

Heartbeat

True Community Requires Serving One Another

By Pastor Scott Roberts

Imagine a group of people who knew of the needs of others, but then never acted to meet those needs. Would such a group be deserving of the noun *community*? Now imagine a group of people who learned of the needs of others, either because those needs were shared or because someone noticed that a need existed, and then the group came together



and met that need in a tangible act of loving service. Undoubtedly, it's not the first group, but the second group that deserves to call itself a community.

Why does one deserve the title *community* and the other does not? The answer lies in the way the

members who know about a need respond to the need. True communities are not just places where people share their needs with one another, but also where those who learn about the needs are willing to give of themselves to meet the need. When a group fails to come together in service for one another, then community doesn't exist. Maybe an association of people is present, maybe an environment where people gather is present, but a community is not. Community, at its root, entails a group of people living together – communing. And to live together means that we do things together – we eat, we work, we play, and we serve, one with another.

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True Community Requires Serving One Another

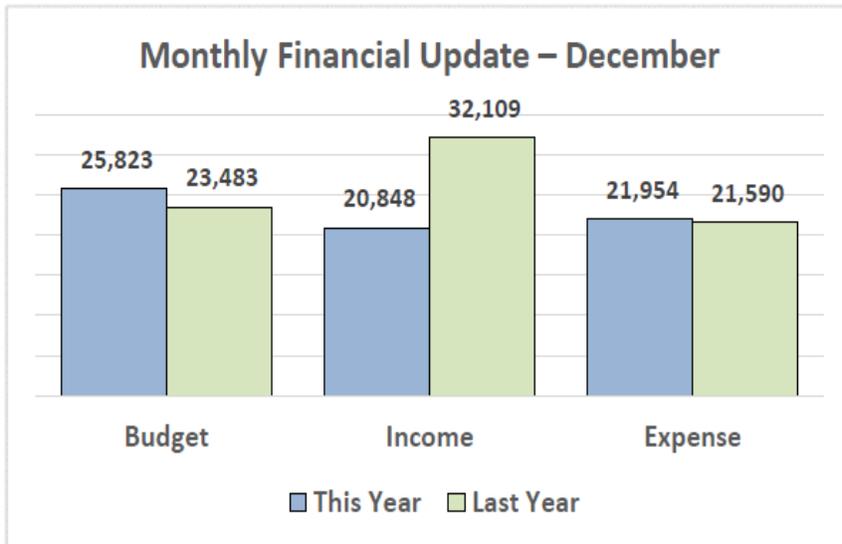
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Where does this idea come from in Scripture? There are so many places. Paul tells the Philippians to look out for the interests of others (Phil 2:4). He reminds the Galatians to 'bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal 6:2). The Romans are told to 'outdo one another in showing honor' (Rom 12:10). The new commandment calls us to love one another and love is always an activity and not just a mushy feeling (John 13:34).

*A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

In fact, John tells the readers of his first epistle, 'If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?' (1Jn 3:17). The insinuation in the passage is that pity is a response to meeting the need and it is directly connected to love, and love is the hallmark of God's covenant community.

So, what does this mean for us at Hope in Christ? This year, we have the opportunity to expand our view of community and those whom we see as a part of our community. We need to come together and ask others to help us, but we also need to be willing to go and help others who are in need. Maybe we can come together to help raise a fence, rebuild someone's house or even just do some old-fashioned chores that we know are being neglected at a friend's home. When we come together and serve, we are putting on display for the world and those who are served, that we are a community willing to give of our time and talents in order to make someone else's life blessed. As we live and serve together, our love for one another and the bonds of peace between us will be strengthened, and our witness to being the living body of Christ in contrast to the facsimiles of the world will be clearly shown. Let's build a true community this year at the church and in our world.



CAREGIVER JOBS AVAILABLE: Severely affected by the statewide healthcare staffing shortage, Cascade Connections earnestly requests your recruitment assistance and prayers. The faith-based nonprofit organization seeks caregivers to support people with developmental disabilities and seniors. Part-time and full-time day and overnight jobs are immediately available in Lynden, Ferndale, Bellingham, and other locations across Whatcom County. Caregiving positions start at \$17 per hour, and new hires receive a \$1,000 sign-on bonus. Cascade Connections will train those new to the field, and more experienced applicants may qualify for managerial positions. Learn more about and apply for available Cascade Connections job openings through its application portal at <https://csscc.sentrchr.com/>

PARKINSON’S SUPPORT GROUP: All people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers are welcome to join a support group that meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Lynden Senior Center. Please wear masks as requested by the senior center. Contact Virgi Diephuis at (360) 354-1137 or Tina Navis at (360) 510-8024 with any questions.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE: Project Hope of Lynden has an electric wheelchair available. If there are members of the community in need of an electric wheelchair due to injury or illness, please contact the Project Hope offices at (360) 354-4673. They will work with you to make this resource available during a time of need.

HCC
December
Giving

Community
News

Paper Hearts

By Pastor Ethan Rogers



Time has this funny way of rendering sensible things absurd. Sometimes, it is due purely to the weight of the years on a body; certainly there are things that young people do which the old can still do, but I reckon we would all find it a bit odd to see an octogenarian upon a skateboard. Sometimes, it is change in culture; I should expect Lancelot would be rather surprised to find his chivalrous courtesies rebuffed by many a modern maiden. Sometimes, it is because of progress; once, it was sensible to transport goods by camel, but now I suspect we might find that Amazon packages look rather silly when tied to a mahawi. Sometimes, however, it is simply because, while time is constant, everything it bears upon is not. The generations pass away, nations rise and fall, and no one with any sense is still wearing JNCO Jeans. It is precisely this sort of reality which fuels our incredulity at the statement, "Valentine's Day has nothing to do with love."

The origin of Valentine's Day begins with St. Valentine of Rome, a martyr best known for miraculously healing the eyes of his jailer's daughter after he was imprisoned for performing weddings for Christian soldiers who were otherwise forbidden to marry. He was condemned to death and executed on February 14th in the early third century. A few hundred years later, the Pope declared a commemoration for St. Valentine on the anniversary of his death, and for almost a millennium afterwards St. Valentine's Day was exactly what it seemed. It was not until the works of one Geoffrey Chaucer arrived on the scene that anyone conflated romance and Valentine's Day, and even then, it is likely that Chaucer was referring to the feast for Valentine of Genoa, another Saint, which fell on the 4th of May. Because of Chaucer's words concerning the mating of birds at that time, many people began to associate love with the name 'Valentine', and twenty years after Chaucer's verse, Charles VI of France allegedly issued the Charter of the Court of Love, a celebration of amorousness and love. This is the first time a celebration of love erupted on Valentine's Day, but Valentine's Day as we know it did not come until the late 18th century, at which juncture a product involving pockets of verse on colored paper cards began to be sold. Naturally, these 'valentines' eventually became a commercial hit, and since then, the self-styled 'business of love' has succeeded in selling little reminders of love to delighted lovebirds and schoolchildren everywhere.

Why do I tell you all this? For two reasons: 1. To apprise you of the origin and history of Valentine's Day, and 2. To give us an opportunity to discuss love in a less diluted, and certainly less capital, form. A conversation of this kind can, of course, become rather blasé if we allow it, and even if we don't there still stands a fair chance of this small article passing you by, if only because it comes to you on a rather busy day. But, I hope you will take a second to contemplate with me.

When you reflect on love, what do you think of? Red dresses, red roses, red cards? I suspect we may even envision fair Cupid, or perhaps a young couple walking alongside ocean waves. Yet, if I asked you to think of times when you felt loved, how different do the images in your mind become? How much more personal? How much more radiant? How much more beautiful? How much more sacrificial? How much more mundane? We have this horrid tendency to suppose that love is something we see consistently, constantly. It's something we need to feel at every juncture, or else it's not there. But then we reflect on the times we felt loved, and we realize that the people who most made us feel loved did so in particular moments, moments when they gave something up for us, moments when they did something for us that we didn't, or couldn't, do for ourselves. Often, they did what they did without the expectation of thanks or exchange. But whatever it was that was done, I doubt that it was wrapped in tinsel paper, written in verse, or arrived with a box of chocolates. Those things are good and, in their proper place, also loving; but love isn't launched from a bow, it doesn't have a heart sticker sealing its envelope, and it doesn't smell like a freshly cut rose. Love is bound up in sacrifices, in the relinquishing of the self for the sake of the other. That is why when we are told to love and told to act like Christ, we are not saying anything different. But that is no easy message to apply; the second we love perfectly is the second we do everything perfectly. So, throughout this month, as our culture focuses on sending out little red cards and munching on various sweets, may we take the time to sacrifice for those we love, to let go of our egos, to give when we want to take, and to prize the wellbeing of others above our own. Take time to reflect on all that Christ has given you of Himself, how much you have needed His grace, His strength, His comfort, and His love. Let the world see His goodness in us. It's the only way that Valentine's Day will ever have anything to do with love.

Thank You!

It's a new year, and as part of the worship ministry of our church, I'm reflecting on the blessings of this past year. I am thankful for the many volunteers who have faithfully served in this ministry over the years, some who have had to step down, as well as those who are still involved. I am also excited about the many younger folks who have joined this ministry recently!

Many details go into a Sunday worship service every week. If you have a moment, please thank:

- Those who read the sermon outline from the pastor and then attempt to thoughtfully and intentionally plan a worship service every month
- Those who pull music files, photocopy songs and organize music folders every week
- Those who input data into the software program and print orders of worship every week
- Those who set up microphones, adjust dials and levers on the soundboard so we have sound every week
- Those who can transform software documents and project them into words on a wall every week
- Those who use their musical skills on the piano, guitar, keyboard, drums, etc. every week
- Those who use their voices to lead us in singing every week
- Those who lead as a "point" person every month
- Pastor Scott who brings God's word to us every week

I look forward to another year of ***Glorifying God by Proclaiming our Hope in Christ*** through our worship!

Jerry Hop

Didachem Mission Update

Dear Partner in His Mission,

As we close out another year of challenges and blessings, uncertainty and learning, adjustment and growth, we praise God knowing how He has guided us through it all. It also was a year when God turned the crisis into a new opportunity in the work of Vietnam mission. With the grateful heart, I would like to briefly share with you how God has worked out His vision throughout 2021, and what I am envisioning to witness Him doing in 2022.

Teaching Ministry - 2021

Before the pandemic, we've been providing in-person theological trainings to indigenous church leaders, pastors and lay leaders six times a year at each of three different campuses - Da Nang, Hanoi and Hmong Village. This year, with the Hmong Village campus merged to the Hanoi for the convenience of gathering, we were able to hold eight study meetings at two campuses, three times in-person and the rest via ZOOM. Currently 104 students enrolled in three campuses, and 22 lay leaders are being trained through the Timothy Leadership Training program.

Teaching Ministry - 2022

In 2022, I plan to bring back the annually scheduled six meetings at each of the three campuses. While I am working remotely before the Vietnamese government resumes allowing tourism, all teachings will be conducted by three local pastors and teachers who have joined me to serve the students since late 2020. When allowed entry, most likely in April, I am planning to extend the study meetings from six to eight times to make up what we have missed during 2021.

Partnership in New Church Plants and with Missionaries – 2021 & 2022

Along with theological training for church leaders, Didachem is vigorously committed to raising up of well-trained leaders that can serve the gospel for local communities and ethnic minorities. In 2020, the Covid 19 ironically gave us a broadened opportunity. We could've engaged more in church planting ministry way earlier than we originally planned for. In summer of 2020, I started praying with two brothers who have shown strong desires to start the new church planting process with me. I also spent a lot of times in praying and sharing with a H'mong brother who now is our missionary for H'mong people. All three brothers are either former or current students of Hanoi campus. They have been very active in working their callings and bringing many people to Christ. Didachem has begun the partnership funding starting January this year for those ministries while providing the step-by-step coaching and mentoring. In September this year, I have led the vision sharing process for six other H'mong brothers who are dedicated to serve as pastors and evangelists for ethnic minorities. They are currently in the final stage of completing of their three year's ministry plans before dispatched to the harvest field each has been called to serve. Among them, two brothers are eager to go for the Tai tribe, for whose people we've been praying for ways to reach out throughout the year.

In Closing,

Didachem provides every student the financial aids which covers all related costs on tuitions, transportation, meals and lodgings. Because we want to make sure that their poor personal financial situations would not be a stumbling block to their zeal for His Word. We also do the same for the church planters and evangelists we partner with. We strive our best to provide as much necessary means as we possibly can so that they can solely focus on their God given tasks.

In 2021, you have been a faithful partner in prayer with us. Your generous supports helped us so powerful and meaningful way that we could still carry out God given mission for Vietnam. So, I would like to say to everyone a special Thank You, as I look forward to serving His Kingdom together with you in 2022.

Respectfully,

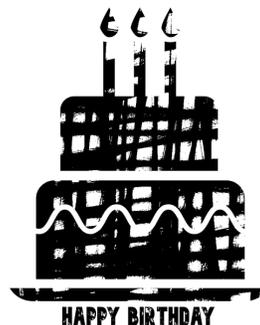
Gilbert Kim / Didachem Mission

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boer Bible Study	2 HCC Day2Pray 11:45 a.m. Elders Meeting	3 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	4	5
6 9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion 11:00 Sunday School	7 G.E.M.S.	8 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer	9 7 p.m. Council Meeting	10 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 p.m. Jesus Gathering 7:00 p.m. Kaemingk Bible Study	14 Friendship Bible Study 	15 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boer Bible Study	16	17 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	18 March Heartbeat Articles Due	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 Sunday School	21 G.E.M.S.	22 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer	23	24 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Kaemingk Bible Study	28 Friendship Bible Study					

February Birthdays

6 Ethan R
8 Brian K
8 Joanne S
11 Phil S
17 Faye H



17 Ida R
19 Tanya O
26 Jen R
27 Doug K