

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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None above Another

Bettie, you taught in Christian colleges (English, Spanish, and Bible) and spent your life living and working for the Lord Jesus Christ in the ministry to which He has called you. I am clergy and have endeavored to live for Him as a pastor and in serving as a clinical chaplain in the Department of Corrections.

Though our backgrounds and ministries have been different, the Lord called us to come together under His Lordship. It reminds me of Paul's teaching in I Corinthians 12 concerning the many members of the body of Christ working together. I hear much about the body of Christ by those who believe they are the whole body and need others only to enhance their ministry. But, too often, I do not see what Paul teaches as being lived out.

When we speak of the members of the body of Christ functioning together, Carolyn, let us clarify that we are not talking about goodness, but godliness, a life lived in Jesus Christ (Jn 15.1-11).

You know, Bettie, what we read in I Corinthians 12 and 13 is certainly actively taking place in our lives. However, we need to mention briefly that Satan has come against us with a vengeance these past three years, but the Lord has sustained us. He said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient." His grace has brought us through it all. Let us share with our brothers and sisters how God has used other members of His body to encourage and direct us.

Yes! Carolyn, I can think of many people who spoke just the words we needed to hear to strengthen us in our faith and trust in the Lord. This is the body of Christ functioning together.

Bettie, the Lord called us to be in ministry together three years ago. We knew it from the time we met; it was a mutual experience. Almost from the beginning we have heard these words from the Lord, "Arise and go; arise and go." We asked the Lord over and over, "What do you mean? When, where, how?"

Yes, and it has been hard to wait, Carolyn, for specific directions from the Lord as we were eager to "arise and go."

Yes, I think of the time when the Lord gave you a vision, Bettie, and you saw the area open to which we were to go and heard the Lord tell you that the place is now open for ministry. You and I were in prayer in the chapel in our home; however, we were not praying specifically about this when the Lord showed you the area in Missouri where we were to go.

near a mall and a man came to us December, 2010 and said, "The favor of the Lord is upon you ladies. He is all over you." We had a wonderful time of fellowship; then the man left, and we have not seen him since. There are other times that someone has been in our lives for a fleeting moment to encourage us, to give forth the word of the Lord.

We must function in the position to which God has called us recognizing our dependence on all members to accomplish the Lord's work in the earth – **none above another**. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that, "...God hath tempered the body together..." (I Cor 12.24).

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

True, and yet, we still did not get a clear “go ahead” to move.
We did not, Bettie.

It was discouraging at times, and we wondered if the Lord would ever work it out and release us to move. Then we would meet someone who spoke encouraging words, such as one to whom we talked about Jesus; she became excited, came around the counter, hugged you and said, “God put you two together to serve Him.” We heard this many times from different people.

Remember our journey, Bettie, and how we finally made a trip to the area that you saw?

Yes, you told me how you awakened one morning on an earlier occasion, Carolyn, feeling we should go to one of the towns in that area. It was now time to go there. We went and looked over the area to see if we saw anything – but we did not. We stopped and spoke with a realtor in the area who knew the Lord and understood our call. We left thinking we accomplished nothing. We now see this was no chance meeting. The realtor said to us, “I was not supposed to be in the office today.” God was using her, another member of His body, to accomplish His plan in our lives.

Yes, Bettie, and remember how we made a second trip to the area? The realtor said to us, “Go home. Your house here is not available yet.” We left and went home. But, later we returned to that area and had no intentions of seeing the realtor on this trip, but it “just happened” we did. Remember the realtor saying, “Why are you here? Your house in Texas has not sold and your house here is not available.”

We left a little discouraged, and, yet, excited knowing the Lord Jesus was in this.

Bettie, it was not long after this that we received a call from the realtor one Friday saying, “I have your house. You can move here without having sold your house there.”

I remember; and you asked, “When do we need to come see the house?” – and the realtor said, “Today.” We dropped everything immediately and were on our way in a very short time. You wanted at least 30 acres, but there were only two. You wanted a larger house, but it is a small house – an older home. You struggled with its not being what you had envisioned.

I did, Bettie. But we went there praying, and the Lord was faithful. I remember another realtor from the same office who stopped at the house when we were walking over the grounds. She had prayed that the Lord would let us meet there. She said she started to come to the property, but put it off for maybe an hour or so. Remember how that we had just returned to the property from sight-seeing in the area and would have missed her had she not delayed awhile. The Lord timed our return so we would be there.

She came encouraging us in the Lord. It was a time of sweet fellowship – another experience of Christ’s body functioning properly.

When we returned home, Bettie, my house, which had been on the market for four years, had a prospective buyer two weeks after I purchased the house in

Missouri. When the Lord spoke to “arise and go,” and we walked in obedience, He worked out the details of it – not when we thought, but in His time.

Yes, Carolyn, when we hear the Lord, sometimes we think it is to be done **now**, when there is a waiting upon the Lord before we make the move. In this case the Lord used others in His body to guide us. We were willing to wait upon the Lord, and we were willing to listen to other members of the body of Christ who were also hearing from the Lord.

Bettie, another thing is the work that needed to be done on the house. The Lord put together some godly men to work on it. We are dedicating this house to the Lord’s work and desire that the Lord would abide not only in us, but in this house and the property. Wherever the Lord is, there is Beth-El, the house of the Lord.

This whole process of moving is a beautiful example of what Paul was talking about. It is powerful when God’s people come together in Christ Jesus – **none above another**, but working together for the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

Do you remember, Carolyn, a call you received March, 2010, from a parachurch organization, from the CEO who prayed with you that the Lord would direct our paths and that it would be laid clearly before us? It is so amazing how many people have spoken to us who do not know each other but are walking together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. These have heard from the Lord – whether they were aware of it.

Yes, I do remember, and I even think of three lovely pharmacists who have over these past years given us of their time, energy, and knowledge in helping us learn how to live a more healthy life, who were not afraid to step out of the *norm* today, who always had time for us, looking things up, sharing what information they had at their disposal. These are three wonderful pharmacists and the employees who work with them who know Jesus Christ, who are members of the body of Christ.

Carolyn, Paul says we are not to think too highly of ourselves. I think too many in “higher places” have put themselves above the body of Christ. We **all** need each other, and **none are above another**.

Think of all the people, Bettie, who have told us, upon meeting us, how that the Lord brought us together to minister His Word, to encourage the body of Christ. They have encouraged us in the Lord. They have eyes to see the Lord’s work, His Holy Spirit moving in us – but we see the Lord moving in them, in others.

Some of these are people we have never met before and others are family and friends that have known us all our lives. There are many, many more who have touched our lives in different ways – to include those praying for the ministry to which we are called, praying for us as we serve the Lord.

Yes, Carolyn, we have endeavored to encourage and help others, but we also receive ministry from them, moving with them as the Holy Spirit leads. I am thinking now of the time we made a picnic lunch and sat in the pickup eating