



## *The Lord's Mountain Mover's* **NEWSLETTER**

*"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."*  
(Matt. 17:20)

August 2018

Issue 0047

### **A SENSE OF SERVICE**

Have you ever noticed someone that is continually helping others in some form or fashion? They don't seem to bring any attention to themselves by their words or deeds. Most often we find ourselves asking the question, who is that person? They tend to always put others before themselves and find such great satisfaction in serving. They don't need a lot of supervision and have this innate ability to know not only what to do, but when, where, and how to do it. It is as if they are driven by some unseen force. The fact is, they are. The Holy Spirit is that driving force.

I had the incredible experience to witness so many men who possessed this characteristic. While serving as the chapel clerk for almost four years in Tehachapi, California, God placed many of these types of individuals in our congregation. I will not name names as I believe that would bring them into focus and not their selfless service for God and His kingdom. Those who had eyes to see, know who these individuals were, and more importantly, God knows!

These men spent countless hours, sweeping, mopping, dusting and organizing just so others could enjoy a clean church at every service or bible study. There were those who dug in the dirt with their bare hands, weeding and planting so the area around the chapel looked peaceful and inviting. Others spent time organizing the library and handout racks, so men could find and utilize the resources that were available. Some used their God-given artistic talent to make flyers, posters, banners and other items that decorated the chapel walls and invited others to come and join us in worshipping the God of all creation.

I never saw these individuals looking around to see what others were doing or not doing, they just went about their God-inspired, and God-directed labor of love. I also never heard any of them complaining about what they were doing, nor did they care that nobody seemed to take notice of what they had done. They were truly, servants of God and not servants of themselves.

I purposely didn't mention those who sacrificed many hours practicing and putting together the worship music or those who studied diligently to preach and teach God's truth through His word. These individuals spent their time in front of the congregation and were seen by many. My focus is not on them, but on those who were seldom seen yet the benefits of their sacrificial service was experienced by all who daily entered the doors of our chapel. These men worked not only behind the scenes but were also unpaid volunteers.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth, exhorts us to follow his example of service and sacrifice by saying, *"therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me."* (1 Corinthians 4:16) also *"Be imitators*

*of me, just as I also am of Christ.*” (1 Corinthians 11:1) Paul is trying to get fellow believers to begin or refocus their lives onto things that are important to God and His kingdom.

I want to point out that Paul makes an important distinction in the second verse above when he says, “*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*” There should never be a time when we, as Christians, make ourselves out to be the center of attention, the end goal of Christian character or Christlikeness. We are merely to be imitators of Christ. Our example can be an inspiration to others who are seeking the same high calling. When someone stands between God and another believer portraying themselves to be the all-in-all, they have become a hinderance to God and placed themselves in a precarious position of impending judgement from God. In the Old Testament those who dared to take on the role of the High priest were dealt with swiftly and severely. Imagine the consequences for those who stand in Christ’s position.

In Paul’s letter to the Philippians he writes, “*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything, worthy of praise, dwell on these things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.*” (Philippians 4:8-9) Paul knew the benefits of seeking after these things. He also knew that these things take practice to become part of who we are so doing them would become as natural as breathing. If we would only strive for truth, through God’s word, then our decision making will become easier. Not only that, but that which is honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent and praiseworthy will naturally follow from seeking after that same truth.

We would also be able to recognize right from wrong instantly and not have to spend our time analyzing when we could be doing. How many opportunities to serve or reflect Christ to others have we missed because we needed to spend so much time trying to figure out, what we should do, what should we say, when is this the right time and the right place? That’s why Paul says that we should “*dwell*” on these things.

The Greek word used here for “*dwell*” is *logizomai*, meaning to take an inventory i.e. estimate. It is also translated; think, impute, reckon, count, account, suppose, reason and number, in other parts of scripture. In my understanding, it goes beyond merely taking notice of something, but to deliberately evaluate to enable some application of what is being looked at. It is like a contractor estimating the time and materials needed to complete a certain job, this is done so they can submit a proposal to a likely customer for the completion of the job.

The point I am trying to make is that gaining knowledge of something merely for the sake of the knowledge is short-sighted and of little use to anyone, including the person who gains this knowledge. Knowledge must include an application phase, or it is no better than an unopened dictionary or Bible. It has some contents, but what good is it? That’s why Paul says in the last part of Philippians 4:9, “*practice these things.*” The Greek word used here for “*practice*” is *prasso*, a verb meaning to perform repeatedly or habitually.

The Apostle Paul calls us to look at the Christlike characteristics that he lived out. He wants us to take notice of the things that Christ had done in and through him. He wants us to look beyond the man Paul

to the person of Jesus Christ, the One he was trying to emulate. The value in doing this would help those who had never seen or heard of Christ to see the Savior, know His gospel, to seek and follow His image in their own lives.

I look back on the selfless service of those men who served with me during those four wonderful years and I am reminded of who I am supposed to be and what I should be doing now. I remember the sacrificial attitude they possessed and see Christ hanging on the cross. As I reflect on how their daily service always pointed toward Christ, I am humbly reminded that Christ always pointed to the Father. They never had to profess with their mouths that they were Christians, their work for His kingdom continues to loudly echo through time, these are *My servants with whom I am well pleased*. They were living out the Proverb that says, *“Let another man’s lips praise you and not your own; a stranger, and not your own lips.”* (Proverbs 27:2)

I thank God for these examples in my life. They were, and continue to be, a guiding light and inspiration for me to pick my game up where it is lacking. We should strive to reflect Christ to other Christians and to those who have not heard of our glorious Lord and Savior. If my daily life does not reflect the things Paul talked about in Philippians 4:8-9, then why would anyone else want to be what I claim to be, or why would God use me to further His kingdom? Paul gives us all a wonderful promise at the end of these verses, *“practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”* Now that’s a promise I can live with!

May God open our eyes to His servants around us and help us to imitate their godliness in our lives, so others may do the same with the Christ in us. Let’s pass on Christ with our actions and let others take notice without us tooting our own horn. There is always something for us to work on, some area that needs improvement. I pray that we find satisfaction and peace in doing our service towards others and for God and not in being noticed. May the peace of God be with you and I in this journey toward holiness.

God bless you all

*Pastor Pete*

## **BE A BARNABAS** (Acts 4:36)

*“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* Romans 12:20

After reading what Pete wrote for this month’s newsletter, I find it rather fascinating what God had given me to share just so happened to be on the same topic. Coincidence? I don’t think so.

This message is something that I have been meditating on for quite some time and really would appreciate feedback. What do you think? Yes, I want to hear from you, if you don’t mind writing and sharing your thoughts with me.

For the past couple of months at work I have been working on a big project. One of the biggest that I have ever been able to work on since I started metal fabricating back in 1994. Here is the thing. It is a decorative piece for an enemy of the church. A Mosque is being built in this area and the builder asked us to bid on some of the parts their client wanted to adorn their worship center. We bid on these pieces and were awarded the job sometime later. Now I had to make the parts, or rather I got to build something so beautiful, I was grateful for the opportunity, but at the same time I was saddened that I was building them for the enemy's camp. Normally, I do not do much in the way of actual fabrication, usual just the sales part, so this was something I only worked on when I had spare time.

I spent over 3 months to complete the build, which gave me a lot of time to meditate and talk to God about what I was doing. The whole time I felt as I usually do, when I am doing my work, I do my best because ultimately my service is always to God. Thinking of this verse I had to memorize in a Bible study: "*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Colossians 3:23-24*

Yet at the same time my conscience would wrestle with this verse. Thinking, did God mean that only for the believers that we serve? Or unbelievers too? Even our enemies, enemies of Christ? God is always working on us to grow, even when it means He will have us serve our enemies, whomever they might be. We know that through the love of God and respect we show our enemies, our enemy might just be converted to be a friend and brother. If our hearts are troubled, God knows it better than we do. At the beginning of this article I quoted Romans 12:20, which is actually quoting Proverbs 25:22 "*For you will heap burning coals on his head, And the Lord will reward you."* We need to remember God rewards obedience, even without our full understanding of His purpose. We may wrestle with what is right or what is wrong even when we have a good working knowledge of His word. Knowledge, like Pete said, isn't enough. It is the proper application of it into action that is most important.

So, tell me, what would you have done? Why? Or why not? You don't have to tell me if you don't want to. But I would like to encourage you to talk to each other or God about what you think and how you would act in something like this situation. God bless you and may we continue to glorify His name together!

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

### **How would you like to bless and encourage someone?**

We would love to receive your testimony of how God has impacted your life in the past or present. God does things in our lives not only to bless us, but to be an inspiration to others who may be facing some of the same circumstances you have. Please keep your testimony to one page or less. We look forward to seeing and sharing God working in your life. If you send something you need to have back, we will be glad to return it to you, just let us know.



## *Our Prayer Requests for God's Children*

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. We are currently posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over the world can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered.

What a privilege we have, to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let us keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month's newsletter and/or posted on the ministry website, please fill out the form below and mail it to us. Previous prayer requests are still there on the website for people to read. We are wondering if your prayer has been answered yet? Send us your praise reports! We want to know and share it with everyone else who reads the newsletter, so keep us updated. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior.

**Please note:** We ask that you keep your prayer requests short and to the point using the prayer request form. We cannot print many pages of hand written requests, bible tracks, lengthy stories and Bible scripture.

### July - August 2018 Prayer List

Rosalind K. ....Pray that the Lord will heal my spleen.

Joanne R.....We pray for a successful back surgery and speedy recovery.

Donald A.....Pray for Chaplain Helerbent for "G" Yard to get off of lockdown and have a revival and Chapel services again.

Juan S.....Prayer for myself, my Wife Luz R. cleaning, protection, healing, reconciliation and ask to destroy all assignments of darkness against us. I pray that my wife to be liberated from all witch craft and I pray she comes back renewed / revived in the power of God, Son and Holy Spirit.

Raymond W ...I request prayer for everyone on this prayer list. I pray that God will let me one day go home. I thank God for my life, even while in custody. In His Name

Michael S .....I request prayer that God would reveal to me any hinderance in my walk and that He removes anything that He did not create in me. That I have a heart of humility and contrition. Prayers for my wife "Angela" that God anoint her from head to toe with the blood of Jesus. For our children and their faith. For the brothers and sisters of the world.

That God protects them. That our faith be combined and together rebuke Satan. Love to my siblings in Christ in Jesus, Amen!

Mar C .....Prayer for healing after a fall, broken ribs and collapsed lung. Pray for a fast recovery.

Michael S .....I request prayer for my walk and to continue to grow in faith. Also, that my prison sentence be shortened, For my family and their safety. For my wife “Angela” stays in our marriage. That all non-believers become unmuted and unblinded by Satan so that they can become believers, that any strongholds that Satan has on me that God binds them and that He becomes my stronghold. Also, for your ministry that God allows it to prosper and he blesses every brother and sister involved. In Jesus name, Amen.

Dave G .....Prayer for continued safety. Continue prayer for deliverance through the appeal and to be reunified with my children. They are all grown now. Please pray for their salvation.

Richard D .....Prayer as he goes through some medical issues, three family members have taken their own life. Pray for the surviving family’s healing. Please keep him in pray as he transitions to a facility. Also, for Richard to be strong, kind and humble as he moves to a new living environment. Pray that Robert G. to find peace inside these concrete walls and electric fence, and for his Mom- Kids and Family.

Yolanda .....“The Cable Lady” asks for prayer for her people and her situation. God knows what she needs as we reach out for her to be uplifted in the Lord.

Robert G .....Prayer for the Griller, Solorio, Latner, Brown & Griffin Families that God Strengthen and comfort all of these families and draw those who don’t know Him close unto Him. Asking for prayer for Richard D’s., daughter’s safety and that they be able to write him more. Also pray for Linda L. that God comforts her as she battles cancer and she stays surrounded by family & Christian family during this trying time.

Aimee P .....Prayer for relief from Multiple Sclerosis and her comfort and for her to draw nearer to Christ throughout this trial.

Thomas G .....Prayer for God to restore him to his family and keep him healthy. Pray for his children and grandchildren’s safety and salvation.

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The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website      Yes    No

Place request in Newsletter            Yes    No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

Mail to: The Lord's Mountain Movers, PO Box 1211, Boulevard, CA 91905-0311

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