



Ministry in the Community of Believers

In Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic writing, **Life Together**, he writes a chapter about ministry in the community of believers. He opens the chapter by quoting Luke 9:46, "An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest." His point in opening with that passage is that "no Christian community ever comes together without this thought immediately emerging as a seed of discord." Because Christ brings together the rich and poor, talented and untalented, black and white, etc. we need to always beware that this evil thought can creep in, and once it does it is enough to destroy a fellowship.

So how does Bonhoeffer suggest we combat this divisive argument of "who is the greatest"? It is by everyone in the community of believers practicing certain forms of ministry. They are as follows:

- The Ministry of Holding One's Tongue
Paul writes to the Ephesians, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (4:29). As Bonhoeffer writes, "Often we combat our evil thoughts most effectively if we absolutely refuse to allow them to be expressed in words."
- The Ministry of Meekness
Romans 12:3 says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought..." This ministry manifests itself in seeking your neighbors' ambition and honor over your own.
- The Ministry of Helpfulness
Simply put, this is the simple assistance of others in trifling, external matters. There is no shortage of these matters in a community of believers. I love what the writer of Ecclesiastes says about help: "If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" (4:10).
- The Ministry of Bearing
Paul makes it clear that bearing the burdens of another is a mark of Christianity. He writes, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (6:2). Burdens are unavoidable. Bonhoeffer writes, "The brother is a burden to the Christian, precisely because he is a Christian."
- The Ministry of Proclaiming
As Bonhoeffer states, "What we are concerned with here is the free communication of the Word from person to person..." Whether it be in the form of encouragement or reproof, when Christians find themselves in a community of believers the time will inevitably come when the Word of God will need to be declared.

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Trusting in God

The story of Gideon is an interesting one. You can find it recorded in chapter six through chapter eight of the book of Judges.

When God calls Gideon to save all of Israel, Gideon basically says "How am I supposed to do that, I am one of the least important people in all of Israel." He then asked for a sign to make sure that it was really God who was talking to him. He doubted both himself and God.

Finally Gideon gets around to saving Israel from the Midianites, but before he does that he asks God for two different proofs that God was with him, and that God will really save Israel through Gideon. God obliges.

Gideon goes off to war, and God tells him that he has too many men. God whittles down Gideon's thirty-two thousand men to three hundred. With that three hundred men, God defeated the Midianite army of one hundred and thirty five thousand men. Gideon finally learned to trust in God.

What I find interesting in this story, is that God does not wait for Gideon to trust in him fully before sending him out to do his will. Gideon doubts and questions and wonders not only if God is still with Israel, but if God even keeps his word!

We all go through times of doubt just like Gideon. Don't forget that even through doubt, God has not abandoned you, nor will he stop loving, or using you for his will.

-Phil



Ted Holderfield had knee replacement surgery on both knees on Tuesday....**Rick Swensen** had cataract surgery Tuesday morning....**Beth Holt** has hand surgery on October 29....Continue praying for **Penny Stafford, Jeanette Tidrick, Sara Postlethwait, Kaden Koebecke, Roger Birky** (*in Heritage Healthcare*), **Thelma Hoyt, Bud Darby, Delores Hill, Clifford & Betty Farner, Annie Crowder, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Dorothy Walters, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene**

Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.

In the military: **Joe Newman** (*Naval training*), **Josh Martin** and **Brent Kaufman** are serving in Iraq.

Women's Ministry News...

- A **Women's Appreciation Luncheon** is this **Saturday, October 17, at 1:00 PM, in the A-2 fellowship room.** We will honor our ministers' wives—Kate Kerrigan, Sharon Porter, and Katy Travis—and recognize the women who have taught our children in 2008 and 2009. Come show your support and enjoy the fellowship. Sign-up sheets for food are available.
- There will be a **Women's Retreat Planning Committee meeting** this **Sunday, October 18,** during regular Bible classes (9:30-10:30) in the elders' conference room. All women are welcome to attend. We'll put in as many chairs as necessary.
- **Barb Newberry** is hosting a get-together for women at her home on **October 30, at 6:00 PM. Requirements:** bring your own 6" sub sandwich and a drink. She will furnish the rest of the food. Also, a **must:** come dressed in "**Halloween attire.**" Questions? See Barb.

(continued from front page)

- The Ministry of Authority

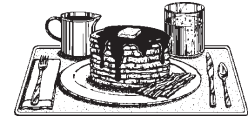
This one sounds odd since he is trying to combat the desire to be greatest in the community, but once you understand the context it makes more sense. He quotes Jesus in Mark 10:43 when he says, "*Whoever wants to become great among you must become your servant.*" For Bonhoeffer, authority is not based on title or power, but rather on brotherly service rendered to another. He writes, "*Genuine spiritual authority is to be found only where the ministry of hearing, helping, bearing and proclaiming is carried out.*"

I believe these are powerful reminders of how to live in community with one another. It would be hard for the desire to be greatest to creep in when everyone is ministering to each other in these ways.

-Gilbert



Men's Breakfast, November 7



Men, mark your calendars for the upcoming men's breakfast on **Saturday, November 7, at 7:43 AM until 8:59 AM.** Bring a friend, son, grandson, or neighbor.

Apple Pies for Lafayette Christian School

Wednesday, October 13, is Lafayette Christian School's **DUTCH APPLE PIE** fund-raiser. Volunteers are needed to turn almost 400 bushels of apples into 6,500 Dutch apple pies. Call 447-3052 if you would like to help.



Food
Pantry
Needs

The **food pantry** is always in need of personal

items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** These items are not available at the Food Bank.

October 11, 2009

Class: 152 Worship: 253

Contribution: \$9,460.25



Build Your PALLAS

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

I'm not telling you anything when I say that the attacks on the family continue. Every day, our families continue to face more and more challenges to accept the world's standards of right and wrong, of good and bad, and of acceptability. God and His Word are maligned, ridiculed and used in vain. What are we to do? How do you protect royalty? You and your family are royalty, you know... we are the King's kids. Kings used to build palaces to protect themselves and their families; maybe we should build a PALLAS (don't worry about the spelling - I'm from Texas, remember) for ours. Just in case some of you tend to be resourceful, yes I know that Pallas is a word - it is the name of the second largest asteroid discovered in 1802. The asteroid has nothing to do with protecting your family, so read on and humor me.

Make your families' PALLAS:

Protective - don't talk about your families' weaknesses or struggles to just anyone.

Accessible - make sure to stay open to and for each other.

Listeners - sometimes the best answers are no answers at all. We need a place where we know we can be heard. Turn off the computer, TV or radio, hang up the phone, and put down the paper.

Liberating - the kids will be leaving some day. Begin giving responsibility so trust can be established. Now is the time to train them to live apart from you.

Accepting - none of us are perfect. The family should be a place where the flaws are known and worked on, but not displayed for the world to see.

Supportive - be involved in each other's lives. Go to the games, the concerts, the presentations, even if it is not your favorite activity. You helped get your family member to this point in their life; help them enjoy the recognition.

Don't forget this doesn't just go for the family you live in the same house with. These things should be in place for your extended family and your spiritual family as well.

- Lee



October Prayer Focus: The Spirit Within Us

Help us to ask that we will allow the spirit within us to guide us toward serving others. Pray that the spirit will challenge us and convict us to be more loving Christians.

Prayer Partners

Please let your partner know that you are their prayer partner. Thank you for praying that Jesus guides and grows your partner. Ephesians 3:16-19 might be verses you would want to pray for your partner.

-Christi Branstetter

Shults-Lewis



Milk Money Contribution

One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. That collection will be **Sunday, November 8**. That day **Ray Crowder**, the Shults-Lewis director, will speak to the combined adult classes at 9:30. Remember that Shults-Lewis provides a safe, loving environment to children who otherwise would have no home or anyone to care for their needs.



October 14, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

October 17, 1:00 PM...Women's Appreciation Luncheon

October 30, 6:00 PM...Women are invited to Barb

Newberry's home for Halloween fun and fellowship

November 7, 7:43 AM...Men's Breakfast at Elmwood

November 8...Shults-Lewis Milk Money contribution;

Ray Crowder, from Shults-Lewis, will speak to the combined adult classes at 9:30

December 12...Christmas For Everyone distribution day

Read:
Lamentations 1-3; Prov. 25-31; John 6:25-8:59

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 44: October 26-November 1

Lamentations 2

Honesty is the best policy. Do we believe this? The author of Lamentations certainly does. The main feature of this chapter is unbridled anger at God. Unrestrained accusations are hurled at God for his pitiless attack on Jerusalem. Such language often makes us very uncomfortable. Many people believe such expressions of anger have no place in our prayers and religious speech. But a closer look at scripture reveals that this notion is inconsistent with biblical faith. For example, Jesus' words on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" bear witness to the validity of lament.

In lament, the speaker's anger is not blasphemous. Rather, it is the language of fidelity. In a flood of honesty, the speaker — in a radical act of faith — shouts out to God while drowning in the pain and agony of life. Faith, if it is to be faith, can never let go of God. God must be taken seriously, even when he seems far away or the cause of the present suffering. Faith shouts and complains that our relationship with God is fractured and collapsing. Faith holds on to the belief that nothing about human life is inappropriate for divine action. If God is to be God, he must act. At its deepest level, faithful lament is the risky belief that God is the God of justice, who — if he can be made to see — must act in justice restoring the world and his people. Walter Brueggemann notes that if we cannot challenge the *governance* of the world, then we cannot challenge the *governors* of the world. If the church has lost the capacity to bring radical discontent, protest, and anger before God, it denies the reality of the world. It will have lost its capacity to feel the injustice of this world and to bring it before a God who will see justice done *on Earth as it is in heaven*. Protest against injustice and oppression is at the very heart of prayer. As Paul says in Romans, when we don't know what to say, the Spirit "intercedes with groanings too deep for words." Only an honest, daring, and forthright heart can truly groan at the place where the world is in its deepest pain.

—David Hunt

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions	
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Joe Ruhl 463-6822 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774	
	<th>Staff</th> <td></td>	Staff	
	Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874		

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