

# THE ENCOURAGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUDSON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## God's Guide to Getting Along



Relationships are hard. There is no getting around it. We are sinful, broken people, and we make a lot of messes. We can hardly get along with ourselves, so is it any wonder that we have trouble getting along with others?

Yet, our lives are filled with relationships that give opportunity for break-down in communication. Most of us can identify with conflict in the home, either the one we grew up in or the one we live in now. We struggle with bosses, co-workers, and employees. Some of whom seem to be on a mission to make our lives miserable. Many a young convert has been disillusioned to find that relationships remain difficult even within the church. Even Barnabas and Paul who had been partners in the very first missionary trip had a disagreement so sharp that they ended up setting out on two different missionary trips, each with a new partner.

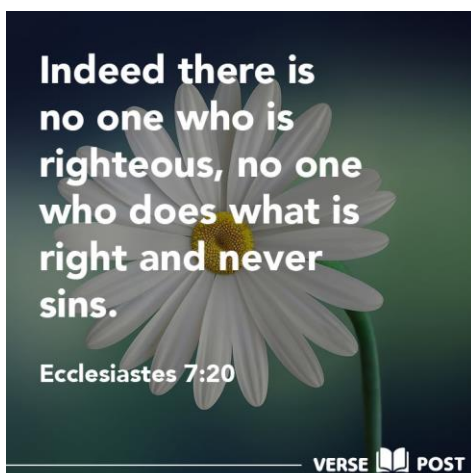
Despite all of this potential conflict, we are programmed with a desire for harmony. After all, that is the condition we were originally created for. Add to that, we as Christians have a special charge from God to live at peace with all people, and especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fortunately, God's Holy Word is chock full of instruction about how to have mature relationships that are characteristically different than the typical brokenness and division we find in the world. Whoever searches these instructions out and puts them into practice will be a blessing to others, be a peace-maker in whatever context they are in, have a peace of mind that cannot be robbed from them, and will bring glory to God and display the Gospel of Grace.

We all know the Bible's prohibition against gossip and division. Those verses are all throughout the Scriptures for obvious reason. As Proverbs puts it: "For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases."

When there is nobody stoking the fires of conflict, even disagreements can settle into a peaceful unity. Barnabas and Paul, after all, remained friends and coworkers in the faith, and Paul continued to hold him in high regard.

Not talking bad about each other is the low-hanging fruit of unity, and it is one that we should all carefully guard ourselves to put into practice. However, gossip is going to happen. It likely will come out of our own mouths! That leads to another important truth found in Scripture; **unity requires far more than a list of relational do's and don'ts. It requires an attitude of grace and understanding. It requires a willingness to let things go.** The author of Ecclesiastes put it this way:



*There is not a just man who does good  
And does not sin.  
Also do not take to heart everything people say,  
Lest you hear your servant cursing you.  
For many times, also, your own heart has known  
That even you have cursed others. (Ec 7:20-22)*

Solomon reminds us that every single one of us is a sinner. When the world is divided into “good guys” and “bad guys,” we are all in the same group. Rotten.

Since that is the case, he encourages us to not take too seriously the grumbings people make about us, because who of us hasn't grumbled about someone else? Who of us hasn't grumbled about even our favorite people in the world?! Why let things like that ruin our friendships?

Not to mention, as Charles Spurgeon observed, “If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him, for you are worse than he thinks you to be.”

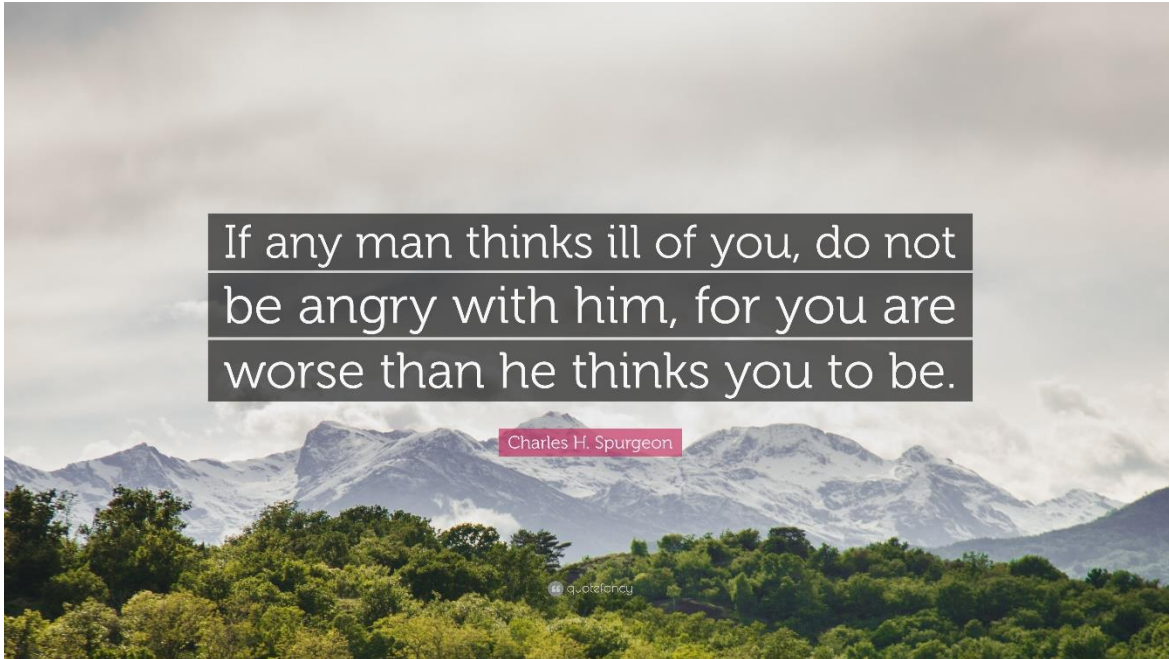


Photo courtesy of quotefancy.com

What Solomon applies to gossip can be applied more broadly to every kind of sin. For every sin we observe in someone else we can ask, “Have I done that?” And the answer, when we understand that Jesus considers the root of sin not just the expression of it, is “yes.” We can each say “I’ve been there,” and if we are honest, we can probably say, “I’m still there” to one degree or another.

The Bible tells us that there is no sin except that which is common to man. Whatever sin there is, we share that in common in our fallen nature. So what does this have to do with unity? Forgiving others should come naturally to those who have to ask for it so often!

For us to live out the unity that Christ has called us to, we must let go of whatever past grievances we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It will do us no good to say we have forgiven, and to remain suspicious and distrusting of one another, always ready to bring back the list of past grievances. Such a “forgiveness” is to deceive ourselves and to fall short of the love and forgiveness we have received.

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,*

*“All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord endures forever.”*

*And this is the word that was preached to you. Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*(1 Pe 1:22–2:3) NIV (2011)*

-Pastor Brandon Current



## Summary of the Deacons & Elders Meeting July 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. The members present were Brandon Current, Donnie McKinley, Dave McGraw, and Larry Dowden. The meeting was opened in prayer by Donnie McKinley. The April 19, 2018, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. This fiscal year to date \$17,500 has been transferred into the general fund from the Fred and Ethel Humphries Memorial Fund account to meet expenses. The overall expenses are within the budgeted amount or below except building repairs and maintenance, however giving is more than 20 percent below the budgeted amount.

### Team Reports:

- Building –
  1. South door lock - The company that installed the lock has been contacted.
  2. Parking lot repair and sealing – This is in the planning process for July or August.
  3. Baby changing stations – We now have several babies and changing stations are approved to be ordered and installed in both upstairs bathrooms.
  4. Maintenance and Repairs list – Any further repairs will be postponed temporarily due to budget constraints.
- Missions – There was discussion regarding future HCC visits to our supported missions and establishing improved connections with those missions. It was agreed that Brandon should take over the lead of the missions committee.
- Food Pantry – The HCC food pantry has been selected for Schnuck's "Bags 4 My Cause Program" again.
- Farm Trust – We have received communication from the farm trustees about status of the farm trust. Property taxes and the farm manager have been paid and current account balances were presented.

Brandon gave his Pastor's report.

New Business: Brandon's annual review was completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and closed in prayer by Brandon Current.



Photo courtesy of Liftedfaith.com

### Missions Team Meeting

August 12, 2018 – 12:00 noon

**The Missions Team meeting is open to anyone who would like to meet and hear updates about our missions and pray over their current needs.**

**We also have a couple missions that are in need of a sponsor to be the main contact from our church.**

**Pizza will be provided for lunch.**

# Tell Me The Story... "Send The Light"



Let us pray that grace  
may everywhere abound  
Send the Light!  
Send the Light!

Photo courtesy of pinterest.com

## Send the Light CHRISTIAN MISSIONS 437

Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932

Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932

1. There's a call comes ring - ing o'er the rest-less wave, "Send the light!  
2. We have heard the Mac - e - do - nian call to - day, "Send the light!  
3. Let us pray that grace may ev - ery-where a-bound; Send the light!  
4. Let us not grow wea - ry in the work of love, Send the light!

Send the light! There are souls to res - cue, there are souls to save,  
Send the light! And a gold - en of - fering at the cross we lay,  
Send the light! And a Christ-like spir - it ev - ery-where be found,  
Send the light! Let us gath - er jew - els for a crown a - bove.

Send the light!

REFRAIN

Send the light! Send the light! Send the light! the  
Send the light! Send the light! Send the light!

1  
bless - ed gos - pel light; Let it shine from shore to  
the bless - ed gos - pel light; Let it shine

2  
shore! from shore to shore! shine Let it shine for - ev - er - more.  
from shore to shore! Let it shine for - ev - er - more.

Courtesy of Hymnary.org

Charles Gabriel grew up in Iowa, living on a farm until age 17. Even in childhood, he was drawn toward music; when his family purchased a small reed organ, he taught himself to play it. With his parents' encouragement, he was leading singing schools by age 16. He married, but because of his frantic schedule of traveling and teaching music, his marriage failed. In 1887, he moved to California to get a new start, and soon he remarried.

In 1890, he began working in San Francisco. That spring, when the Sunday school superintendent came to him asking for a missionary hymn for Easter Sunday to highlight a Golden Offering, Gabriel wrote "Send the Light." It was sung with enthusiasm that day, March 6, 1890, and a visiting missionary representative who liked the words carried the hymn back to the East.

The immediate popularity of "Send the Light" propelled Gabriel to prominence in the hymn-writing community. Once before, he tried supporting himself by writing hymns, but failed. Now he tried again. Within two years, he was in Chicago, devoting his life full time to writing and publishing hymns.

In all, Gabriel edited 35 gospel songbooks, eight Sunday school songbooks, seven books for men's chorus, six for women, ten for children, 19 collections of anthems, and 23 cantatas. Charles Gabriel lived from 1856 to 1932.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on September 5th.

Prayer will start at 5:30 p.m. and class will start as 6 p.m. Bill Brown will be leading a study on the topic of Fear for several weeks. Please come see what God has to say about it in his Word!

Our mid-week Bible studies are one of our primary avenues of discipleship here at HCC. I hope you all will arrange your schedules to not miss out on this opportunity for God to shape our hearts!

Wednesdays  
in the  
Word

Growing your life in the Word of God

Photo courtesy of Zion.org



Photo courtesy of SMC.com

## Join the Adult Sunday School Class at 11:00 a.m. downstairs to discover what the Bible teaches about:

### Tithing: An Obedient Response to a Gracious God – Malachi 3:7-10a-12

What have you been taught about tithing?  
 Why is obedience in the area of giving so challenging?  
 Why is giving such an important discipline for spiritual growth?  
 What are the benefits of Christian giving in the life of the church?

### Nehemiah: Building a Life of Service – Nehemiah 1:1-5:13

#### Pray: Pour Out Your Heart to God in Prayer

What helps you become aware of the needs around you?  
 What do we learn about Nehemiah from his prayer?  
 What principles can we learn from Nehemiah about making requests of God?

#### Plan: Serving God Requires Intentionality – Nehemiah – 2:1-8, 17-18

How can you tell an opportunity is from the Lord?  
 How can Nehemiah's example of planning help us approach our own God-given tasks?  
 What sometimes holds us back from asking others to help?

#### Persist: Doing God's Work Brings Out Detractors and Opposition - Nehemiah – 4:1-3, 6-9, 14-18

What characteristics or promises of God help us to persist?  
 How can we maintain our focus on God's work in the face of opposition?  
 What does it look like for us to work with one hand and resist opposition with the other?  
 How can we support each other when one of us is experiencing opposition and adversity?



Photo courtesy of Trinity Western University

## Seeking a Prayer Coordinator

We have an open area of ministry that we are actively seeking someone to take on as their calling in the church. This individual would collect and communicate new prayer requests to deliver to Tina. They will follow up on existing prayer requests, collecting updates and **praying with** the individuals who have made the request. They will be the primary contact person who sends out emergency prayer requests through the church's automated phone system.

We believe this ministry would be a great encouragement to our members and help elevate those requests which are so dear to our hearts. If you are interested in serving this way, please talk to Pastor Brandon.

# August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August Birthdays</b></p> <p>Karen Brown 8/2                      Donnie McKinley 8/8                      Bill Brown 8/9                      Dave Taylor 8/14                      Margaret Meyer 8/20                      Cheryl Johnson 8/26                      Judy Beverage 8/28</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11:45 a.m. <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowship Potluck</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Preparation Day</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Deacons/Elders Meeting followed by Spiritual Focus Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 <b>Food Pantry Distribution Day</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>12:00 p.m. <b>Missions Team Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	