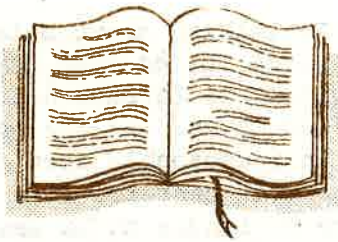
The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to: 9914 Arkansas, Bellflower, California 90706

AUGUST 1982

BE A BARNABAS

We are living in a world with an ever-increasing "every man for himself" attitude. Our society in America has been labeled by astute observers: "the ME society". This is painfully true. We are becoming a more and more self-centered world. Selfish, self-centered living is not fulfilling the needs we have as human beings. We weren't intended to live that way by our Maker. As long as I seek to fulfill myself by using other people, or jobs, or money, or things as a ladder to climb higher, I will not achieve either self-esteem or respect from others, and I won't find the fulfillment I'm after.

To our banks, magazine publishers, employers, and governmental agencies we are just numbers in a computer's memory. When you buy groceries at our supermarkets, a machine adds up the total amount, then flashes a read-out which says "thank you, have a nice day!" and the clerk is already looking at the next customer. Stand in a line or elevator and everyone's afraid to look at or talk to anyone else. This just drives people deeper and stronger into a self-centered existance. "After all, if I don't look after me, no one else will" they think. And they become more and more alone.

God's kingdom is so radically different from this that it's like an "oasis" in today's world. Where Jesus is King his subjects are not computerized or de-personalized, but loved as family members, children, by their King, and by each other. This is the kingdom we are called to proclaim to a self-centered, empty world system.

In talking about being a disciple, Jesus said, "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself...*" and he went on to say, "*For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.*" (Mark 8:34-35).

An inescapable fact of the christian life is that we have died to the self-centered life and are born again to a God-centered life. We are no longer to be using others to fulfill our needs, but, in reverse, we are to follow the example of our Lord and seek to help others. Paul wrote to the Philippians: "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*" (Phil. 2:3-4).

I know many people who are so wasted from working and dealing with a selfish world that they are like dried-up, thirsty plants, and a word or two of encouragement or praise is all that's needed to perk them up to life again - amazing, the power that encouragement has.

One brother in the book of Acts had a special gift of encouraging. His name was Barnabas. In fact, his name means "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Everywhere he went people were encouraged. (Acts 11:23, Acts 14:22) His words, his attitude, and his ministry were characterized by encouragement. We need more people like Barnabas. The world and the church need more people with that attitude.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to "*encourage one another and build each other up...*" because the coming of the Lord is near. (I Thess. 5:11) as the battle gets worse the soldiers need to be encouraged. The battle is on, and every day we see it's stepping up its pace. Everyday it's more important to edify and encourage one another to endure and overcome.

The key to being a Barnabas is to honestly care about building up others. Usually we can detect false concern in others work or actions and it leaves us feeling worse. So it is as if we try to speak words to edify when we don't really care.

Sometimes the problem isn't that we don't care, it's that we don't say anything about it. It's more and more rare in this world, but so important, to speak our approval and encouragement. I've seen people speak complimentary words about someone to others and never say it to the person themselves, face to face. There's no substitute for practice, here. The more you speak encouragement, the easier it becomes.

In I Thess. 5:14, Paul writes for them to "encourage the timid." This is valuable advice. Many among us are shy, timid, or fearful and need this. But, often those who need encouragement the most are those we think need it least. Elders, preachers, teachers, and leaders in the church are often discouraged and we think them so "spiritual" that we keep silent the words they need to hear. In fact, I've noticed that anyone who wants to be like Jesus and is being used by the Lord is very much aware of their failures and needs to be encouraged. The more I see what He is and what I am, the more Satan tries to discourage me with it.

Some practical ways to encourage are so obvious that we miss them. Sometimes a genuine hug and an "I sure appreciate you" are like a miracle in their results. Being specific is important, too. Like: "You're always so thoughtful" or "I sure admire the patience God has given you". Even simple complements concerning appearance are encouraging. Things we often think in these areas are so fruitful if we speak them. We all need encouragement. Speak your love... express your appreciation... be a Barnabas.

We ought to practice and perfect this so well in our church family that it "bleeds" into our lifestyle around non-christians, also. Our words ought to build up, not tear down, those we work with. This is a practical way to "love them into His kingdom". Again, if our motives are wrong, or our attitude hypocritical, we can cause more harm than good.

As we all prayerfully consider and put into practice these principles, we will individually and as a Body be strengthened. As we encourage one another, the whole church is edified, and those who come into our sphere of influence then can experience a practical application of God's love to a self-centered world full of lonely people. (Heb. 10:25; 3:13).

In Christian Love,

Jon Powless
Port Orchard, WA

DO WE LISTEN?

In Heb. 1:1-3 God spoke to the fathers by the prophets and has spoken to us by his Son to all who obey him (Heb. 5:8-9) he is their eternal salvation, but seems like there is so many people today that don't know what obedience is. Heb. 2:1-3 states we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest we let them slip (or forget) and our faith be in vain (I Cor. 15:1-5). It seems that no one can understand Jesus when he said in I Cor. 6 and 7 chapter to come out of the world and be seperate and touch not the unclean things; that this means to not be like or do the things that the people of the world do. So we just go on with them and when someone tries to tell us different we reject him as a crank or someone trying to put his doctrine on us. But not so in Acts 20:25-30 the apostle said he had kept back nothing that was profitable to us. So if someone knows more about the scripture than I, then why should I not listen? And if he is a preacher of the word and he is telling us something, why not listen, for why do we have a preacher if we know more than he. How can he teach someone that knows more than he? Think brethren, when we have a meeting what is to for??

In Christian love,

Lloyd Treat

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"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

Prov. 25:25

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ROLL, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Not much news from out our way, only that it is hot. Everyone is doing just fine, for which we give thanks to the Lord daily, for our good health.

(CONT.)

My family and I got home last week from the meeting in Lorenzo, Texas. We had a good time visiting and worshiping with brothers and sisters at Lorenzo. We had one sister come forward for the prayers of the Church.

We had good attendence from everyone. We had Bro. and Sis. from Oklahoma and New Mexico to come and worship and have fellowship with us.

We invite anyone passing through our part of the country to be sure and stop in.

In Christian Love,

Tony Baster for the congregation in Roll, Arizona

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

The congregation here at Waterford had a great meeting in June. It brought many brethren from Washington, California, and Texas. Our camp meeting had many fun filled days, with good fellowship, and wonderful preaching. During our meeting, we had a baptism.

We here at Waterford are fine. Sister Norma Frago had surgery and is home now. We are happy to see her at Church again.

There are a few more meetings before the summer is gone. Plan to attend if possible.

The Christian love and fellowship is shown and felt at these meetings. We need to show others that we support them in every way.

In Christian Love,

Gene McKinney

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

It has been some time since I wrote to the paper. I have been sick and had an operation and recovery is slow but am able to be up and around.

I thought it is time to write a little news. We here are very well although small in number. We lost another member last Friday, he passed from this life and will be missed by all here. We have some that is sick in the church and is not able to attend. Others are doing very well. We hope all everywhere is well and doing fine at this writing. The weather here is hot and no one feels their best but we still have service here at 10:00 each Sunday morning and 6:00 at night. We invite all who can come be with us. We appreciate visitors any time.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Treat

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends:

On July 31, 1982 Tayna Way and Martin Brockman were united in matrimony before many friends and relatives. It was a beautiful wedding. A well planned reception was held afterward. I have known Tayna all her life. May God bless them. The writer had the honor of officiating.

Doris Jared is visiting her parents in Oregon. Hurry back Doris we miss you.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Levi Bentz. I was called to conduct the service at Chico, California.

Just received word of Bro. Bud Wilkerson passing away. He was well known, at Delta and Yuma, where he lived for many years.

We appreciate the members of La Habra congregation being with us, for Sunday evening service.

We ask the Prayers of all
the faithful everywhere,

Claud Perigen

YUMA, RIZONA

Dear Ones in Christ:

A note from the Ave. B Church in Yuma. We were made happy by the addition of two new members. John and Francis Halliwill were baptized June 27, 1982. They and their two children Renee and Scotty attend services regulary.

It is encouraging to see young pople interested in the gospel and the saving of souls. We should all pray for the new Christians, that they might have faith and courage to withtand the ways of the world.

We are sorry to report the pasing of our dear Gladys Splawn Rutledge. She was a friend to all who knew her. Always willing and ready to do the things expected of a good Christia woman. Bro. Horace Orendorff conducted the services.

Some of you may remember Staley Niemcazyk. He and his wife Cordia and daughter Stanna used to atted church in Bellflower. They have made their home in Phoenix for a number of years. He passed away July 29, 1982. He was born in Poland August 25 1898. He is survived by his daughter Stanna and three grandchildren.

We were especially please to have Sis. Jill Herbert from Colorado and her cousin Christi Drysdale from Brawly, Calif. at our services Aug. 8 and Aug. 15.

We invite you all to stop and worship with us when you are in the area.

In Christian Love,

Bill Nelson

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been brought to our attention by Bro. Lloyd Treat that a Bro. at Stilwell, OK is in need of financial help. His name is Ralph Rhoads, Rt. 3, Stilwell, Oklahoma. If you wish to help please send all correspondence to Bro. Rhoads. If further information is required we would advise you to contact one of the Brothers at Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Jim Brown	Rt. 2	Westwill, Oklahoma	74965
Jack Warford	409 So. 1st.	Stilwell, Oklahoma	74960

1982 MEETINGS

Goshen, Arkansas	October 3 - 10	Claud Perigen

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1983 MEETINGS

Bellflower, California	June 12 - 19	Dan Ross
Delta, Colorado	June 25 - July 7	Camp

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Congratulations to Tayna Way and Martin Brockman who were united in marriage on July 31, 1982. Have a long and loving marriage!!

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BAPTISMS

John Halliwill	Yuma, Arizona	June 27, 1982
Francis Halliwill	Yuma, Arizona	June 27, 1982

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DEATHS

Shorty Cavin	La Habra, California
Stanley Niemcazyk	Pheonix, Arizona
Bro. Willard	La Habra, California
Vernon Roark	Yakima, Washington
Levi Bentz	Chico, California
Bud Wilkerson	Delta, Colorado
Gladys Rutledge	Yuma, Arizona
Curtis Teague	Dallas, Texas