

Thank you...Thome West  
Speaker for today

### Help One Another

*“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up!”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

### Listen to God

*“The Lord...is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”*

2 Peter 3:9

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

#### Regular Meeting Times

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

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

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

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

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# Indio Informer

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*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

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### An Amazing Race

By Bruce Evans

Los Angeles will be front and center July 14th through July 30th, 2028 as the city will host the Olympics. Over that fortnight athletic human drama will be played out time and time again. However, I doubt if any of it could match the scene that occurred during the 5,000-meter race at the Rio Olympics of 2016. About 3,200 meters into the race, Nikki Hamblin of New Zealand and Abbey D’Agostino from the United States collided. Both fell to the track. Abbey hurried to her feet but then reached down to help Nikki. A brief time later, Abbey began to slow down due to a knee injury she suffered in the fall.

Now, the shoe was on the other foot, whereas moments before Abbey was imploring Nikki “to get up! Get up! We have to finish!”, now Nikki, multiple times urged Abbey to keep going. They stumbled their way to the finish line, two minutes behind the winner; D’Agostino was in last place while Hamblin was second to last. These two women who had trained for years to compete in the Olympics displayed the ultimate in sportsmanship. They were awarded with the Pierre de Coubertin medal which has been given only seventeen times in Olympic history as a result of their selfless act on behalf of one another. They didn’t do it or any

sort of recognition. They did it because it was the right thing to do. It was done spontaneously.

Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes notes the following as seen in chapter four and verses nine through ten. *“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up!”* As children of God, we are runners in a spiritual race, and we do need one another. But we’re not in competition with one another, nevertheless, see what Paul wrote to the Corinthians *“run in such a way that you may win.”* (1Corinthians 9:24) He goes on to further note, *“Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim...”* (1Corinthians 9:26) It is as if we are members of the same team, which indeed we are. Inasmuch as we are joined together in Christ and are running the same race, there will be times when we lack focus, strength and endurance; we will begin to wobble and find self in dire need of another to lift us up. Then again, we may need to reach out and render support and encouragement to another. We need one another in order to be able to finish the race set before us.

Note again what Paul pens. *“Therefore, encourage one another, and build one up one another, just as you also are doing.”* (1Thessalonians 5:11) *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Now think back to Abbey D’Agostino and Nikki Hamblin and how they picked up one another and finished the course together. Spiritually speaking we have the same challenge set before us. Anyone of us, at any time could *“grow weary and lose heart”* as seen expressed in Hebrews 12:3. However

with the encouragement derived from one another we will be able to press forward. *“Not that I have already grasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 3:12-14)

Solomon was right when he wrote *“two are better than one”*. For indeed *“woe to the one who falls and there is not another to lift him up.”*

### **Does God Have Our Attention?**

Excerpts from article by Travis Main

God has used various methods of trying to get our attention throughout time. When mankind sinned in the Garden, He got their attention by providing dire consequences (Gen 3). Pain in childbirth was increased, the ground was cursed, man had to work to eat, and after his days, he would return to the dust. Man was hopefully saying at this time, “Wow! There is no way I am going to mess up again!” Unfortunately, man continued in sin and God had to continue to grab their attention to get them on the right path.

Today, God has given us His Word, the Bible, to get our attention, not to be ignored. This gives us a message of the blessings and curses of God. Properly paid attention to, it will lead us to eternal life. Ignored, it will seal our destruction as those in the days of Noah (Genesis 6-9). It is a message the entire world has received in complete since the first century (Jude 1:3, Galatians 1:6-10). God is a patient God. He does not want to see us perish (Isaiah 30:18, John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9). However, we have to pay attention.

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