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TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

December 17, 1989

THE CHARITY OF SHARING

A long time ago someone said, "A bone to a dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are as hungry as the dog." If this is a true definition, I am afraid few of us have known much about charity.

What have we ever done without in order that others might have the necessities of life? What have we ever shared with others that we needed about as much as the person did with whom we shared it? Of course we all realized much of this kind of service is never known but by those who do the sharing and those who receive the blessing. Hence it is not ours to say that much of it is not going on, but you know whether you have engaged in this kind of charity or not.

There are many people who need our help. In order for them to have it we must sacrifice time, effort, and money. Every person does not need assistance in the way others might need it. Some are hungry. Some are distressed. Some are lost. It was the Lord's intention that these people be helped. The only people who are influenced to help them with the proper motive are those who belong to the Lord. If they do not come to their aid no one can be expected to do so. It seems rather odd to think that there are hungry people in a land of so much. But it is true. We do not have to go far to find them. Of course, we may reason that there is no reason for anyone being hungry. But, strange as it may seem, the Lord did not discuss this phase of the subject. He taught us to relieve their hunger and left it there. Whether they were worthy or not did not enter the discussion. The souls hungry are with us always. The pitiful thing about them is the fact that they do not know for what they are hungering. They not only need to be fed but we must see that they receive the proper diet. Because they do not know what is best for them we must do what we know is best. Thousands within our own shadows are hungering for the spiritual food that we alone are able to give them.

Not only do people need our help, but we need to help them. Jesus once said "it is more blessed to give than to receive." He was thinking in terms of the blessings to be received from sharing with others. Only those who have shared with others can understand this. We may think we understand it when we read it but such understanding comes from living. The greatest joys to be had on earth are not those that come to us but those that come to others through us. To be the medium of God's grace in this manner is a blessing that is so great it stands alone. We are what we are more because of what we have shared with others than by anything else. The most useful and winsome people on earth are those who have shared a part of themselves in making others happy.

Real charity pleases God. Not only does it please Him but it brings happiness into our own lives that even death cannot take away.

-Cleon Lyles

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INVITATION

- December 29, 1989 at 6:30 the marriage of Jenell Miller and Mike Sprunger will take place at the LaGrange Church of Christ.
Everyone Invited
If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board with your name and number of persons planning to attend.

AND THE LORD ADDED

- Dale Johnston was baptized into Christ on Tuesday evening.
Welcome to the family!

CARE GROUP

- Fred & Penny Oakley's care group will be meeting at the Gensic's today after morning services.

FAREWELL

- This evening there will be a Farewell Fellowship for Bill and Sharon Pepito and family immediately following evening assembly.

YOUTH LEADER

- Joe Hughes will be heading up the Youth Group for this next year.

PRAYERS

- Diane Kimpel had outpatient surgery on Friday. She's doing good, and will know results Wednesday.
- Francis Springer fell and broke her toe and also hurt her hip.
- Mike Swihart's grandfather is in the hospital.
- Jesse Pieratt is in the hospital with pneumonia.
- Sharon Simpson is in the LaGrange Hospital with bronchitis.
- Judy's father, Ray Boyle, recovering from heart problems.
- Gay Ray doing pretty good, but still has some bad days.
- Margaret Tucker officially retired now due to arm problems.
- Remember to pray for these as you go to your Father in prayer this week and also remember to thank Him for all our answered prayers.

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"If you feel that you are living farther from God; just remember that you are the one who has moved."

"Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love to Him."

"Too many people have steam shovel ears; they are always picking up dirt."

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