

Ice

I stood on a bridge over a creek, watching smooth, milky-white ice. I searched for any sign of moving water below; I saw none. Ever curious, I left the trail and followed the bank to see how far the creek had frozen. I crawled over downed trees and pushed aside branches. The dog, used to traveling down established trails, stayed right beside me. He wasn't sure where I was going and, truthfully, neither was I.

After a while, there it was.....open water pouring from under the ice. It was clear, cold and sparkling in the winter sunlight. As I watched the dog play in the creek, I wondered "How often do I put as much effort into seeing beneath the surface in people's lives as I did to find the water beneath the ice?"

It's easier to stick to established paths and "standards" and not try to get close to our fellow worshippers or co-workers. We have enough obstacles in our own lives without crawling over the downed trees in the lives of our neighbors, don't we? "Besides," we say, "We don't want to seem nosy, or pry."

In fact, we know that deep down, most people will welcome someone who is willing to leave the established path and get whacked with a few tree branches in building a relationship with them. Too many people stand alone, yearning for someone to notice that they are more than the work they do or the money they make.

Jesus reached out to those He met because He knew what people long for. He reaches out to us today for that very reason – he knows we need loving relationships. Look around you in worship, at work, in the places you shop and in your neighborhood. Reach out and share someone's joy, pain, peace or fears – just as Christ reaches out His arms for you!

Ginger Murphy