate with the word "preach"? Does the word "share" carry a more positive connotation? Why?
5. Read [Romans 15:20-23](#). How would you explain the phrase "preach the gospel" to someone who was unfamiliar with it?
6. How would you summarize the message of Christianity?
7. The word "gospel" means "good news." Do you think the message of Christianity is "good news"? In what way(s) is it "good news"?

Live It

1. Read [Romans 15:20-23](#) several times this week. As you read it, ask God to help you to have a deeper desire to share the good news about Jesus with people who don't already know it.
2. Think of at least one family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker whom you could invite to [Renaissance Church Presents Christmas](#). Pray for them and then invite them to join you.
3. As God to give you the opportunity to share the good news about Jesus with someone who needs to hear about His love for them. When God presents the opportunity, ask Him to give you the courage and words to take advantage of it.