

Welcome Back!
Jacob Machengete
Today's Speaker

What a Commendation!!

"I have had great joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you."

-Paul Commends Philemon-

March Birthdays

28 Sandra Jones

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

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Affirmation

By Lance Cordle

Humans need it. We want others to give it freely, not grudgingly. We want it to come without prompting and we would love for it to happen on a regular basis. However, most of us are of such disposition we do not need it every day or, for that matter, every week...but we do need it. What is "it?" The answer is affirmation—the acknowledgement by someone outside ourselves, that we are needed, wanted and valued for our unique contribution to their life.

The apostle Paul was a master of affirmation. Just a quick glance at the New Testament books which are his letters to churches and individuals will confirm this. As you look over the following verses, note the phrases of affirmation (in **bold**, for my emphasis):

- *"Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in the Lord, who **risked their necks for me**..." (Romans 16:3, 4)*
- *"I rejoice at the coming of Stephanus and Fortunatus and Achaicus...For they **refreshed my spirit as well as yours**..." (1 Corinthians 16: 17, 18)*
- *"... Tychicus the **beloved brother and faithful minister** in the Lord will tell you everything." (Ephesians 6:21).*
- *"**I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy.**" (Philippians 1:3, 4)*
- *"For I bear him (Epaphras) witness that **he has worked hard for you** and for those in Laodicea and in Hieropolis." (Colossians 4:13)*
- *"To Timothy, **my beloved child**" (2 Timothy 1:2)*
- *"To Titus, **my true child in a common faith**..." (Titus 1:4)*

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

He greeted, complimented, and encouraged those to whom he wrote. He mentioned names of people whom he admired and appreciates and was not showy or dramatic in his affirmation.

You and I can follow Paul's example. We can do so in writing, just as he did with a few well-chosen words. It can also be done personally, with a touch, handshake or hug. All it takes is the courage to push those words past our lips. One such sentence could be, "I am glad you are my . . ." (You fill in the blank with friend, wife, husband, son, daughter, teacher, etc.)\

What Should We See?

By Tom Moore

There is a story of a beggar who was sitting across the street from an artist's studio. The artist saw him and thought he would make an interesting portrait study. So, from a distance he painted the defeated man whose shoulders drooped, and whose eyes were downcast and sad. When he was finished, he took the portrait over to the beggar so he could look at it. "Who is that?" the beggar questioned. The painting bore a slight resemblance to himself, but in the painting before him he saw a person of dignity, with squared shoulders and bright uplifted eyes, almost handsome. He asked the artist, "Is that me? I don't look like that." But the artist replied, "But that is the person I see in you."

Hidden in all of us is potential. We have the ability to perform great accomplishments and opportunities to make a difference. But our greatest potential of all is described by John: "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure*" (1 John 3:1-3). There is the amazing potential in all to be called the sons of God and to be like Jesus. We can approach this spiritual potential through our obedience to the commands of

God (Hebrews 5:9). Perhaps we see failure—but God sees potential! What should we see?

The Power Of Our Silent Influence

By Mike Riley

On a recent beautiful warm Saturday morning, a Christian friend and I were having breakfast at a local restaurant. At a nearby table, we noticed a young woman sitting quietly reading her Bible. She was absorbed in the text, occasionally looking up to consider what she had read. She never said a word, but her heart and priorities were visible to everyone in that restaurant. It was a gentle, positive, and silent influence.

She was not ashamed of Christ nor of His New Testament (Hebrews 9:11-15 KJV). She neither preached a sermon nor sang a song. She was willing to be identified with the Savior, yet she did not need to announce that allegiance.

In our attempts to share the message of Jesus, we must eventually use words, because ultimately words are needed to present the gospel (John 14:23; Acts 2:14 KJV; Acts 11:11-14 KJV; Acts 16:14 ESV; 2 Peter 3:1-2 KJV; Jude 1:17 KJV). But we can also learn from the example of this woman.

However, there are times when the quietness of our everyday actions speak louder than our words, revealing our love for the Lord (Philippians 1:21-27). In our desire to share Christ with a sinful world, let's not ignore the power of our silent influence.

"For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sakes. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word during great affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place the news of your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8