

T. E. A. C. H.

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VALUING PEOPLE

Dan Harrison
C.E. Chairman

One of the most memorable pictures Scripture gives of love that is self-denying rather than self-seeking is Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan. When Jesus was asked, "And who is my neighbor?" he told the story of how, after a priest and a Levite passed by a man who lay beaten and robbed on the road to Jericho, a despised Samaritan showed compassion (Luke 10:29-37). By offering his time and money, at great personal cost the Samaritan modeled the same kind of love Jesus himself displayed.

If you had asked the priest and Levite if they valued people they surely would have answered, "Of course we value people, in fact it is our business to love and care for people." But if you had asked the man beaten, robbed and left for dead if the priest and Levite loved people he would certainly have answered differently.

I wonder if our situation today might be more similar than we care to admit. If we were to ask good church going people, "Do you value people, do you express your concern in a way that is obvious to people?", I have a feeling that the vast majority would say, "Sure I do. After all that's what being a Christian is all about, isn't it." But if we would also ask those who were in a position to know the truth we might get a totally different response.

The problem is not often due to callousness so much as just plain busyness. The pressures of daily life - of getting to class or work on time, of getting everything that needs to be done at home afterwards cared for, the crammed schedules, the pressing deadlines all conspire to prevent us from noticing, much less responding to needy people all around us.

Even within the church we maintain a frenzied pace. We have meetings to attend, lessons to be taught, programs to be kept running, sermons to be prepared and preached. Sometimes the result is that we don't really see those around us, even those closest to us. Most often the obstacle to compassion is not callousness but preoccupation with life.

I cannot imagine that anyone has every been busier than Jesus and yet one of the major hallmarks of his ministry was his willingness to be interrupted. When the crowd tells Bartimaeus to hush, Jesus stops, hears the blind beggar's request and heals him. When the disciples try to protect Jesus from an onslaught of children, he instructs them instead to

bring the children closer so that he might embrace and bless them. Jairus interrupts His preaching to ask him to come heal his daughter, and Jesus gladly agrees to do so. As they are traveling to Jairus' home the woman with the issue of blood touches Jesus and experiences healing as a result. Jesus was never too busy to stop what He was doing to love and care for the needy people because He valued them incredibly.

Jesus always taught that professing love is not enough, our love must find expression through loving acts. The priest and Levite both professed love for God and man but neither did anything for the hurting man. But when the Samaritan "took pity" his actions become proof of what was in his heart. The proof of his pity was evidenced in the interruption of his

(continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

34th Annual CE Convention	Page 2
Kingdom Investments Mark Clendaniel	Page 2
Valuing Young Adults Steve Wood	Page 3
The Widom of Older Adults: Myth or Mystery Jim Pollard	Page 3
A Young Girl Still Dwells Author Unknown	Page 4
The Value of People Mike Holbrook	Page 5
Look What Is New In The Library!	Page 5

schedule; the use of his own clothing for bandages; the supplying his own wine as a disinfectant; the use of his own oil as a soothing lotion to ease the pain; the sacrificing of his own comfort by using his own donkey to transport the man for additional care and finally using his own money to pay for food, lodging and treatment.

Following the story Jesus immediately asked the theologian to determine, "Who was neighbor to the man?" The man answered, "He that showed mercy on him." Jesus then commanded him, "Go, and do thou likewise." The command has not changed. God values people above all else and he has instructed every generation to follow in the steps of the good Samaritan.

The good Samaritan teaches us that:

We must realize that it is not the defining of neighbors that gives us love, but the experience of love that makes all needy people our neighbors.

Love when it is required can be either refused or revealed. And strangely it may be refused by people you would swear would respond and it may be revealed in the most unlikely people.

God sees things differently than we do. In the eyes of the Jews, bad (Samaritan) cannot be good and good (priest and Levite) cannot be bad.

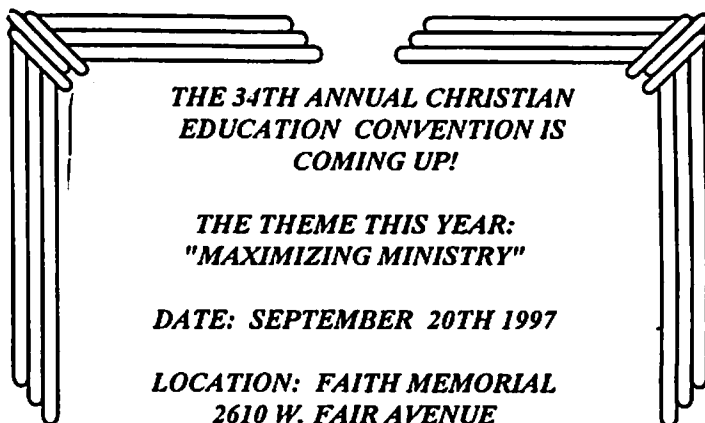
It is not the position we fill but the heart we possess that determines whether or not we really value and love people.

It is easy for religious people to talk about abstract ideals and fail to help solve concrete problems right under their noses.

Finally caring may be costly but not caring is far more costly! The priest and Levite lost far more by their neglect than the Samaritan did by his concern. They lost the opportunity to represent Christ to a broken and needy person.

You and I live in a needy world that will give us an unlimited number of opportunities to prove that the love of Christ is resident in us. Christ loved people so much that he gave his life's blood that they might be saved.

Do we value and love them in the same way? Nothing less will ever change the world.



**THE 34TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION CONVENTION IS
COMING UP!**

**THE THEME THIS YEAR:
"MAXIMIZING MINISTRY"**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20TH 1997

**LOCATION: FAITH MEMORIAL
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KINGDOM INVESTMENTS

We live in a changing world, and it is taking place at a very rapid rate. It is wrong to be satisfied and complacent while souls are going to hell. Lord, raise up people with the zeal and fervency for the gospel. The Holy Spirit makes the difference in our lives. The Holy Spirit will give us that love for people like we never had before. Love for souls, love for the gospel, and the love for GOD. 1John 4:7, "Beloved let us love one another for love is of God. Encouraging days are ahead for the work of the Lord - ministry is people - winning the lost, bringing believers to total consecration and living a holy life. Establish friendship and relationships for kingdom investments. My second elder is sold on Kingdom investments. The souls that came through her Sunday School classes, oh what rewards she has waiting for her! The pastoral staff is another arm of our church. Leadership is developed, not discovered. Leadership is also influence. The words of John Maxwell's proverb, "He who thinketh he leadeth and hath no one following him is only taking a walk."

Good leadership is needed in today's churches. Men that would stand to be teachable, to listen, to direct with the leadership of the Holy Spirit are needed. For us to move forward, three things will take place 1) The Spirit 2) Determination 3) Willingness to work. We all need each other with teamwork and the love for Christ and each other. Let us work together, love one another and let's move forward and let's not look back on yesterday.

Mark Clendaniel
Jeffersonville CCCU
Chillicothe

GOD NEEDS YOU!

VALUING YOUNG ADULTS

In the church today, valuing young adults is often a very easy thing to do. The problem is, young adults are often valued by churches for the wrong reason. I have heard many times older saints say something to the effect, "I'm sure glad we have some younger people coming into our church. We need younger people to help carry the load." I understand that statement and it is true. But it also needs to be tempered with another truth. God places high value upon all people, and it has nothing to do with our ability to "carry the load." Why then does God value us? I believe there are three simple reasons.

First, God values people because He has uniquely designed us. *Then God said, "Let us make [mankind] in our image, in our likeness. (Genesis 1:26 NIV).* Second, God values people because He has uniquely created us. *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13-14 NIV).* *Try to realize what this means --the Lord is God! He made us -- we are his people, the sheep of His pasture. (Psalm 100:3 LB).* Third, God values people because He has uniquely touched us. *From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For ...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:16-17 NIV).*

As the church, as church leaders, we must value young adults for the same reasons that God values them -- not for their ability to contribute, but for who they are. God has designed, created, and touched their lives in a very wonderful and unique way. We must strive to communicate our commitment to them by honoring them, not for their ability to perform, but for the reality of who God has made them to be. *For Lord, your works are wonderful, I know that full well!*

Steve Wood
Milford Center CCCU

will receive a constant patronizing pat on the head. Did you ever want to scream, "My name is Doris, not Dearie!?"

What does this have to do with Christian Education? Let me share with you about two people name John and Jessie, to dispel myth with the gospel of mystery.

John is a study in the simplicity of faith in God. He never had many material possessions, but what he did have was defined by him as "particular" in form and function. It was the peculiarity of his "particulars" that drew me like a magnet to want him for my model and mentor. The "particular" way he shaved the gravity drawn leather wrinkles of his face with a strap sharpened straight razor. The "particular" way he wound his ancient Watham railroaders pocket watch. The "particular" way he carefully showed me the small circle engraving (Rock of Ages) on his tombstone and then said, "Mole (his nickname for me), they will put my body in this grave one day, but remember my soul will be with Jesus!" The "particular" way I could hear him (and still do) walking around upstairs whistling "Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory." The "particular" and consistent way he went to Sunday School and church with his "Sunday-go-to-meeting" suit on. Others may have seen a gray old man too old or ignorant to read, write or drive a car. But as a boy and now heading toward older adulthood myself, I saw a grandpa that made me thirsty for Jesus and eager to have a "step in my walk" too, to serve Jesus Christ any way I can.

Jessie was my kindergarten Sunday School teacher. I still see her smiling face and feel the tender hug she would give me as she cheerfully greeted me, "Jimmie, glad to see you in class today." She always affirmed me and my importance in God's great plan to use me in His ministry. I did not always feel like doing what she suggested I do. Especially during one Christmas program, when I felt she made me stand on this big platform in front of all the people at old Gregg Street Church in Washington Court House. I stood there with bibbed overalls on and a straw hat, with a bucket in hand and recited a poem about how this bucket couldn't contain God's grace. Thank you, Mrs. Arthur (Jessie) Paul for that nudge which would foreshadow many times of teaching and preaching about the great grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Myths about the limitations of older adulthood and Christian Education are dispelled in the ageless truths of the mystery of Jesus Christ. Thank you, John and Jessie, for being faithful to reveal the mystery, no matter what you or others thought. May the Lord find all of us faithful as we participate in the mystery of Jesus. (Ephesians 1:9; 5:32; 6:19)

Jim Pollard
Circleville CCCU



THE WISDOM OF OLDER ADULTS: MYTH OR MYSTERY

How many times have we been tempted to think about older adulthood as the declining time of despair and resignation of all freedom. We think that aging must include a despondent march toward a useless end where we are shelved away and

Hard choices

I've found the things of God are often very hard to do at the beginning, but they are very easy and peaceful in the end. While the wrong choices are so easy to make at the beginning, they end up so complicated and full of difficulties and regrets later.

—Lee Ezell in
The Missing Piece

This poem was taken from the book "Chicken Soup for the Soul." It was written by a woman who died in the old folks' ward of Ashuldie Hospital near Dundee, Scotland.

A YOUNG GIRL STILL DWELLS

What do you see, nurse, what do you see?
Are you thinking when you look at me—
A crabbed old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try!"
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe?
Who resisting or not, lets you do as you will
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still.
As I move at your bidding, eat at your will...
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another;
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet
Dreaming that soon a love she'll meet;
A bride at twenty my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep;
At twenty-five now I have young of my own
Who need me to build a secure, happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast,
Bound together with ties that should last;
At forty, my young sons have grown up and gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn;
At fifty, once more babies play around my knee,
Again we know children my loved ones and me.
Dark days are upon me; my husband is dead.
For my young are all rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel;
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigor depart;
There is a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now, again my embittered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again,

I think of the years, all too few, gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, nurse, open and see
Not a crabbed old woman,
Look closer—see me!



THE VALUE OF PEOPLE

One of the easiest things to do is to take for granted those that are working around you. You truly appreciate them and realize their value yet never take the effort to say THANK YOU! As a pastor, I am one who needs many people around me to help in building God's Kingdom, and it is exciting to join efforts with others to accomplish the task God has placed before us.

I look at us as a team working together. The center has little chance to score and help in winning without a guard around to get him the ball. Nor can a pitcher win a baseball game by himself for he needs a catcher to throw to and a defense to work behind him. A team is a working unit that becomes a force for victory. Satan is a powerful opponent but together he will be defeated, by myself, I would fail miserably.

How grateful I am for the people of the church. How important each one of you are to God and Kingdom building. I am especially appreciative to the Sunday School leaders and workers. No one know how much work the Sunday School Superintendent puts in to make sure the adults and children are taught spiritual truths. You teachers are so special to take your precious time to help others. To study, teach, drive a bus or van, to greet visitors, share your love, prepare crafts, visit, pray and weep over your classes takes anointed people of God and cannot be accomplished by one person. It takes many to meet all the needs. How important you are to the church and especially our Heavenly Father.

Thank you for all you do for your churches and mine. I trust God will bless you with His anointing as we cross the finish line together. I believe this little story says it all.

"A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, 'This will make it better.' Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for 10 minutes."

That story tells us how important we all are and how we need each other. I want to say 'Thank You' and let you know how important you are. Together we will continue to build God's Kingdom and my prayer is that we cross the finish line together.

Pastor Mike Holbrook
Circleville First CCCU



I HEARD YOU SHOUTER WHEN THE PREACHER TALKED ABOUT GOD KNOWING THE NUMBER OF HAIR ON OUR HEADS

How much does a prayer weigh?

How much does a prayer weigh? There is a story of a grocery store owner who tried to weigh one.

A tired-looking woman came into the store and asked for enough food to make a dinner for her children. The grocer asked her how much she could spend. The frail woman answered, "I have nothing to offer but a little prayer."

The storekeeper was not very sentimental nor religious, so he said, half-mockingly, "Write it on paper, and I'll weigh it."

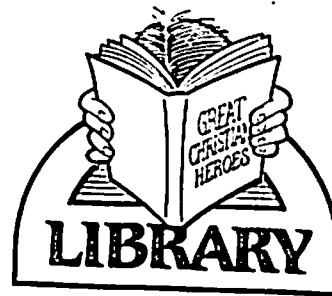
So she did. The grocer placed the prayer on the weight side of his old-fashioned scales. Then he began piling food on the other side; but to his amazement, the scale would not go down. He finally became flustered and gave the woman a large bag of food. The grocer never saw the woman again, but he treasures the slip of paper upon which the woman's prayer had been written — "Please, Lord, give us this day our daily bread."

Do you know a cross when you see one?

The golden, M-shaped arches of the McDonald's restaurant chain, the five linked rings for the Olympic Games and Shell Oil Company's fanned seashell logos are better-known symbols than the Christian cross, according to a recent survey of 7,000 people in six countries: the United States, Australia, Germany, India, Japan and the United Kingdom.

According to the survey, 92 percent of those polled identified the Olympic symbol, 88 percent knew the McDonald's and Shell symbols, but only 54 percent recognized the cross (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, August 26, 1995).

The article continues, "Christianity also has a worldwide vision, but we have not been so successful in communicating the faith and we have to do better."



LOOK WHAT 'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY!

Get Ready for Company by Gary L. McIntosh

This workbook and audio cassette series teaches you how to welcome guests to your church and develop a follow-up to keep them coming back.

The Eight Laws of Leadership by Elmer Towns

Making extraordinary leaders out of ordinary believers. This series comes with a book, notebook and audio cassettes.

The Testing of Your Faith by Dr. Bruce Wilkinson

There is no doubt that your life history has room for a discussion of tests and trials. But the real question is whether your theology has room for God's role in those tests. This video series will help you answer that all-important question!

Making the Most of Your Marriage by John Maxwell

In the midst of a culture that has lost its values and is lost in a sea of confusion, Dr. Maxwell provides a marital compass that will guide a marriage back to safe and peaceful waters.

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(C.E. Library continued from page 5)

While he doesn't promise marital bliss, he does confidently and clearly lay our guidelines for a strong marriage. This set has four videos.

How Big is God? by John Maxwell

Unleash the awesome power of the creator of the universe in your home, work, finances, marriage and community. This comes with a notebook and audio cassettes.

Dealing with Discouragements by John Maxwell

Life has a certain amount of discouragement. We may sense a lack of control, fear, and distance from God and others. Although we cannot escape certain circumstances, God offers a means of living above them. There is a way to experience hope, victory, and purpose in life - and that is what Dr. Maxwell teaches in this series.

Church Growth '97 by John Maxwell

This was the 21st Annual Mideast Conference held in Detroit, Michigan. Some of the ever popular speakers were: Sheryl Fleisher, Jill Briscoe, Stan Toler, Jack Hayford, Dan Reiland and Ken Davis.

Men at Work Power Tools by Myles Gentzkow

Our library receives a tape a month from Man Alive. Here are some of the titles we have received. "The High 5 of Relationships," "Downsizing My Life...Setting My Priorities," "Living Life with a Purpose," "Why Me, God," "I Don't Like Your Attitude," and "Being a Person of Passion."

If you wish to take any of these new resources out on loan please call our C.E. Department in Winchester, Ohio at (937)695-0025 and ask for Karen.

Seeing Christ

After Thorwaldsen had completed his famous statue of Christ, he brought a friend to see it. Christ's arms were outstretched, his head bowed between them. The friend said, "But I cannot see his face."

The sculptor replied, "If you want to see the face of Christ, you must get on your knees."