

Time Defines Who You Are

By Larry Kutzler

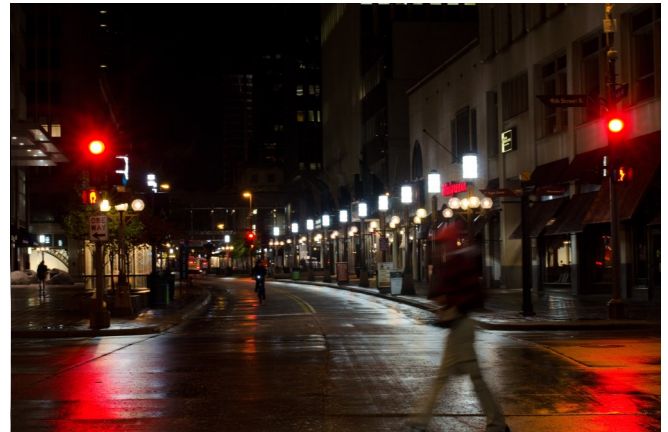
We Have So Little Time

Time is a precious commodity, and it becomes more valuable with age. I remember as a young man, I couldn't wait for summer break, and then in the fall I couldn't wait until Christmas. I was always wishing my time away to get to the next event. Today, I want to slow time down, and keep as much of it as I possibly can for the things that are important to me. I realize that no one is guaranteed tomorrow, so today may be all we have, and it is a very short time. The Bible talks about how short time really is when it comes to communicating the gospel to others. In John 9:4 we read: **"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work."**

Yet we Squander it?

Americans in general have had generations of time given to them to hear, and accept the message of Christ, and yet it seems that the message falls upon deaf ears. In recent years, God has been bringing a new audience to our attention, and they are the new arrivals coming into this country from various places in the world. This presents a huge opportunity for the American Church to have a mission field right in middle of main street USA.

However, as Americans, we have been inflicted with a time disease that robs, steals, and destroys any available time that is dedicated to more meaningful concerns. This time shortage in the American life is much like an addiction to drugs, we can't seem to get enough of it, and yet we misuse it



Nicollet First Snow by Mariah Wilder (mariahjoyphotography.com)

whenever we can. It has been said, that time defines us as a person, by the things that consume our availability. If all our time was added up and God put a numeric dollar figure to just the time we spent working on His projects would we be rich? Every person has the same amount of time to spend, so how much do we use our time thinking about what concerns God in our world. God is concerned about people. People are His priority, not church programs, or theological debates, or even going to church. As Christians we spend a lot of time doing things that do not influence people for eternity, and we allow our time to be misused.

Learning to Invest Our Lives

MissionShift exists to help believers like you, be more productive in using their time to reach people from different cultures with a message of hope. There are so many new people coming here from all over the world, and it's only our lack of time that prevents these people from having the opportunity to know our Savior. Won't you consider how you are using your time, and why not (*continued*)

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Time (continued from pg. 1.)

talk to us to see if we can help you make a better investment of your time for eternity?

(Larry Kutzler is the Executive Director of CitySites Urban Media and a MissionShift Board member)



Eternal Clock by Robbert van der Steeg (Wikipedia global usage file)

Student Spotlight: Jessica Manning

Jessica is one of our U4C students from Northwestern and working as an intern at St. Paul's. She first heard about the U4C program from Natalie Bullis, another U4C student, when Natalie kept talking to her in their Community and Culture class about the program. At the time, Jessica was majoring in Elementary Education so she thought the U4C program was not for her. Last March, Jessica went to San Diego on a mission's trip thinking that it would be beautiful and relaxing to be by the beach. Instead, she ended up working in the inner city of San Diego and there she realized how much she enjoyed working with people from different cultures. Jessica grew up in Brooklyn Center and knew there were people of other cultures around her, but did not connect with them. After her trip to San Diego, she decided to switch her major to Children and Family Ministry. Trying to incorporate the cultural aspect, she started thinking

about the U4C program and discussed it with former students Heidi and Bex. When Kari, U4C's former program director, spoke in Jessica's Introduction to Ministry class she felt God telling her to go. She is thinking of starting a branch of World Impact here in the Twin Cities, so her favorite classes are those which show her how to build a non-profit. Jessica loved the different speakers in the *MissionShift* class and feels that they have opened her eyes to see that people are not defined by their struggles such as addiction, same-sex attraction, and prostitution. She stated that the "Faces in the Crowd" book taught her to pray for opportunities to connect with people and share a "hello" or a smile. Through *MissionShift* and her other U4C classes Jessica has learned that there are "real cities, with real people, who have real issues, and who are in need of a real savior."

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for the 2014-2015 Semester of MissionShift! If you have been thinking about taking MissionShift, now is the time.

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- Classes start 4th week in September
- \$200 per semester, tuition assistance available.

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