## WOW: Word Of the Week

### Instigator

**May 27, 2026**

In our new book, *Unhesitatingl*y (p. 139), memoirs penned by Jan and me, I tell the story of a memorable interaction with a brother in Christ.

**Facilitator or Instigator?**

Bob met Arvy as a result of a news article that appeared in an international newspaper, The Christian Chronicle. The newspaper had picked up a story of Bob's visit to the Dominican Republic with twenty-four baptisms during a week of teaching and preaching.

When Arvy and Bob made contact, their hearts connected. Arvy worked with a mission group, Liberté Ministries, that had been working in Haiti for fifteen years. Construction teams from that ministry had built many church buildings. With Haiti closed to foreign visitors, Arvy was interested in the work being done on the Dominican side of the Dominican-Haitian border. The problems in Haiti were driving Haitians to cross illegally into the Dominican Republic.

For most of the past twenty years, Bob has described his role in mission work as "facilitator." He has tried to make the work of others easier. He has trained, prepared, and mentored others. "Facilitator" is a good summary of Paul's instructions in Ephesians 4 -- make the way easy for others, help others toward their ministries, mentor, prepare, equip.

The first time Arvy heard Bob describe his role as being a facilitator, Arvy said, "You are not a facilitator, you are an instigator!" We chuckle. Perhaps so. Better than being described as an agitator, which was the word a brother used to describe Bob during his early years in ministry!

This week's WOW. Instigator. In a positive sense.

An **instigator** is someone who intentionally provokes, incites (often with reference to trouble or conflict). The word describes someone who prods, goads, or pushes others into action. The Latin verbmeans "to incite, urge, or stimulate." The basic meaning is to push things forward.

I am reminded of another story told in our book (pp. 60-61).

**He Pushes Every Good Work that Comes Along**

One fall Bob was invited to give the keynote address at Annual Day at Shults-Lewis Children's Home. Shults-Lewis served children from troubled backgrounds and those who did not have stable homes or parents present in the home. Shults-Lewis not only provided care for children but also counseling services for families.

Before Bob spoke, the director of the children's home introduced him. We still remember part of what was said. "Bob pushes every good work that comes along!"

Those words have stuck with us for almost half a century. They remind us of the words of Paul to Titus: that God's people should be zealous of goods works. Not just willing, but committed and devoted. That simple introduction—just a passing comment—has inspired us and challenged us to be people who always push good works.

We pray the same for everyone: "May we all do everything we can to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ—to push that gospel into the uttermost corners, cracks, and crevices of our world."

Facilitator, instigator. Mentor, encourager. Edify, train, teach. Push forward! A challenge for us all for the week ahead.