

Hi My name is Charlie Gross. I am blessed to be in ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Lancaster PA. I have been on the staff of the Presbytery of Donegal for 11 years. God has blessed me with the spiritual gift of encouragement. I have been called a cheerleader and a Barnabus. Recently I was given a gift of a coaching course to polish my skills in this area and also I was given the go ahead to start using my coaching presence to bless the ministers, ministries and missions in the Presbytery of Donegal.

For this reason, I am adding a podcast series to my resume called “Empowering Encouragement.” This podcast will explore areas of coaching, topics of leadership, and topics of creative thinking and living. The underlying key to this podcast will be helping you live a more abundant and a more over the top life.

Today is Saturday, Sept 11th in 2010. It is nine years since that morning where I was running late for a seminary class, I was trying to put some mis-delivered mail in my neighbors mailbox by backing my car up to their box. In this feat, I completely missed seeing a sharp metal pole that I backed into and scrapped along the side of my car and it scratched the entire side of my car and popped off my side mirror. That was the start of my day. That day nine years ago that changed recent history and the world.

Today, nine years later, I sat down at my desk computer to start knocking out my podcast thoughts and get some things done. To my horror and dismay, the system is barely working and needs some malware removal and freshened up. It’s been 3 hours since I sat down and I am still trying to get the system restored. (by the way, if you’re at all curious, I am composing this podcast on my acer netbook as I try to sort through next steps for my Dell home computer).

Well, I tell you all that to say that when these happen to me in life, I get really really frustrated, ticked off and upset. Then, I try to gain my composure and ask myself, ok, this isn’t working for me, so what do I do next? What are my logical next steps? Do I call my computer guru and schedule a service call? Do I pull out my netbook and complete some of my work in this way? What does life present to me and what are my options? What are the next steps toward moving life and abundance and accomplishment forward? These are excellent self-coaching questions. They are also excellent coaching questions that I am honing for use in moving mission, ministry and ministers forward.

What I have been learning in the past six months is this – we all need some encouraging partners in life to ask us great questions, help us dig deeper and help hold us accountable to achieving more than we can ever imagine. I have been working with a number of coaches in my own life and am a living testimony of the power of this tool.

If you want to discover more of what I'm learning, go to my website – empoweringencouragement.com and explore. The rate structure is the value of the service, but for members of Donegal Presbytery, my service is already paid for you.

The only question you need to ask yourself is, do I want to live a more productive, effective, powerful life in ministry and in God's mission? If your answer is yes, then let's have a conversation about what a partnership would look like.

Last Saturday, I was with my two beautiful grand daughters, Ivy and Paige, at our local park. The oldest, Ivy, was climbing on the bars as I was videoing her moves. She said the most precious and inspiring thing. She said, as she climbed upside down and backwards across about 10 hanging bars, I can do anything! That caught my attention! That challenged me. That inspired me. To hear my nine year old granddaughter say, I can do anything! That's bold! That's confident! That's the attitude that can partner with God's Spirit and change this world !

Friends, Philippians 4:13 says, I can do all things in him that strengthens me. We have unlimited power in the Lord and through empowering and encouraging partnerships, we can tap that power and change the world. Let's have a conversation about how to do this!

Visit my website at www.empoweringencouragement.com and stay tuned for more podcasts that will give you insights, resources, and ideas on how to live an abundant and over the top life. Have a great week! Extravagant Blessings!